

The Celtic Courier

April 2024

From the Rector

The Ascension and Salvation

During Eastertide, we give thanks that, "for us and for our salvation," Jesus came down from heaven, took on human flesh, died on the cross, and rose again. This reflection considers the role that the Ascension has in our salvation.

There are some truly amusing artistic portrayals of Christ's Ascension into heaven. The most amusing are those that visualize Jesus completely out of the picture except his feet or legs which are "hanging" from the frame, in order to show that he has disappeared into heavens. There is something funny about seeing Jesus' feet sticking out of the clouds.

In addition to being a little silly, these images also misplace the significance of the Ascension. What seems to be most important about the Ascension from the perspective of these paintings is as an exit. If, as Shakespeare writes, all the world's a stage, then the Ascension is Jesus' exit stage left.

Much more successful and powerful is the portrayal of the Ascension by Indonesian artist, dancer, and choreographer Bagong Kussudiardja (1928–2004). In the painting, Jesus is rising to be reunited with his Father. His form appears to be that of a dancer—soft, yet strong, light and airy, big and bold. Behind him, a swan spreads its wings and flies, mirroring the outspread arms of Christ and suggesting upward movement. Are these his grave clothes having been transmuted into something redemptive? Perhaps it's the Holy Spirit joyfully joining in his dancer's flight as they meet in the clouds.



Bagong Kussudiardja, "The Ascension," 1983. Oil painting, shown in black and white.

The Ascension is a continuation of the Incarnation and of our redemption. Jesus did not just "grin and bear it" down here on earth with us peons, only to return to his "heavenly form" after getting the job done. When Jesus took on human flesh, he took it on fully and permanently. The Ascension is the completion of our humanity being drawn into the divine. As Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father, actively interceding for us, our humanity is fully in God and goes everywhere that God goes. Jesus stands as a pledge of our future glory. This will be the dance of all the saints one day: ascension to God, participation in his glory.

So, when we look at one another and at those around us, we look at someone whose flesh shares in the glory of the divine. We see someone who is infinitely valuable to God. We commune with one another in the hope of the Gospel, that we will mutually partake of the communal love of the Triune God.

Faithfully yours,
Fr. Michael +

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson, Rector

Wendie Roberts, Director of Family Ministry

Brett Hanley, Director of Music

Dates to Remember



- ✓ **Easter Monday/Parish Office Closed/April Fools' Day**, Monday, April 1
- ✓ **Thursday Eucharist**, 10:00 a.m., Thursdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25
- ✓ **Project Hope Food Pantry**, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Thursday, April 4 / 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m., Thursdays, April 11 and 25
- ✓ **Resurrection in Art Class**, 11:15 a.m., Sundays, April 14 and 21
- ✓ **Vestry Meeting**, 11:45 a.m., Sunday, April 21
- ✓ **Lunch Bunch**, Noon, Wednesday, April 24
- ✓ **Vestry Retreat (off-site)**, 9:00 a.m., Saturday, April 27
- ✓ **Bishop's Visitation**, 9:30 a.m., Sunday, April 28
- ✓ **Digital Prayer in the Style of Taizé**, 5:30 p.m., Sunday, April 28

The Joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*
(from ChurchArt.com)



The deadline for articles for the May *Celtic Courier* is April 15.

April Birthdays

Bethany Larkin	6
Paul Aggen	11
Gail Hill	14
Jill Barraza	24
Susan Monday	26

Resurrection in Art Class



Join Fr. Michael Anderson as we explore the way that artists have historically represented and wrestled with the Resurrection. **Starting April 14**, we will be meeting on **Sundays at 11:15 a.m.** in the parish hall. Come ready to look and discuss.

Easter Monday

The parish office will be **closed** on **Easter Monday, April 1.**

Christ Is Risen!

CHRIST
IS RISEN
INDEED

Alleluia

Rector: Our rector is the Rev. Dr. Michael Anderson. His email address is: michael.anderson@stcolumbaca.com.



“You shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back.”

—Maya Angelou
(from the Newsletter *Newsletter*)

THE CELTIC COURIER
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
ST. COLUMBA’S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
1251 Las Posas Road
Camarillo, CA 93010
ISSUE 4

From the Treasurer

We are still in positive territory for the year, but the month was over budget because we finally started paying salary and benefits for our wonderful new rector, Michael. (We owed 2 months of benefits as the billing system for the Church Pension Group caught up.) The 2024 budget deficit is still projected to be \$58,000, because of the increase in expenses from having a full-time rector. We are planning to use reserves, including the excess funds from 2023 and past years, and increase fundraising to cover the remaining deficit.

