

From the Rector

Last month, we looked at the first part of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, *the Inferno*. I suggested that Dante was concerned with the subject of sin, of what it is generally, and the fundamental nature of specific sins. One of the ways he accomplishes this is by offering concrete images of the distorting, malformational, self-sabotaging effects of sin on the body, the intellect, and the heart.

The imagery Dante uses is helpful for us during Lent as we look inward to see those unhealthy patterns of our lives that are still in need of redemption, which undermine our growth into the grace of God. The second part of Dante's poetic theology, *the Purgatorio*, likewise offers helpful insights, not just into the nature of sin, but also the nature of growth and redemption from sin. Like *The Inferno*, the characters who inhabit *Purgatorio* experience suffering. Unlike *The Inferno*, however, where the inhabitants are allowed to continue in their sin and vices as they sink deeper into the depths of their depravity, the suffering of the inhabitants of *Purgatorio* is redemptive.

Purgatorio is the image of the Christian journey of the soul to God. It is about the will, being drawn through the acknowledgement of sin, to slowly reflect God's will for us. The *Purgatorio* explores the process of our being made blessed, something which is the work of God, a work that does not crush our humanity but perfects it. It is the transforming and renewing grace of God that perfects and restores our wounded and fallen nature.

Take, for instance, the inhabitants who are being redeemed from the sin of pride. Dante pictures them as bent double, bowed low with heavy stones. Pride is about being puffed up and so full of ourselves that we deny the reality and needs of others.

In contrast, Dante describes engravings which depict three examples of humility. The first is from the life of the Holy Mother, Mary, and recounts the Annunciation. The second is the story of King David who dances before the Ark of the Covenant, which scandalizes his proud wife. The third is the Emperor Trajan, who is moved by the needs of the poor widow to interrupt his campaign. Contemplating the virtue of humility displayed in these engravings spurs the devotion of those being redeemed.

They then put their growing virtue of humility into practice by praying the Lord's Prayer, not for themselves, because—as those who have died—they do not need to pray it for themselves, but instead they pray for others who remain alive. Built into the structure of the *Purgatorio*, is the principle that, in the patterns of holy life, prayer, liturgy, and service, we encounter the presence of the grace of God, through which the disordered parts of our souls are set right, and our vices are transformed into virtues.

Faithfully yours,
Fr. Michael

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson, Rector

Dates to Remember



- ✓ **Morning Prayer**, 9:00 a.m., *Mondays and Wednesdays (except April 14, 16, and 21)*
- ✓ **Lent Lectio Divina**, 7:00 p.m., *Wednesday, April 2 and 9*
- ✓ **Thursday Eucharist**, 10:00 a.m., *Thursdays, April 3 and 24*
- ✓ **Project Hope Food Pantry**, 5:00-6:00 p.m., *Thursday, April 3* / 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m., *Thursdays, April 10 and 24*
- ✓ **Parish & CLC Chapel**, 10:00 a.m., *Thursday, April 10*
- ✓ **Three Congregations Taizé at Mount Cross**, 7:00 p.m., *Friday, April 11*
- ✓ **Altar Guild Palm Cross Making**, 9:00 a.m., *Saturday, April 12*
- ✓ **Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday**, *Sunday, April 13*
- ✓ **Youth Group Lunch & Bible Study**, 11:30 a.m., *Sunday, April 13 and 27*
- ✓ **Three Congregations Holy Week Worship**
 - Maundy Thursday Liturgy at Camarillo United Methodist, 12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m., *Thursday, April 17*
 - Night Watch at St. Columba's, 9:00 p.m., *Thursday, April 17* to 9:00 a.m., *Friday, April 18*
 - Good Friday Stations of the Cross at St. Columba's, 12:00 Noon, *Friday, April 18*
 - Good Friday Way of the Cross Walk from CUMC to Mount Cross, 5:00 p.m., *Friday, April 18*
 - Good Friday Tenebrae at Mount Cross, 7:00 p.m., *Friday, April 18*
 - Easter Vigil at St. Columba's, 7:00 p.m., *Saturday, April 19*
- ✓ **Easter Sunday** - Holy Eucharist, followed by Coffee Hour and Easter Egg Hunt, 9:30 a.m., *Sunday, April 20*
- ✓ **Easter Monday Holiday/Parish Office Closed**, *Monday, April 21*
- ✓ **Lunch Bunch**, 12:00 noon, *Wednesday, April 23*
- ✓ **Vestry Meeting**, 11:45 a.m., *Sunday, April 27*

April Birthdays

Paul Aggen	11
Gail Hill	14
Jill Barraza	24
Susan Monday	26
Fr. Michael Anderson	30

Palm Cross Making

All are welcome to join the Altar and Flower Guilds on **Saturday, April 12**, at **9:00 a.m.** in the parish hall to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday, April 13.

