



From the Pastor

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! The good news of Easter!

It was a stunning reversal. Jesus, the Messiah, had entered Jerusalem so grandly, to so much applause and acclaim, just a week earlier. Entered the city to the cries of “Hosanna! Hosanna!” (which means, “O, Lord, save us!”)

What the crowd meant was, “Save us from these accursed occupying corrupt Romans and their awful ways.” They had been hoping for someone like Jesus for years, decades really. Now, he had come, at last.

Everything he did, they approved with enthusiasm. Everything he said, they clung to every word as a drowning person clings to a lifeline.

Every time he embarrassed the smug and corrupt leaders (both Jewish and Roman), they inwardly delighted. Here was a man who was popular, but did not cling to his popularity. Here was a man of grace and integrity. The Messiah. The Deliverer. The Chosen One.

And then it all fell apart. Suddenly. A last supper. An evening prayer in a garden. A betrayal with a kiss. An arrest by a mob. Interrogation. Beating. More interrogation. Mocking. More beating. Sleepless night. Pain. And in the morning, he was forced to carry his cross outside the city walls to the garbage dump. And there, between two convicted murderers and thieves, he was crucified, a truly barbaric means of torture and death. And there, naked for the world to see, he hung between life and death. Refusing painkillers. His followers fled, they couldn’t bear to watch. Some women watched, weeping, enduring with him to the end. And then, breathing his last. He was dead. The earth seemed silent. The birds stopped singing. The leaves of the trees stopped rustling. The one who sang them into being was now dead. How could they sing?

He was taken to a borrowed tomb, which had never been used. Nicodemus, a Jewish teacher, who had come to question Jesus by night, now brought a hundred pounds of spices to anoint him. This was the weight prescribed to anoint a king in death. Perhaps now Nicodemus understood. Too late, it seemed.

The Sabbath was observed that evening. The next day was agonizing, as grief followed grief. Some women bravely decided to anoint the body, but by sundown on Saturday, it was too late. They would go early the next morning. To see their Lord one last time. To pay him the last respects he was due, not the cruelty of the cross.

And then, Sunday morning. Trudging to the tomb. Full of fear and sorrow. And then they were there. And the stone was rolled away! What was this? Had someone stolen the body? An angel appeared to them, telling them that he was alive! Alive! No longer dead. How could this be? They dropped the spices and ran, RAN back to see the disciples. He is risen!

The disciples did not believe what the women were saying, so went to investigate themselves. Peter and John ran ahead, and saw for themselves, the tomb was empty. Later, in Galilee, where the journey had started for many of them, they saw the risen Jesus. They ate breakfast with him. They talked with him. I am sure there were a lot of “I’m sorry’s”.

But there was no scolding. There was no rebuke. There was just love. A love that transcended pain and suffering and rejection and humiliation and mocking and death. They were loved. And they had a message to tell others. You are loved. Loved to the grave. And loved beyond the grave. You will live in this love. Believe in Jesus. Receive him. Have hope. Have new life. Have peace. Have joy! Because He is risen!

That's the story we have to tell. Invite people you know to celebrate with us on Easter Sunday. He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

"We go nowhere by accident..."

SDG

Pastor Jim

Notes:

- 1) Easter is April 21st! Invite your family and friends.
- 2) Join us at the Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 20th!
- 3) Our Prayer Meeting is Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. for about 30 minutes. We'd love for you to come pray about the concerns of the church and the world.
- 4) Thank you to Ralph Arbizu, Virginia Bathe, Tom Bennett, Mike Cousins, Larry Mitchell, Paul Moran, Judy Salyer and Casey van Rys for their participation in the Work Day on March 23rd!
- 5) I've walked over 900 miles so far this year (and am on my third pair of shoes). I encourage you to walk, walk, walk! You challenged me back in 2013 to walk 50 miles during Lent, and now I do that in less than a week!

You Took My Parking Space at Church

One day, a man went to visit a church, He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver, got out and said, ' I always park there! You took my place!'

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, 'That's my seat! You took my place!' The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, 'That's where I always sit! You took my place!' The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, ' Hey, what happened to you?'

The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns and a tear fell from his eye, 'I took your place.'

New Address

Dorothy Nelson
2325 Scenic Dr., Room 101
Modesto, CA 95355
(209) 581-2817

Harvest Mariners Potluck Dinner, April 12th

Looking back, the forty Mariners and their families and friends are grateful for the wonderful St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage meal served to us March 15 amid great fellowship and fun. Virginia Bathe, Susan Bennett, Tom Bennett and Kate Hendrix prepared a wonderful feast. Michele James and the HPC Choir led us all in familiar Irish songs. Finally Kohl James and Bonnie Middleton finished the evening with a clean kitchen. Thanks to all for this annual celebration.



And thank you Pastor Jim for agreeing to speak to Mariner's on Friday April 12, 2019, about Good Friday origin, observations, and traditions. Mariner's look forward to this presentation following our potluck at 6:00 p.m.

