

May 2020

CALVARY CROSSROADS



Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church
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WORSHIP SERVICES
www.calvarysantacruz.org
Choral Eucharist, Rite II

Sundays, 10:30 am

May Message

The Rev. Dr. Austin L. Leininger



Photo: Liz Wesolowski

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Happy May Day, Calvary Family! As with last month, I write to you again from our home for this month's Crossroads. Like the rest of our Calvary family, I too have been working, playing, connecting digitally, ordering groceries, parenting, schooling the children, and seeking some sense of normalcy—all while sheltering in place in our family's home. By now, new routines have become familiar and new patterns of life and expectation have begun to take root. With you, I too have watched the news and waited for April 30th's update to the shelter in place order that foretells ongoing social distancing and at least another three weeks without any social gatherings allowed (and the assurance that we needn't plan for them to return in the near future).

For many of us, this is a time of feeling lonely and cut off from physical contact with those whose presence, hugs, handshakes, closeness, and care keep us feeling whole and like ourselves. For some of us, living with family and friends, we still find ourselves longing for those outside of our nuclear circle with whom we find our grounding and joy. For some of us living alone, this is a time of more intense loneliness. For others living in fear

of those with whom they live, this is a time of anguish and danger. But without exception, God is with each of us, longing with us when we long for contact with others, hurting with us when we hurt, aching for our wholeness and the return of our joy when we feel down or fragmented.

The season of Easter is no stranger to these feelings. The first Easter was a time when the disciples felt cut off, afraid, hurt, fragmented, and anguished. In each of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to his followers, they were alone or in small numbers at his tomb, they were hiding in upper rooms, walking deserted roads to Emmaus lamenting the loss of their normalcy and understanding of reality, returning to the past for comfort in fishing, and huddling together in their nuclear circle for safety and solace. Yet Christ's resurrection appearances sparked hope. Each time they discovered Christ in their midst, hope was born anew—even when he disappeared from amongst them. These sparks and glimmers of hope finally became manifest in the tongues of fire that alighted on each of their heads on the day of Pentecost. On that day, they could no longer contain the Spirit moving within them as they stepped out into a new world, on fire with God's love and God's Spirit, and told and showed the world what it means to be loved as God loves us.

With you, I realize we aren't there yet. We have the glimmers of hope and the sparks of God's presence that keep us going, and we have our faith—knowing that God is with us through all of this disturbing time in our lives and world—but the day is coming when we too will be invited to step out into a new world. May we spend this time in prayer, in hope, in cultivating the joy we find in those moments and sparks of hope that keep us aware of the blessings that continue to be a part of our lives, and, when that long anticipated day comes, may we step out filled with God's Spirit and ready to set the world ablaze with God's love.

You are in my constant thoughts and prayers, my dears! God be with you to lift your spirits and keep you finding those moments of joy until we gather again.

Blessings,



From Parishioner Sonja Reetz:
Thank you to Austin and others for providing the wonderful Sunday morning services. Also thanks to Austin for initiating the weekly phone calls and for making the Zoom gatherings possible. I miss Sundays with the kids and love it when they “attend” Sunday morning coffee hour.

Music Notes

From Murray Walker, Music Director

Creating the Virtual Choir. As it has for everyone else, this time of lock down has been very stressful for musicians. Live performances are not permitted nor are public church services. We are all trying to do our work in the midst of a pandemic that keeps us confined to our homes and forbids any public gatherings.

We church musicians are tasked with providing choir and organ music for online worship services even though we cannot hold rehearsals. Enter the *virtual choir*. The virtual choir was created by American composer, Eric Whitacre, who was inspired after receiving an unsolicited home-made video from a high school girl singing her part of one of his choral pieces. The concept was simple: get videos from numerous singers singing their own parts of the same choral piece and put them all together in a digital sound file. The execution was more demanding but, with the help of sophisticated equipment and skilled sound engineers, he has now created several dramatic videos of his pieces being performed, seemingly simultaneously, by literally thousands of singers from around the world.

The virtual choir has become the norm for choir directors these days. At a recent Zoom gathering of Bay Area members of the Association of Anglican Musicians, it was clear that most were struggling with the task of creating a virtual choir and without the aid of sophisticated equipment and skilled sound engineers.

