

Welcome to the Season of Easter

Welcome visitors! If you are unfamiliar with the ritual and flow of this service please relax and let the rest of the congregation carry you so that you can just be present to it all.

We celebrate the Resurrection as one body

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (adapted from Psalm 60 in Psalms for Praying)

One: O beloved, why do we believe that we can separate ourselves from You, as an alien in a foreign land?

Many: Oh, that we might return to your Heart.

One: You know how we tremble in fear.

Many: Help us to break down the walls, to let go of illusions, so that we will stand tall.

One: You, who are Love, gave us leeway to choose, to wander far from home. O my Beloved, be gracious unto us, welcome us back into new life, hear our prayer!

All: The Comforter came to me: "With joy are you ever at home in my Heart, as I have always lived in yours. You are mine; I belong to you; the broken are blessed with humility, the wayward, who turn to walk with Love. Let your mind be guided by truth, your heart informed by Mercy; then will you know peace and joy." May it be so in us and for us, this day. Amen.

*Opening Hymn (insert) I am the Vine

Sung Prayer:

**Companion of my soul, my soul Companion of my soul, my soul
Companion of my soul, my soul Companion.**

Corporate Prayer of Reflection: What is your connection with the Creator like at this point in your life? How close do you feel to

God? What might help to get you closer? What is the Spirit calling into being to unite you more deeply?

Sung Response: I am the Vine

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Exodus 19: 1-9

Sung Prayer: **God, Creator, Elohim, voice of thunder, spirit, wind,
breathe on me your very life, grace will make the darkness
bright.**

A reading from the Christian Scriptures: John 15:1-8

Sermon- Finding our Connection and Being Connected

Prayers of the Community: Whether you are on-line or in person please feel free to speak your prayers aloud. Alternatively, you may text your prayer requests to Erik's phone at 408-916-8808. We will conclude this prayer time with the Lord's Prayer (we invite you to use language that comforts or challenges you-

O Creator, You light up all beings.

Your many names are known to all.

Thank you, Loving Presence!

Spirit, guide me into Life here and now.

I trust you in my soul,

**I ask for the Grace to love myself and the human family, as You
do, and Grace to let go of trusting my own ideas.**

Egos fail and do us damage: All your ways bring Life.

Your ways are love. Let it be so.

Song of Sending out #2228 Sacred the Body

Charge and Benediction: We invite you to turn on your video feeds if you are joining us by zoom so that you can see those who are joined with you in the community.

Those Who Bear the Good News

Pastor: Rev. Erik Swanson

Elders: River Brown, Patty McIntyre, Raina Parks, Gary Ruschke, Beth Wylie

Deacons: Mary Campbell, Pat Hudson, Yi Jiang, Lindarae Polaha, Terry Walsh

Deacons in Spirit: Marjorie Pearson, Nan Swanson, Reenie McCaffrey

Music Director: Raina Parks

Vocalist: Ann Burris

Accompanist: Martan Mann

Ministers: All the members of the congregation

+Your Prayers Are Requested+

For the Deacons and Elders as they minister to the congregation
In the larger community we pray for... peace in Sudan and Ukraine, a ceasefire for Palestinian and Israel, an easing of tensions between Iran and Israel, our Jewish siblings during Passover, those who are unhoused as the weather is cold and wet, for unity and accountability in our country, justice for the Muwekma and other indigenous tribes, for an end to white supremacy, for refugees around the world, for the victims of hateful behavior

Health and Recovery of health from surgery, illness, injury or just difficulty in their lives ... Gary and Janet as they grieve, Clark and Janet as they grieve, Marjorie and Kris, Shoshana, Karen R. Colleen, Pat H., Jim Hempler, Tina, Ann, Clark. There is a prayer chain and if needed please contact Clark: clarksapoet@gmail.com.

Contemplative Center and their Board: Melinda Athey, Jim Petersen, Kent Smith, Sharon Wada, Beth Wiley, Brooke Wang, Eleanor Whitney

Grace Flier will be in the office on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 am - 2 pm. Rev. Erik is usually in the office Mon-Thurs from 10-4p. He can be reached on his cell at 408-916-8808.

