

**April 2003**

# The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church  
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035  
Pastor Shirley Macemon

Church Office

(408) 262-1486

Visit us on the Web!

[www.gb-gm-umc.org/sunnyhills](http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/sunnyhills)

## Holy Week Worship Services

### Palm Sunday, April 13

Worship Celebration, 9:30

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Rev. Emil Sazon preaching

### Remember in Your Prayers

The Mexico house-building team  
The sick, the lonely, and the dispossessed  
The many brutal conflicts  
around our world

### Good Friday, April 18

Walk the Way of the Cross

11:45 a.m.

Join Alum Rock UMC and other area churches as we gather in the Rusticlands parking lot of Alum Rock Park and walk together.

### Easter Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m.

Celebrate the empty tomb (on the lawn between Jones Hall and the Upper Bldg.)

Please bring a simple dish to share for the Finger Food Potluck Breakfast immediately following the service!



### Easter Celebration!

9:30 a.m.

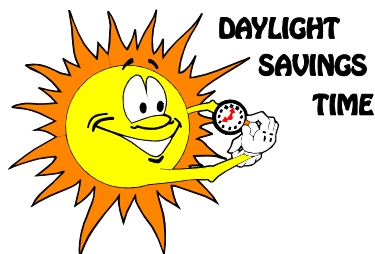
Special Music  
Children's Readings  
Bible Presentations  
New Members.

### Easter Egg Hunt

for all children  
Immediately following  
the Benediction

## Flowers for Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday our Sanctuary will be decorated with flowering plants in many colors. We need your help for this. Bring a flowering plant in the color of your choice on Easter morning. Jo Roll and Thelma Wilber will direct their placement in the chancel area. Take your plant home after worship to adorn your home during the Easter season.



**DAYLIGHT  
SAVINGS  
TIME**

Remember to set your clocks ahead

Saturday night, April 5th!

## ***Pastor's Letter***

This has been a hard several weeks.

A group of Sunnyhills members gathered in the sanctuary on Thursday, March 20, the day after the bombs began to fall in Baghdad, to pray, read psalms, and sing. We proclaimed that God is the God of all creation, that God is the God of all humanity, that God cries when we cry, God mourns when we mourn, and that God treasures the life of each and every one of the children of the earth. We prayed for the decision makers—not only of the U.S. but of all the nations. We prayed for the soldiers—not only of the allied coalition but of all nations. We prayed for families—mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, everyone touched by this war. In the end, of course, we are all touched by this war: Our family is the family of God.



Our faith calls us toward the *Life* and the *Hope* of Easter—God's promise of new Life. Jesus was killed, but even his earthly death does not separate us from His love, from the life and light of God's promise. John 1:5 puts it this way: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never overcome it." Sometimes we know the truth of that promise in our very beings. Sometimes it is helpful to say it aloud until we remember—or know anew—the truth of the promise.

Tension from world events weighs heavily on each of us. Be easy on yourself. Do the things that are important to keep your life in balance: pray, exercise, walk in nature, read a good book, write a letter to someone important in your life. Get involved in peace and justice activities.

Our children, especially, may be overcome with the images that appear on television and the front pages of our newspapers. I'm not an advocate of hiding the news, but I am sensitive that much of our news coverage is not age-appropriate for children. Watch and read world events with your children, as you think appropriate. Listen to and discuss their fears and concerns. Together, can you see a possibility of God's hope in these situations? Remind them of the Good News: God and God's love can never be separated from them, no matter what.

Between now and Easter, Daislyn Pease, my daughter Leah, and I will make the trip to Mexico I've told you about. We will leave from Los Altos by van on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and spend Saturday night in San Diego. Palm Sunday morning, after worshipping with University Avenue Disciples of Christ church in San Diego, we will cross the border and set up camp in southern Tijuana. Our group is 94 adults, teens and children assigned to 5 building teams and a support cooking crew. Monday morning, April 14<sup>th</sup> we will get up early, be guided to our building sites, meet our families, and get to work. By Thursday, tired and dirty, each team will have completed a

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**Work Day!**  
**Saturday—May 3rd**  
*9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon*

Our fearless band of stalwart Trustees tackles the potholes in the upper parking lot. We need your help! Please come enjoy a pleasant day in good company and assist in the undertakings. We need helpers to wield shovel and pickaxe, lug bags of filler, tamp it all into place, etc., etc.

Hate the smell of asphalt? Fear not! We have other tasks on hand. Join the painting crew to redo the lines in both lots. We will have the line-painting equipment, but need sweepers and pick-up artists to prepare the area for the new paint.

Window-washing, baseboard cleaning, and other general clean-up tasks also need a firm eye and a gentle touch. If we have enough people, we'll even tackle some of the trimming and weed-whacking needs around the property.

