



April 1, 2025

With all of you receiving this missive on April Fools Day, I was sorely tempted to really have some fun. I figured, though, that some might miss the date and take seriously anything I wrote and that might not be for the best. So, I promise you, here is a joke and prank free April Fool's Day message:

I begin with a follow up from last month's letter. Our March offerings, obviously with final numbers unavailable as of this writing, are on pace to be the single best March in terms of members supporting the regular budget for CLC in recent memory. Let's wait for final double checked and approved figures to be released later this month, but I wish to lead with this simple message: Thank you.

You will also hear that the Board has sent off another \$100,000.00 to pay down the mortgage from the Capital Campaign Fund. This will bring the principal balance to approximately 500k. Considering we were at \$794,000.00 when I started just over a year ago, this is incredible! Again: Thank You! Together we are making excellent forward progress!

Holy Week is nearly here. I wish to give you some highlights of what to expect. On Sunday April 13 Palm Sunday, we will have two amazing guests. First, David Griffith from the Mighty Oak Tree Foundation in Thailand will be sharing the sermon time with Noel discussing all aspects of our mission work there and our upcoming trip. Bishop Jeff Johnson will also be present, presiding over all three Sunday Morning services. This will be an exciting day.

Thursday April 17 is Maundy Thursday. We will gather for worship at 7pm. This service is one of our most visually dramatic all year. The stripping of the sanctuary is powerful. We also hear the story of Jesus' last supper, watch children make their first communion, and have an opportunity for an individual pronouncement of God's Forgiveness.

Friday April 18 is Good Friday. We have two worship services on this day, one at noon and one at 7pm. They are very different; you might consider attending both. At the noon service we will hear the story of Jesus' passion from the Gospel of John. While it is read, we will also see depictions of artwork on our screens and sing some of your favorite Lenten/Good Friday Songs. At 7pm our Worship Choir will present Requiem by John Rutter. This work will feature our choir, additional singers from COS & the Visalia Community Chorus, Lauren Farris (Soprano), and an incredible chamber orchestra from our local Sequoia Symphony. They have been working hard since January on this great work. With these services being so different in form, but both being deeply meaningful, please consider attending both if your schedule permits.

Sunday April 20 is Easter Sunday. We will have worship services at 6:30am in the courtyard, 8:00am and 9:30am in the sanctuary. Each of these is similar to the others with only slight variations on the musical offerings at each. Please attend the one that best meets your scheduling needs. We will hear the story of the resurrection from the Gospel of John.

I am looking forward to celebrating all that Jesus has done for us with each of you this Holy Week!

Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy,
Pastor Sean