



# Invitation to Holiness

Christ Church Portola Valley & Woodside  
Lent and Easter, 2025

## Forty Days of Preparation

"There are two moments that matter. One is when you know that your one and only life is absolutely valuable and alive. The other is when you know your life, as presently lived, is entirely pointless and empty. Lent is about both. The first such moment gives you energy and joy by connecting you with your ultimate Source and Ground. The second gives you limits and boundaries, and a proper humility, so you keep seeking the Source and Ground and not just your small self." —Richard Rohr, "Wondrous Encounters"

The 40 days of Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday, call us to self-denial, discipline and reflection: a solemn preparation for the celebration of Easter. The penitential tone of Lent is highlighted during worship service with purple vestments and by refraining from the use of florals and other adornments.

In observance of a holy Lent, you are encouraged to attend our various worship services and spiritually nourishing programs.

## Opportunities for Spiritual Growth

*Please call the church office at (650) 851-0224 for more information about these programs.*

### **Women's Spirituality** *Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom*

Led by Mary Jennings, Women's Spirituality group is studying *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Mariann Budde, Bishop of Washington DC.

### **Creating the Biblical Canon** *Fridays March 7th, 14th, and 21st at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom*

An Adult Formation series uncovering how the bible became *The Bible*, led by Rev. Claire Ranna.

### **Outward and Visible Signs** *Tuesdays March 25th, April 1st and 8th at 3:30 p.m. in the church library*

An Adult Formation series exploring the symbols of our faith, led by Rev. Claire and Rev. Cal Payne-Taylor.

### **Shared Program with Christ Church Los Altos:**

#### **Meditation Group** *Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom*

Explore meditation practices of the Christian and non-Christian tradition in this class led by Rev. Claire and Alice Kochunov.

**Resources for individual study can be found on the Welcome Table in the church narthex. Please help yourself!**



**Begin your Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday on March 5th  
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Service with Ashes (or 8:30-9:30 a.m. Ashes-to-go)**

## Lenten Music Series

### Ensemble Continuo Chamber Choir

*Saturday, March 15th at 7:00 p.m.*

A musical treat, including a variety of choral works with Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms as the centerpiece. Reception to follow.

### Evensong

*Sunday, March 16th at 5:00 p.m.*

An evening of musical worship featuring the choirs of CCPVW, St. Bede's, St. Mark's, and CCLA, focusing on women composers from Bay Area to Baroque. Reception to follow.

### Junior Bach

*Sunday, March 23rd at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.*

The Bay Area's finest young performers demonstrate their talents on a variety of instruments in celebration of Bach's birthday.



## Holy Week Services

### April 13: Palm Sunday

*10:00 a.m.* Liturgy of the Palms, the Passion according to Luke, and Holy Eucharist

### April 17: Maundy Thursday

*6:00 p.m.* Agape Feast community dinner with short service to follow

### April 18: Good Friday

*12:00 p.m.* A solemn observance of the Stations of the Cross  
*1:00 p.m.* The Rite of Reconciliation (see BCP 447) will be offered in the church from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

### April 19: Easter Vigil (at CCLA)

*7:30 p.m.* Join us at Christ Church Los Altos to celebrate the dawning joy of Easter

### April 20: Easter Sunday

*10:00 a.m.* Joyful Holy Eucharist celebrating the Resurrection  
*11:15 a.m.* Family Easter Egg Hunt

## Outreach Opportunities

Throughout Lent, Outreach plans to focus on **raising scholarship funds (\$6250)** needed for 5 of the 92 GAIA nurse/scholars to complete their education and be deployed in Malawi. USAID was contractually obligated to provide these scholarships but reneged. We will raise the funds within our own community and with help from nearby Episcopal church communities. We will do a **Lenten SpiritCare program** for forgotten memory care seniors (Sun 3/16) and **feed the hungry at Coast House shelter** (Sat 3/22).

Visit [episcopalrelief.org/lent](http://episcopalrelief.org/lent) to sign up for outreach-oriented meditations, delivered to your email every day in Lent!

### Explore new angles of your faith

**Tues.**  
**March**  
**11**  
10:30 a.m.

Join Lauren Wittine in uncovering the secrets of the Pipe Organ, including its mechanics and history at our **Voices in the Valley** presentation.

**Thurs.**  
**March**  
**13**  
6:00 p.m.

Rev. Matt McDermott shares thoughts on Celtic Christianity at our St. Patrick's Day **community dinner**. Feel free to wear green!

**Sun.**  
**March**  
**30**  
11:30 a.m.

Deacon Lauren P. McCombs guides us through the process of making and using **Anglican Prayer Beads** in a hands-on workshop.