Here’s how we do it at Calvary. The first step, of course, is for me to choose the music: two hymns, a psalm, and an anthem for each Sunday service. (Full disclosure: up until today our anthems have been from our archive of previous recordings. Today, Easter 3, was the first anthem that we have created with a virtual choir.) That is my Monday morning task. After choosing music I make a copy of each piece and mark into it instructions for the choir, e.g., when to sing unison, when to sing harmony, when to breathe, what verses to sing, etc. Our subscriptions to Rite Song,

OneLicense, and Saint James Music Press, allow us to do all this without violating any copyright laws. On Monday afternoon Carol and I meet at the church with Kylan. (Bishop Lucinda has directed that only three people may be in the church at any one time when preparing or delivering online services.) Kylan plays and records the organ while I conduct into my cell phone camera and, with Carol, sing the hymns and psalm. Kylan and I do the same procedure for any anthems that the choir is to learn. In addition, Kylan makes rehearsal tracks of the anthems so the choir members can hear their own part clearly. Kylan will also play and record a prelude, and maybe a postlude, for the service. Alex Johnson is our video editor. I send him the sheet music, my conducting videos and Kylan’s organ tracks; he edits them into a tidy video of each piece that shows me conducting to Kylan’s accompaniments. Alex puts the videos onto YouTube and puts all the scores into a private online file shared with the choir members.

As the week progresses choir members record themselves singing the music. Generally they will watch the conducting video on their computers and listen to the accompaniment through headphones while singing into their cell phones. Then they email me their recorded tracks. My task now is to mix all the tracks of each piece together using an audio editing program called Audacity. It may sound simple but it is taking a lot of time and anguish to master.

When I have finished editing and mixing all the various tracks to my satisfaction (or to the end of my time and patience, which invariably comes first), I send to Fr. Austin mp3’s of the pieces which he then arranges into the appropriate order for Sunday’s service. At the push of a button Calvary Choir materializes in cyber space and on your computers. And we have music in our services.

News from the Pews



We heartily thank those who have been caring for our grounds during this shutdown: **John Blymyer, Elizabeth Chandler, Al and Sonja Reetz, Chris Perrin, Steve Lopez, Kevin MacArgel**, and many others who come by to care for the gardens, and work on building maintenance issues.

SUPPORT: During this time of virtual-church, we have no way to pass the plate other than offering the option to donate online or mail in a check to Calvary. Please feel invited to make an offering by clicking the "Donate" button on our website, or by mailing a check to the Calvary office: 532 Center Street, S.C., CA 95060.

OFFICE CLOSURE: The staff has been asked to work from home. Committees are asked to meet via Zoom. If you need pastoral care, or technical assistance with Zoom or our online services, please reach out to Father Austin: text or call 831-350-1344 or email aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org. For office matters, you can contact Nicole: 831-325-9390 or email: nmacargel@gmail.com.

Spread the Word! As Calvary has moved online for the time being, we need help in spreading the word to all those who may be interested in attending—regardless of how far away they may be! We've had viewers from Spain, New York, Colorado, Utah, Montana, and Arizona—and those are just the viewers we know about. If you know of someone who isn't on our calvary email address who might appreciate knowing about our Sunday service and other online (Zoom) gathering .

VIRTUAL COMMUNION: If you would like to participate in table fellowship during our online services, please have your elements (bread and wine are the most typical) present with you during the Eucharistic prayer. The blessing of Eucharist is a blessing that comes from the prayer and intention of the gathered community. Whether we are gathered in person or gathered as a worshipping community over live-stream, we are a community with the shared intention of worshipping and enacting sacrament together. Sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace (BCP, 857)—sharing of community, intention, and table fellowship during this time can certainly still be an experience of sacrament.