Many hands make light work. Please come help us keep our property in good order.



**Calendar Notes**



**WRAP**

*Saturday, April 5th*  
*5:00 p.m. Potluck*  
*6:00 p.m. Meeting*

Everyone is welcome as we plan Sunnyhills UMC program and mission.

**Children's Choir**

*Sunday, April 6th*  
*Sunday, April 23rd*

The Children's Choir will rehearse at 11:30 a.m. All youngsters are welcome!

**Beacon Deadline**

*Sunday, April 20th*

News to share? Please send it our way! Cliveden Chew Haas (408/262-5250).

**Lunch Bunch**

*Sunday, April 27th*

Yum! Everyone with a good appetite is invited to join our trip to Mil's Diner (Calaveras Blvd. at Abbot). The food is delicious and reasonably priced.

# Pastor's Letter

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home. Friday we will strike camp and head back to San Diego where hotel rooms and hot showers await us.

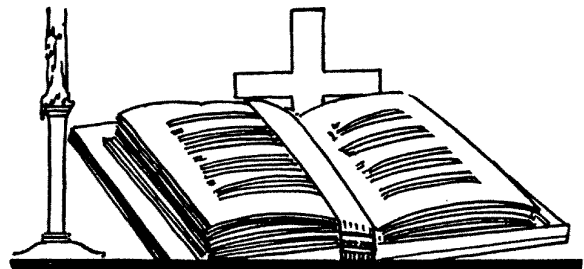
Please keep us in your prayers during Holy Week.

Grace and Peace,  
*Shirley*

## How Did We Get the Bible? New Adult Study Class

Did you ever wonder how our Holy Bible became the Holy Bible? Why it includes certain books and not others? Which translation is best? Why we often use the New Revised Standard Version in worship when other churches may prefer other translations?

These and other fascinating questions about the creation and history of our scriptures will be the topic of a 3-week study beginning in May. Pastor Shirley and Guy Haas will lead these discussions which will be held after Social time (11:00-11:45 a.m.). Exact dates will be announced before the end of April. All are welcome!

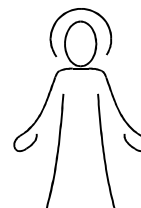
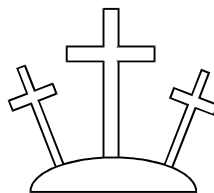
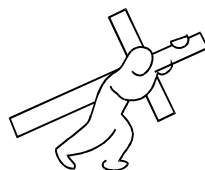


## Worship Liturgists

In May 2003, Pastor Shirley will change our Worship Liturgist sign-up procedure. In lieu of a week-to-week sign-up on the clipboard, you are invited to become part of a liturgist team to handle the Sunday morning liturgist and lay reader needs. Folks who have indicated their interest will be assigned Sundays eight or more weeks in

advance and will have an opportunity to confirm their availability for the date assigned.

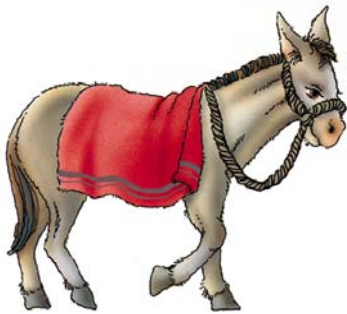
Why the change? We hope to include more people as our liturgists. In some instances, a liturgist's skills and gifts may be matched to a particular service's requirements.



# Walk with Jesus

## Scripture Readings for Holy Week

*Palm Sunday marks Jesus' triumphant arrival in Jerusalem for Passover and the beginning of the last week of his earthly ministry. Scriptures don't give us an exact retelling of the things that Jesus' and his disciples did that week, but using our imagination and scripture we can walk with Jesus and the men and women who were his disciples. Let these scripture readings guide your prayer and meditations during Holy Week. (Adapted from *Stages on the Way*, by the Iona Community Wild Goose Worship Group, GIA Publications, Chicago.)*



### **Palm Sunday, April 13th** **Matthew 21: 1-11** **Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

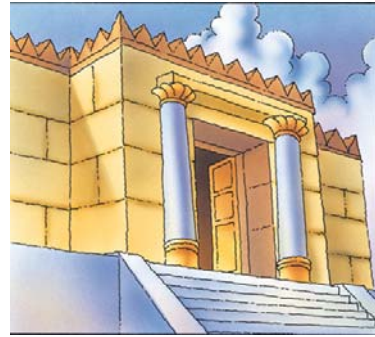
It was on Sunday he came to Jerusalem.

Jesus sent two of his disciples before him, saying, "Go to the village ahead of you. You will find a colt tied there which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it to me." The disciples went and did as Jesus directed them. They brought the colt and put their cloaks on it and Jesus sat on it. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who

comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Jesus was humble and riding on a donkey, acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children. He moved from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power. When Jesus entered Jerusalem the whole city was in a turmoil, asking, "Who is this?". The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

It was on Sunday he took on Jerusalem.



