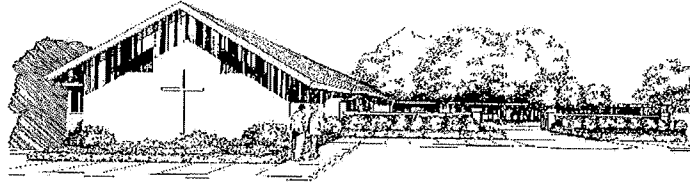


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN RAFAEL

April 13, 2025

10 am

Palm Sunday



Welcome to worship!

We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this morning. We hope you find a warm spirit of hospitality and a worship experience that strengthens your faith and discipleship. You are invited to stand, as you are able, when you see an * in the bulletin.

Centering Thought

"Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society. The work of love, peace, and justice will always be necessary, until their realism and their imperative takes hold of our imagination, crowds out any dream of hatred or revenge, and fills up our existence with their power." — John Lewis

Centering Bell

On hearing the bell ring, please settle into a time for centering silence and listening to the Prelude with an open heart.

Prelude

Welcome/Opening Words

Liturgist: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey..."

Congregation: "You are welcome here."

*Opening Litany

One: Take heart! Love still lives and moves among us.

All: Love is alive among the people, ordinary and humble.

One: Love gathers our strength together and champions the vulnerable.

All: Love cries out for justice and multiplies our capacity for good.

One: Be still and remember - the steadfast love that endures forever lives within each of us.

All: Thanks be to God, the source of all that saves us.

*Opening Song Hosanna, Loud Hosanna NCH 213

Opening Prayer

Hosanna. Hosanna, we pray. Like our ancestors who cried out together in memory of your great works, we proclaim our trust in you. We long for deliverance from all that destroys life. We are desperate for an end to the greed that strips our communities of well-being. We know the Kingdom is near. Let it come. And let the needs of all your people be satisfied.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

People of God,

When fear and sorrow draw near, we know our help comes from God.

We do not place our trust in the promises of the powerful.

We do not cling to the empty words of those who do not care for the vulnerable.

We remember Love. We remember each other. We remember that Christ lives in us.

With this commitment, the peace that surpasses all understanding will be in our hearts, be in our homes, and be close to all who need it.

Amen.

Song of Response

Give Me Love

George Harrison

B \flat B \flat Δ C-7 F

Give me love,

B \flat B \flat Δ C-7 F

— give me love, — give me peace on Earth — Give me light

E \flat - F A \flat E \flat

— give me life, — show me all — I'm worth — give me

B \flat B \flat Δ C-7 F

hope, help me cope — with this hea - vy load — Try-ing to —

E \flat - F A \flat E \flat B \flat

— touch and reach — you with heart and soul —

First Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

Offering Song

What Is Good (What Does The Lord Require Of You?)

♩ = 88

What does the Lord re-quire___ of you? What does the Lord re-quire___ of you? To act just
- ly._____ To act just - ly._____ To love kind
- ness._____ To love mer - cy._____ And to
walk hum-bly with your God._____ And to
walk hum-bly with your God._____

WORDS: Micah 6:8
MUSIC: Gerry Grosz, ©2022 Gerry Grosz Music, All Rights Reserved

ACT JUSTLY
lrr.

Offering Prayer

Holy One, you know what ails our hearts, our minds, our bodies. You know the pain and sorrow many are facing today. You know, because you take on human flesh and your Spirit companions us in all things. For this gift and all your acts of compassion, we are grateful. May all we share with one another be blessed to what comforts, what sustains, and what nourishes those laboring for good.

Amen.

Announcements/Life of the Church

***Sending Song All Glory, Laud, And Honor NCH 216**

***Benediction**

***Response**

And God will raise us up on eagles' wings,
bear us on the breath of dawn
make us to shine like the son,
and hold us in the palm of God's hand.

Postlude

⁵ "Say to Daughter Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"^[a]

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna^[b] to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"^[c]

"Hosanna^[d] in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

¹¹ The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Second Reading

***Hymn of Preparation "What Wondrous Love Is This?" - NCH 223**

Sermon Palm Sunday

Moment for Quiet Reflection

Special Music Were You There? Sung by Christina Schiffer Santschi

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

After each joy or concern, Pastor leads the congregation to respond "Lord, hear our prayer."

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator (*Father, Mother, God*) who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

Invitation to Generosity

Like Jesus who refused to abandon any neighbor in need, even in the midst of great stress, we hope to commit to one another with such fierce loyalty. We remember that what we have is meant to be shared. Let us be generous in heart and trust God's blessing upon our offerings.