Teen Kitchen Project. The Teen Kitchen Project will not hold their regular groups in our kitchen during the Shelter In Place, but shared some good news about their project. During this crazy lock down for all, especially seniors, Teen Kitchen is employing all 5 of their employees (mostly chefs and admins) to prepare 1507 weekly meals for those unable to go out to shop or cook due to illness, age or just threat of the virus. These meals are then delivered by 27 delivery "angels" to approximately 155 persons in our County. They do this every day. I am so proud of Teen Kitchen and so very glad they have become part of our Calvary family. You may donate to their efforts at Teenkitchenproject.org.
Chris Perrin

COPA. It has come to the attention of COPA and 8 other California IAF organizations that the 2.5 million California undocumented workers and their families are facing economic hardship due to the pandemic. Undocumented workers pay an estimated \$3.2 billion in state and local taxes, yet they are not eligible for the federal stimulus checks or unemployment insurance. Please take time to sign and ask others to sign COPA's petition calling on Governor Newsom and the state legislature to provide further funding for California workers and their families ([https:// www.onela-iaf.org/](https://www.onela-iaf.org/)) Meanwhile, COPA core team members continue to gather information regarding three areas of concern due to the coronavirus: 1. Unemployment Benefits & Small Business Loans, 2. Undocumented Families (and all their needs), 3. Housing Protections. This will result in power point presentations available to institutions such as Calvary to use during house meetings possibly through Zoom. Al & Sonja Reetz

ASSOCIATION OF FAITH COMMUNITIES (AFC)
Many of us at Calvary have over the years, thanks to Scott Galloway, developed a level of appreciation of AFC. It was only when Sarah Peterson and I recently agreed to serve on the AFC board that I gained a full understanding of how "selfless solidarity" lives in our midst. AFC represents an ever expanding number of local faith communities intent on making Santa Cruz healthier and safer for everyone, including those who at the moment find themselves without adequate shelter. At the present time, key programs of AFC include two different 24/7 homeless shelters, a safe spaces parking program and a shower trailer program. Our AFC operational budget is supported by members of more than 30 different faith communities, currently we also receive assistance from the City and County of Santa Cruz and the United Way. The Annual AFC Gala Fundraiser scheduled for May 16th has become another "COVID-19 cancellation." If you wish to make a charitable contribution to AFC, please mail to Association of Faith Communities, 532 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.
Respectfully Submitted, Al Reetz, AFC board

Announcements

Weekday Opportunities to pray and study together online or by telephone. These activities are done through Zoom. Zoom is FREE. Just click on the link provided. There will also be a telephone number if you prefer to listen that way. Please email Father Austin (rector@calvarysantacruz.org) to request access!

Bible Study with Father Austin Tuesdays at 11 am.

Holy Eucharist Service with Father Austin Thursdays at 11:30 am.

Please see an important update from the EDECR on page 6 of this newsletter!

Calling All Lectors! If you are already a lector, or if you would like to be a lector while we're online, please reach out and let us know if we can put you on a digital rotation for Sunday and Holy Week readings! Lectors will need to be able to record themselves reading their assigned reading (voice only is fine), and email the recording to Father Austin for inclusion in the livestream worship. Most smart-phones have a voice recording app, which should allow many if not most of you to contribute if you so desire. Please email Father Austin: rector@calvarysantacruz.org,

Outreach Sunday, May 24 -- - Each month we focus on a Calvary outreach ministry and collect a special offering for that ministry over the course of 4 weeks. Starting **May 24, we support COPA (Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action)**. Founded in 2003, COPA's mission is to develop the leadership skills of ordinary people to engage effectively in public life with power to negotiate with public and private sector leaders to change the economic, social, political and cultural pressures on their community. Calvary is one of 22 member churches, synagogues, public schools, labor organizations, and nonprofits in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties. COPA leads community campaigns in the areas of housing, public safety, education, health care, immigration, and economic development. They also assist member organizations, including Calvary, in strategic planning and train leaders for effective community building. To support COPA, make checks payable to Calvary with COPA in the memo line and send the checks to the church office at 532 Center Street in Santa Cruz 95060. For more information about COPA, contact Al Reetz, alsonjareetz@gmail.com or 831-713-7371. Thanks for your support!

