

April 2020

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

We are about two weeks into the shelter-at-home order. It seems much longer. This past Sunday we live-streamed our third Sunday service, and we will continue to do this until we can all be physically together safely. There is a song you may remember from 1970 – “Big Yellow Taxi” by Joni Mitchell. The refrain was, “Don't it always seem to go, That you don't know what you've got til it's gone.” We may have underrated being able to gather at church on Sundays for worship and fellowship!

During this time of physical isolation, which we undertake to protect not only ourselves but others, we are making every effort to stay connected:

- I am emailing out a “Message from Shelley” every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. If you get the Midweek Bulletin, you are on the list. Please look for this in your email in-box (or junk box?) |
- The Wednesday Night Class/Discussion Group – and the Thursday morning Bible Study Group – continue to meet as usual...only by Zoom. If you are interested in attending one or both of these, please let me know and I will send you an invitation to the Zoom meeting (and all the instructions on how to do it...it's easy!) Perhaps with more time at home, more folks will want to join these groups.
- The Pastoral Care Committee put together a new Phone Tree, and about 18 of our members are each calling a few families once or twice a week to check in.
- Anne Tysanner set up an email group of “ECA Friends” for chatting and checking in. If you were not included on this but would like to be, please email Anne.
- The Shape will be only electronic until this is over.
- Everyone can tune into our Sunday worship at 10:45am (live) or at any time after that (video is saved)

by clicking this link (you do NOT need a Facebook account): <https://www.facebook.com/ecasj/>

Lent is drawing to a close and Holy Week begins next week. I believe we have a new perspective on death and resurrection this year, and I invite all of us to watch for signs of our God bringing life out of death around us. I have seen high school students volunteering to shop for those most at risk. I have seen rocks along the path painted with hopeful, loving words of encouragement. I have seen folks calling to make sure their neighbors and friends are ok. What have you seen that shows hope, love, and life sprouting and growing in a time of fear and death? The meaning of Easter is not just eternal life after death, Abundant Life like a gushing spring begins NOW! Watch for resurrection!

Bishop Lucinda and the clergy of the diocese decided that we would like to have one, beautiful Easter service for the whole diocese at 10am on Easter Day 4/12, with Bishop Lucinda as the preacher and presider. I will send the link when I receive it.

Please take care of yourselves. If you're used to a busy schedule on-the-go, try to make a schedule for your days at home, including time for self-care, rest, and prayer. Stay connected with friends and loved ones by phone and email...or putting a lawn chair in your front driveway! Stay connected with God, who grounds our being and holds us in love at all times.

I am holding you all especially close in these difficult days – in prayer and in love.

Blessings,

Shelley+

Worship Opportunities for Holy Week, 2020*

Sunday, April 5 • Palm Sunday - Online, live-streamed from the sanctuary: Blessing of the Palms, Liturgy of the Word, and Passion Reading with music - 10:45am (palms for distribution will be left outside the front door of the church for those who want them, to be picked up at their convenience).

Thursday, April 9 • Mandy Thursday - home-based Zoom live service at 7:30pm. Everyone will be together virtually from their homes on Zoom for this commemorative service. I will send the link in my 3x weekly emails.

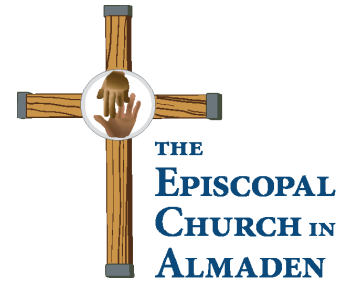
Friday, April 10 • Good Friday - Liturgy of the Church for Good Friday with music at 12pm (noon).
Also, there will be an online, pre-recorded Stations of the Cross for Good Friday, produced by some clergy of our diocese. I will send the link when I have it.

Saturday, April 11 - The Great Vigil of Easter - will be live-streamed from other Episcopal churches, not ECA. I will send the links, when I have them, via my 3x weekly emails.

Sunday, April 12 - Easter Day - There will be one service for the entire Diocese of El Camino Real, led by our Bishop, pre-recorded and available online at 10am. I will send the link when I have it.

*all online, live-streamed services from the sanctuary are found on ECA's Facebook page, as has been done throughout March.

If you have any needs – spiritual, emotional, or physical – please let me know. You can always get me on my cell: 805-550-0582 or my email: shelleydenney@gmail.com The office is, of course, closed – but Ruthanne is working from home. If you have an “office” question, call on her cell phone: 408-482-4014. Please be mindful that though at home her hours are still Tues-Fri 10am-2pm. You may contact me at any time.



