

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

Opening Song (insert) All Are Welcome

Sung Prayer:

In our fear and trembling, draw us near. Give us strength to stand in hope, firmly rooted in Your love, firmly rooted in Your peace.

Corporate Prayer of Reflection: When things get rocky how do you rely on God's Presence and consistency? We have images like the Rock, Firm Foundation, Eternal One...how do you embrace these when you need them?

Sung Response: God With Us

A reading from the Christian Scriptures: John 15:9-17

Sermon- The Importance of Resistance for Growth

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.

Communion:

One: God is with you. **Many: And also with you.**
One: Open up your hearts. **Many: We open them up to God.**
One: Let us give thanks to God who is Love.
Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer for the Spirit and Lord's Prayer (an interpretation from our recent class)

Holy Grace of the Universe

**This moment I reach out to you, Embrace me dearly
You design, You rule in beauty and love On Earth as it is in the cosmos**

**Teach me to perceive, Tell me your provision abounds.
And my shortcomings, you know and accept
Give me a pair of your glasses, Let me see the world like You see
Guide me so I will not go astray, Save me from a soulless life
I am in awe of Your gracefulness, Power for healing,
Always and forever, Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup (we serve grape juice for everyone)

Closing Prayer

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 ... Patti Tonello, Ann B., Marjorie and Kris, Shoshana, Karen R. Colleen, Pat H. and Hatcher as they move, Jim Hempler, Tina, 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

12850 Saratoga Ave. Saratoga 95070

westhopepres@gmail.com, 408-255-0955

*Service of Prayer and Presence
May 5, 2024*

All are welcome here!



That moment of inward breath, that pause and awareness of “how beautiful this is” is a prayer of appreciation, a moment of gratitude in which I behold beauty and am one with it.

JEAN SHINODA BOLEN

**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@pattymcintyre.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..

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.

Do you contribute to Westhope using PayPal? If your bank offers Zelle for sending and receiving money, we encourage you to switch to Zelle. It will save on PayPal fees and make our bookkeeper's job easier. To donate to Westhope, use westhopepres@gmail.com as the recipient. You can also create a recurring donation with Zelle. Contact Gary Lee if you need assistance.

Upcoming event dates

Date	Event (classes after church all begin at 11:45 and are hybrid)
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



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

Today at noon is our next conversation with the Foundations of Faith congregation in South Carolina. Please join us by zoom as we continue to deepen our friendships with those in that congregation.

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

Women's Appetizer Night!!

Before the pandemic, the women used to meet for dinner once every 2-3 months. Then we decided that appetizers were easier.

We have some awesome women at Westhope and we want to help you connect with the community. We will meet at Colleen Petersen's house: 13401 Sterling Oak Ct., Saratoga. Please RSVP to Colleen by May 20 via email: colleenpetersen26@gmail.com.

Debrief of the French fair: Calling all volunteers who were involved in the French Fair. At noon on Tues. May 7th we will meet by zoom to talk about what we can improve on for next year. Please bring your ideas!

Debrief of the Foundations of Faith conversation: On Thursday May 9th at 3p we will have a conversation to process what we heard in our conversation with Foundation folks. It is a great opportunity to process together.