Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Door

Let us all be good humans on earth and be good neighbors to one another. Be the reason why someone feels included, welcomed, valued, listened to, supported, and loved.

Easter Celebration

Sunday, March 31, 2024, 10 am

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.

Words of Meditation

Love is recklessness, not reason.

Reason seeks a profit.

Loves comes on strong, consuming herself, unabashed.

Yet in the midst of suffering,

Love proceeds like a millstone,

hard-surfaced and straight forward.

Having died to self-interest,

she risks everything and asks for nothing.

Love gambles away every gift God bestows.

~ Rumi, a 13th-century Persian poet and a Sufi mystic

*(Please stand if you are able)

Prelude

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light

Welcome & the Life of the Church

Rev. John Song

*Easter Greetings (Wave to your neighbors around you with "Happy Easter!")

*Centering Breath

*Call to Worship

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Crucified and risen Christ, flood our hearts with your light and our souls with your living presence, that we may trust the victory of God in Christ Jesus, the power of forgiveness over vengeance, the victory of love over violence, the triumph of life over death.

By your rising, give us courage to know that evil and oppression, though they seem to reign on earth, have already been defeated.

You who bear us in your heart, you have raised us up with you, and set us free from our fear, free from shame and despair, free from all that would imprison us,

from all that would keep us from loving perfectly and living in freedom in Christ.

*Gathering Song Christ the Lord Is Risen Today #302

Children's Time "Easter Story" Pastor John

*Gospel Reading Luke 24 Mark Sorensen

The Resurrection of Jesus

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁶Then they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:9-16

Though his state was that of God, yet he did not deem equality with God something he should cling to.

Rather, he emptied himself, and assuming the state of a slave, he was born in human likeness.

He, being known as one of us,

humbled himself, obedient unto death, even death on the cross.

For this, God raised him on high and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name.

So that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

And so every tongue should proclaim "Jesus Christ is Lord!" to God the Father's glory.

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Choir Anthem The Glory of Easter

Words & Music by John W. Peterson

Message Kenotic Path of Jesus: Rev. John Song

Part 2) "The Paradox of Kenosis"

Hymn in ResponseBecause He Lives
#364

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

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 O Praise the Name Marina Thomas

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

*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 Up from the Grave He Arose #322

*Benediction [*This ends the Live Streaming]

Prayers of the People

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

The Lord's Prayer/Padre Nuestro (You are invited to pray in the language of your choice)

Postlude Christ Arose Marina Thomas

Today's refreshments: Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

Worship Leaders

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

Greeters Harry & Clarice Wiggins

Head Usher Marieta Flores

Tech Team Antonio Pantaleón, Lucila Pantaleón, Elizabeth Reitano

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

Calendar for the Week

Sun.	Mar. 31	10:00 am 11:10 am 11:45 am	Easter Celebration Easter Family Potluck Easter Egg Hunt, Front Lawn
Mon.	Apr. 1	1-3 pm	Sewing Group, St. Stephen's room
Wed.	Apr. 3	4:30 pm	Wed. Bible Study, St. Stephen's room
Thu.	Apr. 4	4:00 pm	Food for Children, Back Parking Lot
Sun.	April 7	10:00 am 11:10 am 11:40 am 4:00 pm	Worship with Holy Communion on Second Sunday of Easter Coffee Hour, Social Hall Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary Don Mathews Celebration of Life Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula 4590 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923

Opportunities!

Coffee Hour Hosts and Volunteers Needed

For the past 2 and a half years we have enjoyed the Coffee Hour following worship to connect with one another over refreshment under the leadership of Marjorie Martinez. Today is Marjorie's last day hosting the Coffee Hour. It's going to take collective effort on our part to fill her shoes.

Here are 3 ways you can help:

- Host a Sunday to provide refreshments and prepare, set up, and clean up.
- Volunteer to help clean up afterwards.
- You may donate towards the *Coffee Hour Fund* by making your cash or check donation payable to the church and labeling it "Coffee Hour"

Signup sheet located in the narthex area. Thank you for helping us continue Coffee Hour Ministry.

Church Website: watsonville1stumc.org

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

229 Stanford Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

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