Rector

The Reverend Shelley Denney
email: shelley@eca-sj.org
408-268-0245

Staff

Lynda Ford
Music Director

Ruthanne Adams Martinez
Administrative Assistant
Treasurer

Assisting in our Ministry

Joyce Wing
Senior Warden

Joan Wagner
Altar Guild

Ann Avoux
Prayer Vine

Debbie Estill
Ushers

Mike Schmidt
Shape Editor

Taylor Wing
Webmaster

Betty Consorte
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Goodbye Letter

I love telling the story of Abram, especially the Godly Play version. Sitting in front of a box of sand, the story teller shares that Abram and Sarai believed there was one God, and that one God was everywhere, but they didn't know that to be true yet. Abram hears God ask him to follow Him. As Sarai and Abram traveled away from their home, they experienced God again and again. God was already there waiting.

I've experienced God again and again at ECA. In the support you have shown me as you said yes to helping with costumes for a play or pulling out the chimes, or filling up pitchers for dinner. I've seen God in conversations had between strangers and good friends. I've see God in small hands holding up the elements and in friends breaking and sharing bread.

I now feel the voice of God calling me to seek out God in new places. I know that God will remain at work here among you amazingly faithful people, and I will be on the look out for God on my journey.

Holly McCullough

To Attend a Zoom Class or Meeting (Zoom is Free)

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ZOOM DOWNLOADED ON YOUR COMPUTER OR iPad:

- Go to this website: (Just click this link): <https://zoom.us/signup>
- They will send an email to the address you input. Press the "Activate Account" button in that email
- It will take you to a screen to input name and select a password
- On the next screen you can skip inviting others to Zoom
- Finally, you may start a "test meeting" and it will show you just how your screen will look when you log into a Zoom meeting.

WHEN YOU HAVE ZOOM DOWNLOADED:

Shelley will have emailed you a link to each class once she knows you want to attend. Each class or meeting requires its own invitation link. Just click on the link a few minutes before the class or meeting starts. Be sure you're clicking on the right link...the name and date of the class will be in the invitation.

You can also call into a Zoom class/meeting, but you will not be able to see anyone or see what Shelley shares on the screen. The class works much better if everyone joins with their computer or

iPad. If you have questions, email Shelley.

Book Group

The JV Book Group will not meet until further notice. March's book is *The Chelsea Girls*, by Fiona Davis (and now you have extra time to read the book, if you need it). Amy Griffith will be in touch when meetings can be resumed.

JV members:

*Steve Wing
Don Hall*

Vestry members:

Worship

The Reverend Shelley Denney

Senior Warden

Joyce Wing

Communications

Alain Guichard

Outreach

Judi Dimicelli

Junior Warden

Joint Venture:

Don Hall

Finance

Todd Lukanc

Fellowship, Hospitality, and Welcoming

Wendy Martin

Nancy Romer

Pastoral Care

Marianne Schmidt

Stewardship

Kelli Casale

ECA Activities

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7pm Class/Discussion Group (may be joined in real time via Zoom)	2 10am Lectionary Bible Study (may be joined in real time via Zoom)	3	4
5 <u>PALM SUNDAY</u> 10:45am Blessing of the Palms, Liturgy of the Word, and Passion Reading, with music (online, live-streamed)	6	7	8 7pm Class/Discussion Group (via Zoom)	9 <u>MAUNDY THURSDAY</u> 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom) 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service (home-based, via Zoom)	10 <u>GOOD FRIDAY</u> 12pm Liturgy of the Church for Good Friday, with music (online, live-streamed) Stations of the Cross for Good Friday (online, pre-recorded)	11 The Great Vigil of Easter (online, pre-recorded from another church)
12 <u>EASTER DAY</u> 10am Worship Service for the Diocese of El Camino Real, led by Bishop Lucinda (pre-recorded. link to be provided by Shelley)	13	14	15 7pm Class/Discussion Group (via Zoom)	16 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom)	17	18
19 10:45am Worship Service - Liturgy of the Word (may be viewed on Facebook in real time or at personal convenience)	20	21	22 7pm Class/Discussion Group (via Zoom)	23 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom)	24	25
26 10:45am Worship Service - Liturgy of the Word (may be viewed on Facebook in real time or at personal convenience)	27	28	29 7pm Class/Discussion Group (via Zoom)	30 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom)		



WTO Core Team Update

As we mentioned last month, we have established a Core team to assist with this next Phase of Working Together as One. We are pleased to announce the following members of the Core Team:

- JoyceWing
- Shelley Denney
- Nancy and George Romer
- Ellen Lukanc
- Marianne Schmidt
- Donna Yamamura
- Tom Gerber (CCAV, UCC)
- Jan Blake (CCAV, UCC)

As mentioned, their general responsibilities will include:

- Provide communication and documentation, such as Shape articles, meeting agendas/notes
- Attend meetings and complete research and interviews
- Meet every two weeks
- Review documents over email or calls if needed
- Make presentations to both congregations monthly

- Discuss status with ECA Vestry, CCAV, UCC Council and JVT monthly and seek guidance

- Write and review the strategic plan with the congregation's leadership and parishioners

- Determine next steps

We will be meeting every two weeks, but due to Covid-19 we postponed our activities. We will be meeting using Zoom for a while until Public Health orders change. We have purchased for the Core Team members used copies of the book "Starting a Nonprofit at your Church". It has some key information that will be appropriate for what we are doing.