The Harvest Mariners are part of the National Presbyterian Mariners is an adult service and fellowship organization founded in 1927. The goals of Mariners are:

- 1) To encourage Christian faith and practice in every home, helping individual and families progress in Christian living.
- 2) To interest those outside the church in uniting with the church.
- 3) To provide the opportunity for Christian fellowship.
- 4) To develop leadership for the church.
- 5) To serve and support the church in its total ministry and mission.

Easter Eggstravaganza Event– April 20th (Saturday)



We'll be hosting an Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 20th. We are planning an Easter Egg Hunt, music, face painting, a bounce house, hot dogs and drinks. We can invite those who come to church on Easter Sunday! Please volunteer to help! We also need non-chocolate pre-wrapped candy.

One Great Hour of Sharing



A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and empower the poor and oppressed.

A Legacy Gift

Great news! We have received a legacy gift from the Florence Bloemendaal estate. We are deeply grateful for Florence's life and enduring witness, and that she remembered her church in her will. Would you consider something similar in your will or trust?

Ceres Artist Spotlight: Keith Meyer

On Thursday, April 11th, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., the work of Keith Meyer will be featured at the Ceres Community Center. Drop by for a look, and to chat.

Harvest Presbyterian Church
1813 Moffet Road
Ceres, CA 95307

POSTAGE



Mission Statement ~ With God in control, the mission of the Harvest Presbyterian Church is to proclaim and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and nurture the faith of our church family.

Harvest Leadership 2019

Deacons

Virginia Bathe (Moderator) (2021)
Patty Correia (2021)
Kate Hendrix (2020)
Nora McKinsey (2020)
Nawatha Reed (2019)
Judy Salyer (2019)

Elders

Tom Bennett (Finance/Nominating) (2021)
Michael Cousins (Treasurer/Buildings) (2020)
Karen Edwards (Clerk/Mission/Personnel) (2019)
Staci Edwards (Personnel/Worship) (2019)
Brandy Meyer (Youth/Outreach/Nominating)
(2021)
LaVeta Rhoy (Finance) (2020)

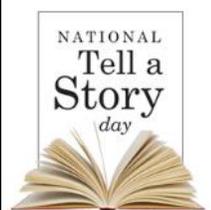
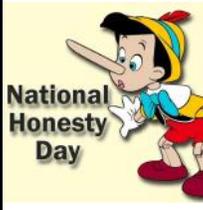
Church Information

Church Office Phone: (209) 537-3519
Website: www.harvestpres.org
Pastor Jim Stochl— harvest.pastor.jim@gmail.com
Prayer Requests—prayer@harvestpres.org
Jean-Pierre Moran —secretary@harvestpres.org

Office Hours

Tuesdays: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 9:00 a.m. —1:00 p.m.

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Worship— 10:30 a.m.	1  Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm	2  Happy National PB&J Day! April 2	3  National Walking Day	4 Alpha Circle 9:30 am Choir 5:30 pm	5 Starbucks Men – 7:00 am Women’s Bible Study—10:00 am	6  Happy National CARAMEL POPCORN Day! APRIL 6TH, 2018
7 Communion— 10:30 am	8 Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm	9	10  HAPPY NATIONAL SIBLINGS Day!	11 Choir 5:30 pm	12 Starbucks Men – 7:00 am Women’s Bible Study—10:00 am Mariners: 6:00 pm	13  NATIONAL SCRABBLE DAY
14 Worship— 10:30 am  PALM SUNDAY	15 Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm	16 Session— 12:00 p.m.  TAX DAY	17 Praise Team 6:00 pm	18 Choir 5:30 pm	19 Starbucks Men— 7:00 am Women’s Bible Study-10:00 am Harvest Finance 8:30 am  GOOD FRIDAY	20 Easter Eggstravaganza  399 strava! ganza!
21 Easter Worship — 10:30 am  He is RISEN	22 Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm	23  HAPPY NATIONAL PICNIC DAY!	24 April 24th National Pigs In A Blanket Day 	25 Choir 5:30 pm	26 Starbucks Men – 7:00 am Women’s Bible Study—10:00 am	27  NATIONAL Tell a Story day
28 Worship — 10:30 am End of the Month Potluck After Service	29 Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm	30  National Honesty Day	1	2 Alpha Circle 9:30 am Choir 5:30 pm	3 Starbucks Men – 7:00 am Women’s Bible Study—10:00 am 	4 Stockton Presbytery Meeting, 9:00 a.m., (Manteca) 

Sunday School Schedule *

- 4/7 K-3rd:** Anette Arias, Lysie Salyer,
(Patti Arbizu)
- 4/14 K-3rd:** Staci Edwards, Lysie Salyer,
(Nawatha Reed)
- 4/21 K-3rd:** Staci Edwards, Lysie Salyer,
(Judy Salyer)
- 4/28 K-3rd:** Beth Stochl, Lysie Salyer,
(Martha McNamara)

* This schedule may change! Check with Brandy Meyer or J-P if you have any conflicts or questions.

Regular Prayer List

Health Issues:

John Baughman
Susan Bennett
Warren Cawley
Dorothy Nelson

Other Concerns:

Easter Outreach
Campus Life Outreach



- 9—Jacob Holleman
22—Hannah Holleman
22—Frank Reed
28—Keith Meyer
29—Kendall Meyer



- 30—Richard & Isabel McKay