Easter flower envelopes are in the pews. If you wish to donate toward flowers this Easter, please enclose payment and put the envelopes in the offering plate or bring them to the parish office by Sunday, April 13.



CROP Walk Thank-You



Thanks to everyone for making the 42nd CROP Walk a great success. The goal for the Walk was \$25,000.00. Preliminary totals show that we surpassed our goal. Thanks again and blessings to all, Bev Pearson

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



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



“There are always flowers for those who want to see them.”
—Henry Matisse
(from *ChurchArt.com*)

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

From the Treasurer

February, year-to-date, looks fine. We're ahead by about \$5,400, which is not unusual for this early in the year. We'll need to do fundraising to meet our budget projections but there are no concerns right now. We're projected to need to use about \$19,000 of the \$100,000 we have in Reserves this year.

You are all amazingly generous. The amount pledged for 2025 is \$243,000, and people are paying their pledges. That is an increase of over \$30,000 from 2024's pledged amount! So many people increased their pledges and many of our new parishioners began pledging for the first time. We are truly blessed!

The Buildings & Grounds Committee is still busy. The roofing repair that was supposed to take place after the tenting got moved up due to a leak during the last storms. It has been completed. The termite tenting was delayed due to the weather, and it has been scheduled for June to meet the Children's Learning Center's needs. The Committee is working on other projects that need to be done. Thus far, all the funds for these projects are coming from Designated Funds, not the budget that we use to pay salaries and normal operating expenses.

Part of these Designated Funds are grants from the Endowment Fund that can be spent on ministries or Buildings & Grounds projects. We still have about \$30,000 from the 2023/2024 grant of \$59,000 to spend on repairs and improvements. The tenting should cost about \$20,000. And the Endowment can provide another grant of 3-5% per year (equating to \$30,000 - \$50,000) for further work. This is a good start to pay for what needs to be done. We recently received a donation from the trust of Lois Barcroft for \$30,000, which will be put to good use. We are so blessed to have our Endowment Fund and give thanks for everyone who has donated to it!

We do have some more expensive repairs coming up though, so we may be asking for extra funds for those specific projects, like the parking lot repaving.

We continue to bless each of you as we count your pledge on Sundays or receive it via PayPal. We're doing this together to maintain our church family, grow it to spread God's love, and continue the work that God intends for us to do.

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. If you would like to see the most recent Financial Report, please just ask. 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, Maria Fernandez, Diane Off, Sarah Monroe-Allen)



LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will be **Wednesday, April 23**. 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.

The Three Days with Three Congregations



Palm/Passion Sunday – April 13, 2025

✦ 9:30 a.m. at St. Columba's

Holy Week Weekday Holy Eucharists

- ✦ Monday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. at St. Columba's
- ✦ Tuesday, April 15, 6:00 p.m. at St. Columba's
- ✦ Wednesday, April 16, 12:00 Noon at St. Columba's

Maundy Thursday – April 17, 2025

- ✦ 12:00 Noon Ecumenical Worship at Camarillo United Methodist Church (291 Anacapa St., 93010)
- ✦ 7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Worship at Camarillo United Methodist Church
- ✦ 9:00 p.m. Night Watch begins at St. Columba's
(Sign up in the narthex for shifts from 9:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.)

Good Friday – April 18, 2025

- ✦ 12:00 Noon Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at St. Columba's
- ✦ 5:00 p.m. Way of the Cross Walk from Camarillo United Methodist Church to Mount Cross Lutheran
- ✦ 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Ecumenical Worship at Mount Cross Lutheran Church (102 Camino Esplendido, 93010)

Holy Saturday – April 19, 2025

- ✦ 7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Easter Vigil at St. Columba's

Easter Sunday – April 20, 2025

- ✦ 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Columba's
- ✦ Coffee Hour and Easter Egg Hunt after Worship



Youth Group News—Calling all Middle School and High School Students!