A few of us have also met with Daniel Pryfogle from Sympara, a Non-profit organization that can assist churches with their effort to use their facility or land for outreach services and partnerships. We will be meeting again, hopefully, in the next few weeks via Zoom.

The first effort the Core Team will be working on is the Joint Venture Churches of Almaden, Inc. Strategic plan. The general approach was agreed upon by both the ECA Vestry and the CCAV, UCC Council, along with others attending each of their retreats. We hope to begin meeting soon, however some team members that are still working have been more impacted than those that are retired so we are trying to determine when best to proceed.

We appreciate the commitment of both congregations. Please ask Joyce Wing or Shelley Denney if you have questions.

*Joyce Wing,
Senior Warden*

Outreach

Village House Response to the Coronavirus Crisis

A Message from Mike Ferrero, the Village House Chairperson

In light of the expanding pandemic and its impact on Santa Clara County, the Village House Steering Committee decided to suspend its shelter operations indefinitely effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Although our hearts are truly saddened, we have no other option.

The decision to close is in line with our concern for the safety of the women in the shelter and our volunteers. The Village House Steering Committee decided to use Network reserves to house our ten women in local hotels until permanent housing or shelters become available. Alicia Morales and Libby Echeverria have found alternative housing for most of the women in the program.

This has been an absolute gut-wrenching decision for all those involved, as we all are firmly convinced that we have been doing God's work through this ministry and genuinely care for the well-being of these women. We also reflected on what the south bay faith community can accomplish when we all work together in the name of Christ.

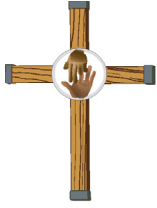
We are hopeful that, over time, as the virus subsides, Village House will re-group and provide a renewed focus towards sheltering these women with all of our partner churches.

God Bless,

*Mike Ferrero, Village House
Chairperson*



Viewing a photographic retrospective of the life of Jack Jackman, at his recent memorial service.



Worship Schedule

April 5 – Palm Sunday

10:45 a.m. Blessing of the Palms,
Liturgy of the Word, Passion
Reading, with music

April 9 – Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday
service

April 10 – Good Friday

12:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Church
for Good Friday
TBD Stations of the Cross for
Good Friday

April 11

TBD The Great Vigil of Easter

April 12 – Easter Day

TBD Easter Day Service for the
entire Diocese of El Camino
Real, led by Bishop Lucinda

April 19 – Second Sunday of Easter

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

April 26 - Third Sunday of Easter

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

- to Shelley Denney, Lynda Ford, Kimberly and Todd Axtell and Bryan Bond for providing on-line Sunday services. It is very much appreciated.
- to Shelley for providing Monday, Wednesday, and Friday messages to the congregation to provide words of encouragement and information.
- to Anne Tysanner for starting a ECA wide email group for all of us to share miracles and touching moments between family and friends.
- to ECA parishioners for sharing their days, love and prayers via the email group.
- to Betty Consorte for her leadership in the Pastoral Care Committee and in working with Marianne Schmidt and Nancy Romer in setting up the ECA phone tree to keep us all connected during the Public Health orders to stay home.
- to Ann Avoux, Kathleen Eagan, Kathryn Hussein, Anna Spanjaart, Betty Wood, Wendy Martin, Judi Dimicelli, Suzanne Moore, Susie and Jerry Ferguson, Joan Wagner, Pat McGarvin, Mel Stonehocker, Amy Griffith, Nancy Romer, Marion Grunge, and Marianne and Mike Schmidt for making calls to ECA parishioners 1-2

times a week to talk, check if anything is needed, and send our love to each other!



One of the last gatherings at ECA before the shelter-in-place response to the Coronavirus outbreak was a lovely memorial service for long-time member Jack Jackman.

April Birthdays

Dennia Moran	April	3
Ryan Hall		4
Juliette Rousseau		9
Jim McPherson		10
Gayle Byers		13
Betty Wood		23
Tyler McPherson		25
Caitlin McPherson		26

April Anniversaries

Joyce and Steve Wing	19
Kimberly and Todd Axtell	29
Inge and Bryan Bond	29

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