### **Monday, April 14th** **Matthew 21:12-13** **Jesus Overturns Tables**

It was on Monday when Jesus overturned the tables in the temple.

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "My house shall be called a house of prayer; but you are making it a den of robbers."

They said, "My grandfather helped to build it; my family always sits in this pew." They said, "Change is hard, and we don't know where or how to start." They cried, "If we have used your house for our purposes, Lord, forgive us."

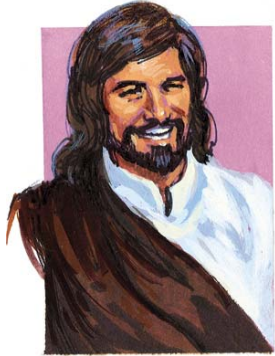
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## Walk with Jesus

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The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry and said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?’”

It was on Monday when Jesus overturned the tables in the temple.



**Tuesday, April 15**  
**Matthew 21:28-45**  
**Jesus Teaches with Parables**

It was on Tuesday he let them have it, with parables so plain and answers so sharp.

“What do you think?” Jesus asked. “A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir;’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.”

It was on Tuesday . . . the day when he helped them . . . helped us . . . learn better.



**Wednesday, April 16**  
**Matthew 26:6-11**  
**Anointing at Bethany**

It was on Wednesday his own disciples scolded him for wastefulness.

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment. She poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry. “Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.”

But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.

She was the poorest of the poor, giving away the only precious thing she had. And those who smelled it . . . And those who saw it . . . And those who thought they remembered that he was against

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## Walk with Jesus

*Continued from Page 6*

extravagance . . . Called him a wasteful person . . .

They forgot that he also was the poorest of the poor. And they who had much and who had given him nothing objected to a pauper giving him everything.

That was on Wednesday when they called him a wasteful person.



**Thursday, April 17**  
**Matthew 26:17-75**

**Passover Meal, Betrayal, Arrest and  
Jesus' Testimony before Caiaphas**

It was on the Thursday that he became valuable

He hadn't anything to sell, not since leaving his tools three years earlier. But he wasn't into making "things." Not now. He was into . . . talking. And listening. And healing. And forgiving. And encouraging. And all the things for which there is no pay. So he lived of the kindness of strangers and friends.

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of

silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

It was on the Thursday that he became valuable.



**Friday, April 18**  
**Matthew 27:1-61**  
**Jesus' Trial and Crucifixion**

It was on Friday that they killed him.

It was too dangerous for the priests to keep him alive. He challenged everything they held dear.

Pilate saw through their reasons, but his wife had a dream. The crowd chose Barabbas instead of Jesus.

So he carried his own cross. He was lifted up.

It was on Friday that they killed him.

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## Walk with Jesus

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**Saturday, April 19**

**Psalm 22**

**Jesus is Dead**

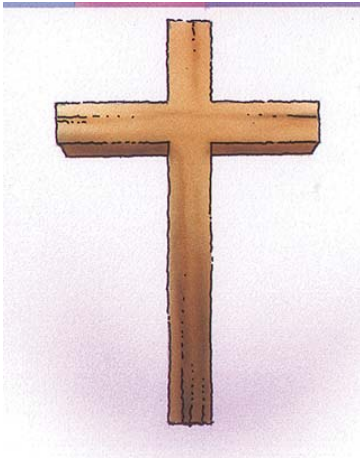
Jesus used part of this psalm from the cross. Perhaps it also captures the disciple's feelings on the day after Jesus died.

*My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?*

*Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?*

... How could our friend be dead ...  
How can we go on? ... Can we even remember his message, his teaching? ... Or is it time to just go back to our fishing boats?

*My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? . . . .*



**Sunday, April 20**

**Matthew 28: 1-10**

**The Empty Tomb**

On Sunday, the women went—as women do—to finish the burial preparations.

But . . .the tomb was empty.

Mary and Mary, with fear and joy, spread the news of the resurrected Jesus.

They remembered his stories.

They remembered his teachings.

They remembered that he had told them that even death would not separate them from God's love, or his.

Mary and Mary and the disciples spread the news of Jesus.

## Income and Expenses

**February 2003**

<b>INCOME</b>	
Offerings	\$2,986
Building Use & Other	3,828
Special Giving	206
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,019</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Mission & Outreach	\$1,044
Operating Expenses	1,989

Pastor & Staff Support	2,685
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,718</b>

<b>Fund Balances</b>	
San Jose Family Shelter	\$ 35
'363' Fund	\$74
Cash on Hand	\$35,253