Announcements

Holy Week

April 17, 5:30 PM Maundy Thursday- Last Supper, Soup/Bread, Handwashing and Taize Service

April 18, 12-3 PM Good Friday- Come and walk the Stations of the Cross in the courtyard

April 20, Easter Sunday, 8:30-9 AM bring flowers for the Cross 10 AM Worship

Meetings

Church Council -Tuesday, April 16 at 6 pm

Pastoral Visit

If you would like a visit with Pastor Elisabeth, please call her at the church office 415-479-2747 or e-mail: elismide@yahoo.com.

Prayer Chain

E-mail either Julie Dowling isabella1472@comcast.net or Annie Song-Hill asonghill@gmail.com if you have a prayer request you would like included in the prayer chain.

Sunday Servers

April 13

Liturgist: Annie Song-Hill

Altar set-up: Lucinda Ray

Greeter: Jackie Dema

Cups washer: Cathy Krise

April 20

Liturgist: Lucinda Ray

Altar set-up: Annie Song-Hill

Greeter: Annie Song-Hill

Cups washer: Charles Little

Coffee: Caryl Hodges

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN RAFAEL

8 North San Pedro Road
San Rafael, California 94903
Phone: 415-479-2747

Website: www.fccsanrafael.org
e-mail: office@fccsanrafael.org

Pastor: Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg
Music Director: Gerry Grosz
Office Manager: Amy Powers

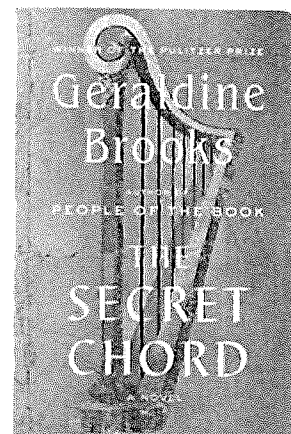
Office hours: Monday and Thursday
10:30 -2 pm

Consider volunteering for Sunday duties. We are in need of liturgists, greeters, communion servers, and altar set-up. Instructions are given.

Next Book Club meeting: May date to be announced

We will be reading *The Secret Chord*. It is available from both the Sonoma County and Marin County libraries. It is a rich and utterly absorbing novel about the life of King David, from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Geraldine Brooks. Brooks takes on one of literature's richest and most enigmatic figures: a man who shimmers between history and legend. Peeling away the myth to bring David to life in the Second Iron Age Israel, Brooks traces the arc of his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage.

The Secret Chord provides new context for some of the best-known episodes of David's life while also focusing on others, even more remarkable and emotionally intense, that have been neglected. We see David through the eyes of those who love him or fear him—from the prophet Nathan, voice of his conscience, to his wives Mikhal, Avigail, and Batsheva, and finally to Solomon, the late-born son who redeems his Lear-like old age. Brooks has an uncanny ability to hear and transform characters from history, and this beautifully written, unvarnished saga of faith, desire, family, ambition, betrayal, and power will enthrall her many fans.

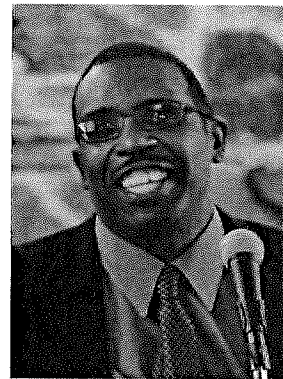
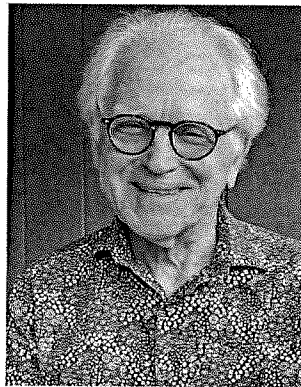
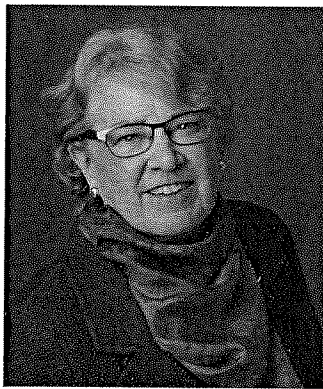


MIC Interfaith 2025

26th Annual Prayer Breakfast

A Benefit for the Marin Interfaith Council

Wednesday, May 7th, 8-10am
Congregation Kol Shofar
215 Blackfield Drive, Tiburon



Join us for an interfaith celebration of the
National Day of Prayer

Speakers:

- **Sherna Deamer** – *Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of San Rafael*
- **Bob Rees** – *Church of the Latter Day Saints*
- **Rev. Floyd Thompkins** – *St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church*

Individual Reservations: \$60-\$40 Sliding Scale
Table of 8: \$400

Reserve: www.marinifc.org

e-mail: office@marinifc.org