Sunday, April 13 and 27 are this month's Youth Group meetings. Meet in the parish hall or the church office at **11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** for lunch, games, and Bible Study. Francina Anderson and Eleanor Tyas are leading this group and are excited about supporting the young people of the congregation. Email Francina for more info: francina.anderson@stcolumbaca.com.

The youth group is looking for help with the lunch fellowship component. They are in need of a main dish, drinks (preferably non caffeinated), and dessert. If you are able to cook or donate any portion of the meal, they would be so thankful. They would not turn down take-out either! Please see the sign-up in the narthex for the months of April and May.



Poem of the Month:

Spring, by Gerard Manley Hopkins

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and
lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and
thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and
wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they
brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their
fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with
sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the
winning.



The days are getting longer, and the trees and flowers are blooming. The rebirth and vitality of spring is nowhere more apparent than up at the CLC. The wee two year olds are growing into confident youngsters, and our Butterflies are almost ready to move on into the big wide world. Amid all this growth, we pause to celebrate Easter and the Spring Festival. Fr. Michael continues to gather the children into church for chapel contributing to their spiritual growth. We wish each of you a blessed and holy Eastertide!

Sarah Wigert for the CLC Board

Food Ministry

Thank you all who provide us with plastic grocery bags! We continue to need the bags—please bring your bags in—we pack them with fresh produce for the families each distribution. We continue to serve about 65 families in need three times a month. A dozen parishioners help in this process—getting groceries and produce, packing bags, taking bags out to family cars, and delivering to those who can't pick up. And, importantly, many of our parishioners have generously donated money for us to buy groceries and produce or brought items in for us to use. Many of you made donations to the CROP Walk in March—many thanks! Our Food Ministry receives a nice donation from CROP each year that we participate. We thank everyone for all you have done and will continue to do this year! Please contact Maurice Hill if you are interested in participating in this ministry.

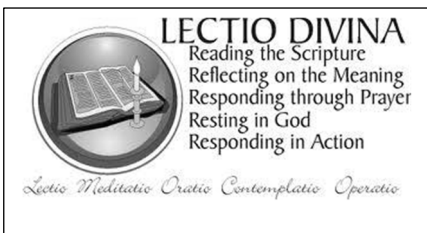


Three Congregations Taizé

If you're interested in a contemplative, meditative type of worship, the Three Congregations (Camarillo United Methodist, Mount Cross Lutheran, and St. Columba's Episcopal Churches) are offering in-person Taizé-style prayer, held in the intimate setting of the Mount Cross sanctuary (102 Camino Esplendido, 93010) on the 2nd Friday of each month, at 7:00 p.m.—**Friday, April 11**, this month. Taizé is an international, ecumenical community in France, dedicated to peace and reconciliation, whose prayer includes meditative singing, scripture, silence, and spoken prayer.

Pub Theology Rescheduled—We were rained out of our March **Pub Theology** but it has been **rescheduled** for **Tuesday, April 1** (no fooling), at **7:00 p.m.** at **Institution Ale** (3841 Mission Oaks Blvd, Camarillo). All are welcome for a pint and discussion. (Institution is family-friendly and alcohol-free drinks are also available.)

PUB THEOLOGY
Beer, Conversation, and Gr



Lenten Lectio Divina

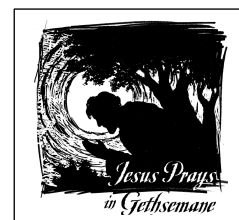
All are welcome for *Lectio Divina* at **7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesdays** in Lent, **through April 9**. *Lectio Divina* is a contemplative practice of scripture reading, reflection, and prayer in the Chapel.

Holy Week

For Holy Week, there will be weekday Holy Eucharists—**Monday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.**; **Tuesday, April 15, 6:00 p.m.**, **Wednesday, April 16, Noon**. No Morning Prayer during Holy Week.

Sign Up to Watch Through the Night

From **Thursday, April 17, 9:00 p.m.** through **Friday, April 18, 9:00 a.m.**, we will have our annual Night Watch, here at St. Columba's, after our evening Maundy Thursday liturgy at Camarillo United Methodist Church. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex where you can **sign up** for a shift.



STRETCH and REACH

Need to stretch and reach to find something in the closet? Might have to stand on my tiptoes. Please, **DON'T**. You need to know our bodies change as the years go by. Our range of motion is not as wide, muscles are not as strong as “used to be,” and balance is a bit wobbly at times. All of this means “you have to reach farther to get something,” says Jim Zachazewsky, a physical therapist with Mass General Brigham Sports Medicine.