The Vestry, under Fr. Michael’s leadership, is already starting to work on fundraising ideas and events.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee finished projects preparing for our new rector. The rector’s bathroom in the sacristy area has been upgraded. And the rector’s office has been totally refurbished. The funds came from the 2021 and 2022 Endowment Grants. The funds utilized are not available for day-to-day expenses. In addition, Bob Waite refinished the old desk so it’s like new for our new rector! If you haven’t seen the office, I’d encourage you to visit Fr. Michael and see it.

There are more grants from the Endowment Committee that can be spent on ministries or Buildings & Grounds projects. The Vestry, under Fr. Michael’s leadership, is starting work to determine what to do.

The Labyrinth group installed solar lights so we can use the Labyrinth better in the early evening hours. Others are helping with other items that need replacement. We thank those parishioners and everyone else who is stepping up to help our parish.

It’s a busy time in our life as a parish! Our new rector has arrived! Everyone paying your pledge enables us to stay afloat, plan for the future, and support the work of our parish here in Camarillo! We continue to bless each of you as we count your pledge on Sundays or receive it via PayPal. You are all helping to support our efforts as we move into the next phase of having a new rector and our bright future together. Fr. Michael Anderson started working for us at the end of January. He and his family have already added a bright light for our parish family.

If anyone would like to join us on the Budget & Finance Committee or see what we’re doing in more detail, you are more than welcome. We can truly use more help, thoughts, and ideas. We want to be transparent with expenses and income. We don’t take anyone and their contributions for granted. Thank you all!

Gail Hill, Treasurer

On Behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee

(Bev Pearson, Doug Miller, Maria Fernandez & Sarah Monroe-Allen)



LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is on **Wednesday, April 24**. Come and enjoy lunch and fellowship, hosted by Michele Hauser, Diane Off, Beanie MacLaurie, and Jarrel Fuller, at **Noon** in the parish hall. **Sign up** on the bulletin board in the narthex.

From the Senior Warden

My dear friends,

Our Lenten season was profound, and together we walked the Way of the Cross in Holy Week right into a glorious Easter. THE LORD HAS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!

Thanks to Fr. Michael, the Vestry, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ, St. Columba's is alive and well. The Vestry and Fr. Michael will hold their annual retreat on Saturday, April 27. At this time, they will build community, create a plan for the year, and consider and articulate a vision for the parish. We look forward to a visit from Bishop Brookhart on April 28.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee continues to maintain the campus. The Health Ministry group meets regularly to ensure that the special needs of our parishioners are being met. The Food Ministries are feeding more and more clients each week. And the best news is, with the arrival of the Anderson family, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program has more than doubled!

Please remember to pray for those who have requested our prayers, as listed in the Sunday bulletin and online.

May you be blessed today and every day.

In Christ's love,

Susan Doswell

World Labyrinth Day – May 4



Every year on the first Saturday in May, thousands of people around the globe participate in World Labyrinth Day as a moving meditation for world peace and celebration of the labyrinth experience (<https://www.worldlabyrinthday.org/>).

Join us at the Larkin Labyrinth on **Saturday, May 4, at 1:00 p.m.** as we celebrate World Labyrinth Day. We will be joining with people around the world to **“Walk as One at 1.”** This global event will create a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to another. Light refreshments will be provided along with fellowship around the campfire. See Paul or Gail Amendt for more information.



Bishop's Visitation

On **Sunday, April 28**, St. Columba's will have our annual Bishop Visitation. This year, the Rt. Rev. C. Franklin Brookhart, Jr. will be visiting us. He retired in 2018 after 15 years as bishop of the Diocese of Montana, and currently lives in Los Angeles. Bishop Brookhart is one of three distinguished retired bishops who visit congregations on Bishop Taylor's behalf to celebrate, preach and offer confirmation, reception and renewal of baptismal vows.



Born, raised, and educated in Ohio, Bishop Brookhart graduated from Ohio's Wittenberg University and attended divinity school at Vanderbilt University. He received his M.Div. from Lutheran Theological Seminary. His D.Min. in homiletics was conferred by United Theological Seminary. Before his election, he was a parish priest in West Virginia, where he also was the bishop's deputy for ecumenism and helped prepare the "Call to Common Mission" statement that established full communion between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Bishop Brookhart is the author of *Living the Resurrection: Reflections After Easter*; *Journey with Jesus: Encountering Christ in his Birth, Baptism, Death and Resurrection*; *The Language of Love: A Basic Christian Vocabulary*, and most recently, *Washing and Well-Fed: How the Sacraments Change Everything*.

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Brookhart to St. Columba's!