The Calvary Book Club has scheduled books for our monthly meetings through August. **In May, we'll meet via Zoom on Friday, May 22 at 3:00 p.m.** We're going to do things a little differently in May and focus on the poetry of Mary Oliver. The idea is to bring a favorite Mary Oliver poem to the meeting. You can read any of her books, but here are two recommended to help narrow your choice:

Dream Work -- "With this collection, Oliver has turned her attention to the solitary and difficult labors of the spirit—to accepting the truth about one's personal world, and to valuing the triumphs while transcending the failures of human relationships." - from the publisher
Why I Wake Early -- "The forty-seven new works in this volume include poems on crickets, toads, trout lilies, black snakes, goldenrod, bears, greeting the morning, watching the deer, and, finally, lingering in happiness. Each poem is imbued with the extraordinary perceptions of a poet who considers the everyday in our lives and the natural world around us and finds a multitude of reasons to wake early." - from the publisher

June -- The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes -- Set in Depression-era America and based on a true story, the book focuses on the women who signed up to deliver books in the mountains of Kentucky as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's traveling library program.

July -- A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold -- An environmental classic: "Conjuring up one extraordinary vision after another, Aldo Leopold takes readers with him on the road and through the seasons on a fantastic tour of our priceless natural resources, explaining the destructive effects humankind has had on the land and issuing a bold challenge to protect the world we love." - from the publisher

August -- Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian by Paul F. Knitter -- "Narrates how esteemed theologian, Paul F. Knitter overcame a crisis of faith by looking to Buddhism for inspiration. From prayer to how Christianity views life after death, Knitter argues that a Buddhist standpoint can encourage a more person-centered conception of Christianity, where individual religious experience comes first, and liturgy and tradition second. Moving and revolutionary, this book will inspire Christians everywhere." - from the publisher

For more information and to get on the club email list, contact Martha Dexter, mmdexter@gmail.com.

Pantry Snapshot

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER GENERALLY REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS

This Order temporarily requires the use of Face Coverings in order to further slow transmission of Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19"). This Order shall become effective at 11 :59 p.m. on April 24, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

All individuals, businesses and government agencies in the County of Santa Cruz ("County") are required to follow the provisions of this Order. This Order applies to the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County as well as the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville.

More information at:

www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/PublicHealth/CommunicableDiseaseControl/CoronavirusHome/PublicInformation.aspx

The Food Pantry dates for May:

May 13 - Cancelled

May 27 - Cancelled

Doors open at 10:00 am.

Calvary Food Pantry April statistics:

Clients served – 0; Family members – 0

2020 Year to Date:

Clients served – 167; Family members – 297

This time last year:

Clients served – 291; Family members – 458

March Statement:

Expenses:	\$ 37.13
Actual expenses:	\$ 37.13
Income:	\$ 0.00

2020 Year to Date Statement:

Expenses:	\$ 320.36
Actual expenses:	\$ 320.36
Income:	\$ 1,445.00

Volunteers welcome – please contact Dave Meyers. Contact Dave Meyers at meyersdw@comcast.net or 831-475-5521, if you have any questions about the Food Pantry.

Did you know?

It is quick and convenient to pay your pledge online.

- Go to Calvrysantacruz.org
- On the menu selection across the top, click on **Donate**.
- To pay your pledge select **General Fund**
- Enter the amount you wish to pay
- Select Pay Pal or Credit/Debit Card
- Enter payment information (Option for making this monthly if you wish)
- Click on **Donate**

Thank you for your support!

We are stewards of God's love, grace and mercy.

Treasurer Report

I was anticipating the March financial reports with some trepidation, considering the situation we find ourselves in, and I am pleased to report that the Income Statement is much better than I feared. Our pledge income remains strong, being \$1158 over budget and \$7054 over budget year-to-date. Our plate income is slightly under budget for the month of March, but \$923 over budget year-to-date. Total operating income for the month was (\$516) under budget. We gained some ground in expenses, ending at (\$2176) under budget (under-budget is a good thing on the expense side).

Our net operating income for March (the bottom line) is (\$200). We anticipated an even greater negative bottom

line for March, so we ended up being \$1660 over budget. Year-to date our bottom line is \$1412, which is \$6764 over budget. So we are running nicely ahead of budget, but remember, Vestry passed a deficit budget for 2020, negative (\$4531). We are therefore just keeping in the black so far.

That's the good news. So far this year we're running (\$3281) under-budget in facilities and kitchen rental. This is worrisome, since we can anticipate that the remainder of the year we will see an even greater drop in this income. 12-step income is right on budget up to this month, but this income is also sure to drop in April and through however many months we are asked to shelter-in-place. Plate income has been good, but we budgeted for a big April, since historically Easter has been a big plate day. This is likely to not be the case this year. Hopefully, our parishioners will continue to come through on pledging. We can be very grateful that the Calvary community has continued to be faithful in pledging thus far.