Reaching up doesn't seem troublesome until you suffer an unintended consequence. Possible injuries could be shoulder strain or tearing a shoulder muscle, reaching up too far and arching your back could strain a neck muscle, or you could lose your balance in mid-grab and fall. Your object may be heavier than you remembered; just decide that help is a better idea. Determine in advance where you'll set down the object. It needs to be an uncluttered spot and as close to you as possible.

Also identify something to hold on to, like a counter, cabinet, doorframe, closet bar, or the handhold of a ladder. Be mindful, if you should fall, that nothing is at your back that would hurt if you fell on it. Keep your free hand ready to reach as you stabilize yourself with the other hand.





The risk of incomplete planning outweighs the benefit of trying to get it on your own. You are more important than your project. Safety is a great benefit.

The Parish Nurses

Re: *Harvard Health Letter*, March 2025, “Tips to stay safe when you reach up,” www.health.harvard.edu



APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1 <i>April Fools' Day</i> Staff Meeting 10:00 Preschool Directors Meeting 2:00 PH Pub Theology at Institution Ale 7:00</p>	<p>2 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel CLC Chapel 11:15 Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 5:45-6:45 PH <i>Lectio Divina</i> 7:00 Chapel Women's AA 7:00 PH</p>	<p>3 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Project Hope: 5:00-6:00 PH Choir 6:00 </p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 DOK 10:00 (Ofc.)</p>
<p>6 Lent 5C Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30</p>	<p>7 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel CLC Presentation 9:30 PH Boy Scouts 6:00 PH</p>	<p>8 Staff Meeting 10:00</p>	<p>9 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH School Board 4:00 <i>Lectio Divina</i> 7:00 Chapel Women's AA 7:00 PH</p>	<p>10 Project Hope: 9:00-10:00 Parish & CLC Chapel 10:00 Choir 6:00 </p>	<p>11 Three Congregations Taizé at Mount Cross 7:00 </p>	<p>12 Altar Guild Palm Cross Making 9:00 PH</p>
<p>13 Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Youth Group 11:30 PH</p>	<p>14 Monday in Holy Week Holy Eucharist 10:00 Boy Scouts 6:00 PH</p>	<p>15 Tuesday in Holy Week/Courier Deadline Staff Meeting 10:00 Holy Eucharist 6:00</p>	<p>16 Wednesday in Holy Week CLC Chapel 11:15 Holy Eucharist Noon Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH</p>	<p>17 Maundy Thursday Three Congregations Liturgy at CUMC 12N Three Congregations Liturgy at CUMC 7:00 Night Watch at St Columba's 9:00—9:00</p>	<p>18 Good Friday Three Congregations Stations of the Cross at St. Columba's 12N Way of the Cross Walk (CUMC to MC) 5:00 p.m. Three Congregations Liturgy at Mount Cross 7:00</p>	<p>19 Holy Saturday Three Congregations Liturgy at St. Columba's 7:00</p>
<p>20 Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Easter Egg Hunt 10:30</p>	<p>21 Easter Monday/Parish Ofc. Closed Boy Scouts 6:00 PH</p>	<p>22 Staff Meeting 10:00</p>	<p>23 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Lunch Bunch 12:00N PH Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH</p>	<p>24 Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH CLC Chapel 11:15 Holy Eucharist 10:00 </p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Easter 2C Holy Eucharist 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Youth Group 11:30 Ofc. Vestry 11:45 PH BSA 4:00 PH</p>	<p>28 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH</p>	<p>29 Staff Meeting 10:00</p>	<p>30 Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel CLC Chapel 11:15 Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH</p>	<p>Our food distribution schedule this month is: The 1st Thursday of the month, 5:00-6:00 p.m.; the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m.</p>		

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Why Friday Is Good



To participate in the sacrificial life and death of Jesus Christ is to live already in his kingdom. This is the essence of the Christian message, the heart of the Good News, and it is why the cross has become the chief Christian symbol.

A cross of all things—a guillotine, a gallows—but the cross at the same time as the crossroads of eternity and time, as the place where such a mighty heart was broken that the healing power of God himself could flow through it into a sick and broken world. It was for this reason that of all the possible words they could have used to describe the day of his death, the word they settled on was “good.” *Good* Friday.

—Frederick Buechner
(from *Churchart.com*)