Food Ministry Needs Paper Bags

Our food ministry is in need of your used paper bags. We serve groceries to 50 families three times a month, and we use 450 paper bags each month! Please bring in your empty paper grocery bags so we may reuse them! Just drop them off in the parish hall. Thank you for your help!



Prayer in the Style of Taizé

Our **Prayer in the Style of Taizé** is still in a digital format on **Sunday, April 28**, at **5:30 p.m.** This contemplative service uses the music of **Taizé** and quiet reflection to set the mood of worship. These services include scripture, prayers, and simple chants sung repetitively, to let the words of scripture settle into our hearts and minds. There is a brief time of silence.

Join us on our **Facebook** page (or at our website—www.stcolumbaca.com or YouTube channel) and see if this contemplative worship speaks to your heart.



Spring has sprung, and the children have had an amazing month. March began with Reading Across America complete with Ms. Bec in full character costumes and daily themed treats. St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with visits from naughty leprechauns and a live one was caught as well. The first annual Spring Fest celebrated all things "Spring" with growing things, visits from special friends, and of course Easter. The children learned just how much God loves them, and shared the Easter joy. Many thanks to all of you who helped make the Sharky's fundraiser so successful, and we thank the Preschool for their continued contributions to our food programs. It is wonderful to see the bonds between school and church growing stronger day by day.

Sarah Wigert for the CLC Board

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Our Sunday School—Catechesis of the Good Shepherd—is on **Sundays**, at **9:30 a.m.**
Contact Wendie Roberts (Wencatekst@aol.com) for more information.



Easter is more than one day—
it lasts for a whole season,
50 days, ending with the
feast of Pentecost.
Alleluia, Christ is risen!

HEALTH MINISTRY – THE LORD IS RISEN

We travel the road during Lent at our own pace.

We work through the tears, hurt, and feelings of our experience.

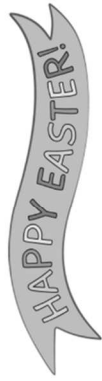
We celebrate EASTER in the faith given to us, with love of our family members and members not as close to us, faithful long-time friends, and new treasured friendships.

THE LORD IS RISEN, INDEED.

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAD MADE, LET US BE GLAD IN IT.




The Parish Nurses





APRIL 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1 Easter Monday— Parish Ofc. Closed/ April Fools' Day</i> Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	<i>2</i> Staff Meeting 10:00	<i>3</i> Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 5:45-6:45 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH	<i>4</i> Holy Eucharist 10:00 Project Hope 5:00-6:00 PH Choir 6:00 	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> DOK 10:00 (Ofc.)
<i>7 Easter 2B</i> Holy Eucharist 9:30 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30	<i>8</i> Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	<i>9</i> Staff Meeting 10:00	<i>10</i> Craft Group 2:00 PH School Board 4:00 Women's AA 7:00 PH	<i>11</i> Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH Holy Eucharist 10:00 Choir 6:00 	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14 Easter 3B</i> Holy Eucharist 9:30 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Resurrection in Art Class 11:15	<i>15 Courier Deadline</i> Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	<i>16</i> Staff Meeting 10:00	<i>17</i> Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH	<i>18</i> Holy Eucharist 10:00 Choir 6:00	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21 Easter 4B</i> Holy Eucharist 9:30 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Resurrection in Art Class 11:15 Vestry 11:45 PH	<i>22</i> Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	<i>23</i> Staff Meeting 10:00	<i>24</i> Lunch Bunch Noon PH Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH	<i>25</i> Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH Holy Eucharist 10:00 Choir 6:00 	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> Vestry Retreat (off-site) 9:00-3:00
<i>28 Easter 5b</i> Holy Eucharist 9:30— Bishop's Visitation Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Digital Prayer in the Style of Taizé 5:30	<i>29</i> Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	<i>30</i> Staff Meeting 10:00		Our food distribution schedule this month is: 1st Thursday of the month, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m. No distribution on the 3rd or 5th Thursday.		

Visit us on the web!
www.stcolumbaca.com

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit 49
Oxnard, CA 93030

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1251 Las Posas Road
Camarillo, CA 93010

Phone: (805) 482-8831
E-mail: office.manager@stcolumbaca.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Living Discipleship

Christian theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was hanged by the Nazis in April 1945, taught that Christianity and discipleship are intertwined. "Discipleship means adherence to Christ," he wrote in *The Cost of Discipleship*. "An abstract Christology, a doctrinal system, a general religious knowledge ... render discipleship superfluous"

Bonhoeffer continued, "With an abstract idea, it is possible to enter into a relation of formal knowledge, to become enthusiastic about it, and perhaps even to put it into practice; but it can never be followed in personal obedience. Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ."



(from ChurchArt.com)