The Balance Sheet continues the worrisome theme. Our trust fund, as of March 31st, is down almost \$36,000. \$23,000 of this was a transfer to our checking account to cover our 2019 deficit; the remaining \$13,000 is due to the stock-market slip.

All in all, the March financial reports are better than may have been expected, but the month of March was early days in this pandemic. I predict we will be called to think creatively and faithfully when it comes to our finances as we move ahead into an uncertain future.

Submitted by Cathy Watson

Crossroads Articles. If you have an article to submit to the Crossroads please email to enna.lopez@yahoo.com by the 27th day of the month.

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A COVID-19 update from Bishop Lucinda
April 30, 2020



Dear people of the Diocese of El Camino Real,

I write to express to you my amazement at your leadership during COVID-19. As “Easter People,” you are walking with faith during uncertain times, seeking new opportunities, and “being church” in your homes and through use of technology. Thank you for sitting in this uncomfortable place and finding Easter joy

While we are all still on shelter-in-place, there is a palpable push, really a rush, to return to a sense of “normal life.” Really it is a desire to go back to the way things were before March, yet we know that is not going to happen. COVID-19, while a biological virus, has impacted many parts of our lives—economically, socially, spiritually—and going back isn’t an option. Instead, like Jesus’ followers, we face forward to a new way of being, open to possibility and discovery. But the culture around us has a different view; the almost desperate push to physically re-engage, and soon, drives some risky behaviors.

The Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real will remain shelter-in-place, practicing non-risky behaviors and tending to our worship and pastoral care virtually. As your Bishop, I am committed to our well-being and the well-being of those we serve. Heeding the guidance and mandates of our State Government, and our respective County Health Departments, we will not alter our policies until such time as health and science tell us that is safe to do so—and then we will proceed with caution.

I have appointed a Phase III Task Force to evaluate documents and information that will serve to guide us into re-gathering, when the time comes. This document will be available to you in mid-May. Until then, the following will help you to begin to plan ahead:

Phase I: Shelter-in-Place. This is where we are now:

- Hold only Virtual Worship Services
- Allow for no more than 3 persons to film and produce Virtual Worship services
- Maintain physical distance, at least 6 feet between persons
- Wear masks as guided by the County Health Department

Phase II: Preparation. Following Diocesan, County Health, and Statewide orders and guidelines, we plan to:

- Clean the entire facility
- Organize a team to clean before and after each worship service
- Coordinate with those who share the plant to follow mandates and guidelines
- Establish guidelines for church staff, rotating presence on-site
- Discuss what-if scenarios, including how to roll-back when needed

Phase III: Gradual Re-entry. This is the next part of the plan once we have met the requirements of the State and Local officials for religious organizations. For the Diocese of El Camino Real, this will include:

- A completed re-entry plan, with approval from the Bishop
- Gather in groups of 10, 25, 50, 100 in a gradual roll-out, with 14 days of no new cases in-between each incremental step; we will roll out by deanery
- Use only the Daily Office or Liturgy of the Word for in-person worship
- Wear masks (required), maintain physical distancing protocols
- Maintain virtual worship and education for those unable to attend
- Be prepared to roll-back, when cases increase

Phase IV: Being New Church. In this phase, we would have successfully navigated the requirements of Phase III and show that we can all safely gather and resume activities.

- Establish and maintain safe practices for in-person Eucharist
- Maintain virtual worship opportunities for those unable to attend
- Resume in-person education programs
- Resume weddings, baptisms, funerals
- Resume and increase outreach programs
- Explore new learnings, new opportunities for ministry and mission

We will walk through these phases together, with care for each other and for our communities.

In his [Pastoral Letter to the Episcopal Church](#), this is what our Presiding Bishop refers to as “sacrificial love”—putting common good before individual desire. I would add that the word “sacrifice” means a holy offering. Your adherence to these policies and procedures in the months ahead is your holy offering to our diocese, our towns and cities, and all of God’s people.

With a grateful heart for your leadership, sacrificial love, and patience

*The Right Rev. Lucinda Ashby
Bishop of the Diocese of El Camino Real*