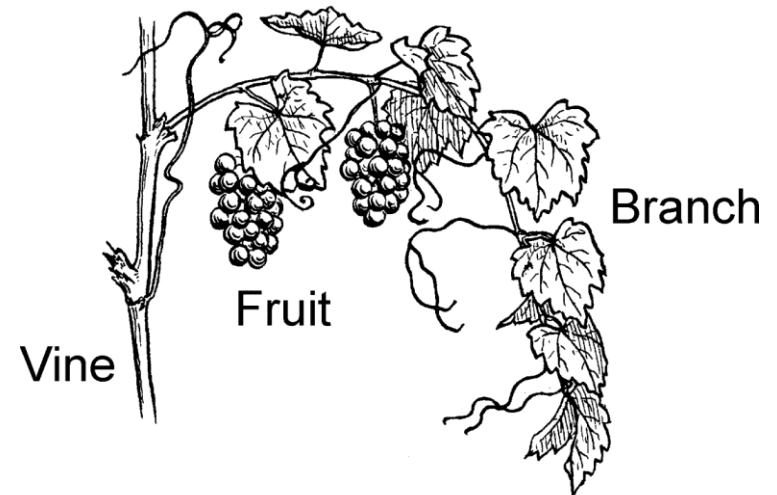
Westhope Presbyterian Church

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*Service of Prayer and Presence
April 28, 2024*

All are welcome here!



Hope is radical openness for surprise—for the unimaginable. If that is the attitude with which we look, listen, and open all our senses, we enter into a meaningful relationship with whatever Life offers us at a given moment.
BR. DAVID STEINDL-RAST

Did You Know?

Sexual Violence is a widespread problem in the United States. More than 1 in 2 women have experienced sexual violence/abuse involving physical contact during her lifetime. Almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact in his lifetime. Sexual violence or abuse is a serious health problem that profoundly impacts lifelong health, opportunity, and well being for those who have been victimized. It impacts every community; people of all genders, sexual orientation, and ages. The perpetrators of sexual violence are often someone the survivor knows; a family member or family friend, partner, neighbor, co-worker, or fellow student. When this is the case, repeated abuse often happens. Women and racial and ethnic minority groups experience a higher burden of sexual abuse. The trauma from sexual abuse often takes a long time and a lot of effort to overcome. Recovery and healing can take years and is often very costly. Information for this DYK came from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

A Support Group for Women Survivors of Sexual Abuse is now forming at Westhope.

The Group will meet on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 pm in the Session Room, starting on April 30th and going for 8 weeks. Many women who have been sexually abused feel very alone in their struggle to heal from this trauma. Participating in a support group can be a good way to end that isolation. This group is designed to help in the healing process, and to be safe and confidential. For more information and registration contact Marjorie Pearson at 831 295-2423 or Patty McIntyre on email at patty@pattyamcintyre.com All women are welcome and there is no fee for the group. If you know someone who has been abused sexually, please pass this information onto them. Thank you..



Westhope Presbyterian Church
Seeking spiritual growth in community

WELCOME TO WESTHOPE! Happy Easter season to you and your family! We are glad that you have joined us for worship today and pray that you are touched by the Holy and the warmth of this community of faith. If you are a visitor with us today, a special welcome to you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling all gardeners! On Thursday mornings starting at 9am Pam Nomura is inviting folks who like to work in the garden to join her for tending the flowers and sharing fellowship in our beautiful gardens. Please contact Pam for details.

Just following service today the Social Justice ministry will be presenting Westhope Climate Day in the social hall. They will present climate alternatives and displays to educate us all regarding caring for the Creation. Grab some snacks and check it out!

Social Justice is also looking for someone interested in being a representative from Westhope to PACT who is organizing to take on housing issues and homelessness. If you might be interested please let Erik know.

We are very grateful to Ace Hardware, Summerwinds Nursery, and Trader Joe's in Westgate for their generous contributions to the plant sale. Please let them know our gratitude if you go into any of these stores. The French Fair was a great fundraiser for Westhope as the plants sale raised \$325 and our part of the proceeds were \$2500. Well done to all!

Upcoming event dates

| Date | Event (classes after church all begin at 11:45 and are hybrid) |
|------------------------|--|
| April 28 th | Session |
| May 5 th | Conversation with Foundations of Faith |
| May 12 th | Mother's Day- no class |
| May 19 th | Session |
| May 26 th | PACT presentation |