Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Door

We are a publicly declared *Reconciling Congregation* and a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network that advocates and works for a truly all-inclusive church. As a Christian community, we lean in on radical inclusion welcoming to humans of all races, genders, and sexual orientations who are affirmed and accepted as a full participant in the life and work of this United Methodist congregation.

Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, April 2, 2023, 10 am

This Sunday is *In-Person Lego Sunday*!

First, children will be in worship. Following the Special Music, the teacher, Joan Culbertson, will lead our children to the Nursery Room.

We welcome all visitors today! Thank you for being here and gracing us with your presence. Please fill out the "Visitation Card" found in the pew and either place it in the offering plate or deposit into the Suggestion Box back in the narthex.

Prayer Candles are located back at the narthex for anyone who wants to light a candle for someone or something and offer it to God in prayer.

Children are invited to enjoy the resources in the **Children Learning Center** located at the back of the sanctuary during worship. Children are welcome to check out books and activity items to take home by signing the simple "*Check-out Sheet*" on clipboard there.

Today's altar flowers are dedicated by Marieta Flores.

(*Please stand if you are able)

Words of Meditation

We shall not cease from exploration And the end of all our exploring Will be to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time.

~ T. S. ELIOT from Four Quartets

Prelude At Calvary Marina Thomas
D. Towner

Bringing in the Light

Welcome & the Life of the Church

Rev. John Song

*Passing of Peace (Wave to your neighbors near you with "Peace of Christ be with you.")

*Centering Breath

The practice of Chanting the **Names of Jesus Christ** is invoking the **indwelling Presence of Christ** within you and within all of us.

Jesus Christ You are my Lord You abide in <u>me</u> (v. 2) I abide in <u>you</u>

*Opening Prayer (in Unison)

"Passion/Palm"

#281

*Gathering Song

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

#278

*Gospel Reading

John 18:28-40

Jesus before Pilate

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³² (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

Not Jesus but Barabbas!

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "**Not this man but Barabbas!**" Now Barabbas was a thief.

Mark 8:17-18

"Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear?"

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Special Music

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \it The\ Holy\ City & Carmelita\ Abenoja,\ Solo \\ \it words\ by\ F.E.\ Weatherly\ Music\ by\ Stephen\ Adams \\ \end{tabular}$

[Carmelita picked this sacred classic to honor the memory of her late husband Lemuel Abenoja on his 10th anniversary of his death on April 14th. Lemuel loved this aria and sang it a number of times in his baritone voice with other choirs in his life time.]

Children may now leave for Lego Sunday School with the teacher, Joan Culbertson.

Message "Not Jesus, But Barabbas" Rev. John Song

Hymn in ResponseAll Glory Laud and Honor #280

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Leader: Let us respond to this word of grace and hope by the giving of our tithes and offerings, which support the varied ministries of the Watsonville First United Methodist Church, mission at home and throughout the world.

Offertory The Palms Marina Thomas

*Hymn to the Trinity Gloria Patri (Glory to the Father) #70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Presentation of Offering

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

Accept our gifts from our hearts, O God, and dedicating our lives in tipping the world toward love and justice by following the Way of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Amen.

*Recessional Song

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

#286

*Benediction [*This ends the Live Streaming]

Prayers of the People

- a. Sharing of Joys & Concerns (Please raise your hand & mic will be given to you)
- b. Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer/Padre Nuestro (You are invited to pray in the language of your choice) Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Postlude O Praise the Name Marina Thomas M. Sampson

We warmly invite everyone to a delicious cup of quality coffee, refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following worship.

Today's refreshments: Marjorie Martinez & Marieta Flores

*If you want to bring Refreshments in the future
you can sign up on the clipboard in the narthex or see Marjorie Martinez.

Worship Leaders

Pastor Rev. John Song
Pianist Marina Thomas
Choir Leader Carmelita Abenoja

Liturgists Tahja Martinez, Febe Avitua, Mark Sorensen

Greeters Harry & Clarice Wiggins

Head Usher Marieta Flores

Tech Team Antonio Pantaleón, Lucila Pantaleón, Elizabeth Reitano

Sunday School Teacher Joan Culbertson

Nursery Attendants Tatyana Martinez, Julissa Solis Coffee Hour Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

Calendar for the Week

Sun., April 2	10:00 am 11:10 am 11:45 am	Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Coffee Hour, Social Hall Leadership Council Mtg., St. Stephen's room *No 30 Minute Conversation with Pastor Today
Mon., April 3	1-3 pm	Sewing Group, St. Stephen's room
Fri., April 7 Sat., April 8	10:00 am 2:00 pm	Good Friday Labyrinth Walking Meditation, Social Hall Easter Egg Coloring (Children & Youth), Social Hall
Sun., April 9	10:00 am 11:10 am 11:45 am	Easter Celebration Service with Holy Communion & Reception of New Members Coffee Hour, Social Hall Children's Easter Egg Hunt, Front of Church lawn *No 30 Minute Conversation with Pastor Today

Opportunities

Holy Week & Easter Week Activities

Good Friday Labyrinth Walking Meditation, Fri., April 7, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Social Hall Easter Egg Coloring (Children & Youth): Sat., April 8, 2:00 pm, Social Hall

Easter Celebration Service with Holy Communion & Reception of New Members:

Sunday, April 9, 10:00 am in-person worship service

Children's Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 9, after Easter Celebration Service

Day Retreat: April 29, 10 am - 3:30 pm with Dr. Peter Coster (9:30 am Check-in; 12 pm - 1 pm Lunch provided) \$10: adults, Free: students & under 30

The 20th Anniversary COPA Convention: Sat. May 20, 5 pm, Golden State Theatre (417 Alvarado St, Monterey, CA 93940)

Church Website: watsonville1stumc.org

Email: office@watsonville1stumc.org | Phone: (831) 724-4434

Office Hours: Tue-Thu 9 am – 5 pm, Fri 9 am – 12 pm (Closed for lunch 12-1 pm)

Pastor Office Hours: Tue – Thu 10 am – 12 pm, 3 pm – 5 pm

229 Stanford Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

Baptism, Membership, Wedding, Funeral, and Pastoral Counseling are available