



THE FIRST PRESS

From Tom's Study

"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?'" – Matthew 21:15-16 ([The NRSV](#))

Typically, as April begins, we are enjoying warmer temperatures, longer days, snow like mashed potatoes, a few brave flowers popping out, and birds migrating through and returning. Often at the church we wave palm branches on Palm Sunday, make our way through the horrors of Holy Week, and finally arrive at the glorious celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter morning. Thankfully, none of that has changed, and yet our lives continue to be upside down as the spread of the corona-virus continues, and we hear and watch its impact on our family and neighbors all around the world.

As the words from Matthew's Gospel suggest, on Palm Sunday long ago, even though Jesus had just turned the temple upside down and a significant unapproved parade had taken place, the littlest ones, the smallest children knew the truth that God was in control and every day is a day which God has created, a day worth living to its fullest, no matter the chaos of the world. As Jesus pointed out, we are often advised to follow the leadership of our kids, in knowing how to live through difficult times.

As I write, our President is saying we need to ease restrictions and get everyone back to work. In contrast, medical experts and the experiences of other countries suggest otherwise. By the time you read this a host of new talking points and ideas will no doubt have been thrown around. It is very challenging to know how to live through this time well, not being overcome with fear, or anger, or sadness, or exhaustion.

As we continue to live through this unprecedented time may we find a way to watch a small child live life! I have the gift of interacting with my almost 2 year old grandson a few times a week on Facetime. Luka's energy and enthusiasm for life, his curiosity and inquisitiveness always bring a smile to my face and put joy in my heart. I hope each of us in our own way is able to look at each day through the eyes of a child, seeing the glory of God even when life seems immersed in chaos. Our God is with us. Our God is faithful. Our God is bringing us life, new beautiful resurrected life. Let us hold on to and celebrate the truth of our God each day.

Christ's Peace be with you - Tom

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April 2020

Sermon Information

April 5 – Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

Sermon Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11, Matthew 21:12-17

Title: “A Den of Robbers”

Synopsis: After the big parade Jesus went straight to the temple and turned the place upside down, calling it a den of robbers. Where in our personal lives and where in our community life have we lost our way to such an extent that our situation resembles what was going on in the temple? Not an easy question to ponder.

April 6 – Monday of Holy Week – Prayer/Communion Service

Scripture Passages: Matthew 24:1-8, Matthew 24:9-28, Matthew 24:29-31

April 7 – Tuesday of Holy Week – Prayer/Communion Service

Scripture Passages: Matthew 24:32-35, Matthew 24:36-44, Matthew 24:45-51

April 8 – Wednesday of Holy Week – Prayer/Communion Service

Scripture Passages: Matthew 25:1-13, Matthew 25:14-30, Matthew 25:31-46

April 9 – Thursday of Holy Week – Prayer/Communion Service

Scripture Passages: Matthew 26:1-16, Matthew 26:17-30, Matthew 26:31-75

April 10 – Good Friday – Prayer/Communion Service

Scripture Passages: Matthew 27:1-26, Matthew 27:27-56, Matthew 27:57-66

April 12 – Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:57-66, Matthew 28:1-10

Sermon Title: “Go Quickly and Tell”

Synopsis: The two Mary’s left the empty tomb filled with fear and great joy. When have you experienced those two emotions of fear and great joy at the same time? The angel told them to go quickly and tell the others what they had seen. Is that why they were filled with both fear and great joy because of the charge they were given to go and tell the others? What makes it easy to share something with others? What makes it hard? What makes it easy for us to share about our faith and what makes it hard?

April 19 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:6, Matthew 7:7-14, Matthew 7:15-23

Sermon Title: “Bearing Fruit”

Synopsis: What kind of fruit does the living of our life bear? Does our life bear fruit that builds up the Kingdom of God, or some other kingdom? As we reflect on the astounding gift of Christ’s resurrection, how do we live our lives as a response to that amazing gift?

April 26 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reading: Psalm 33:20-22, Matthew 5:1-16, Matthew 7:24-29

Sermon Title: “Foundation Building”

Synopsis: Jesus’ epic sermon ends with a parable about two builders, one builds his/her house on sand while the other builds his/her house on rock. As we reflect on all of Jesus’ powerful teaching through his sermon how would you describe the kind of life that is built on rock rather than sand? What would you say makes up the foundation of your life? What have you built on?



Worship with us Through Facebook Live

We will continue to broadcast a worship experience through Facebook Live, each Sunday at 10:00 a.m., until health and government officials give us the all clear to worship together in the sanctuary. If you have access to the internet you can tap into this worship experience even if you are not a normal Facebook user. Don't forget to tell your friends about this experience.

Coordinated Prayer Time

If you can carve out the time, we invite each person to take 15 minutes a day and pray for our community and our world. If you want to coordinate your time with others we suggest praying from 12:00 - 12:15 p.m. each day.

PRAYER REQUESTS

As you go through the month we ask that you keep Ned Dixon, Jerry Cannon, Bob Parker, Warren Miller, Jerry Wassel, Joan Michaud, Edith DePaul (Gaylene's Mom), Theodore Andrews, Bruce Hutchinson, Marcelyn George's daughter-in-law, Sandie, Marshall and Lydia Hamilton (Delaine DuPrey's family), Polly Reed and their families in your prayers as they each face life issues.

Regular Updates

Like most congregations we are new to doing so much of our community live on-line. Hilary and I continue to learn and grow. We will regularly reach out through e-mail and the phone tree to let you know of opportunities to gather on-line, or to share resources you might find interesting.

Weekly Bible Study

We hope to have an on-line Bible Study each week using Zoom. We will send out details as we have them.



EASTER FLOWERS

Each Easter the congregation has remembered or honored loved ones with the purchase of Easter flowers for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Because it is unlikely that we will be worshipping in the sanctuary on Easter, rather than purchasing flowers for Easter, we would encourage you to make a gift in memory or honor of someone with the funds going to the Love Fund.

Thanks for Your Financial Support:

We realize that times of unknown, like this one, make financial giving even a greater gift of faith.

Thanks for stepping out in faith continuing to support the ministry of First Presbyterian. You can now give on-line at the church's website. Check it out – www.solidapresbyterian.org

Notes From the Office

Continuing Community Outreach

Like restaurants around the country we are open for take-out. Stone Soup, the Food Pantry, and SOS continue to offer support to our neighbors who are experiencing food shortages, or help with other financial emergencies. We are grateful for your support that allows us to continue to be a part of the emergency services for our county.



Connecting with Each Other

We encourage all of us to get on the phone and regularly check-in with folks. You might even call someone you have never called before.



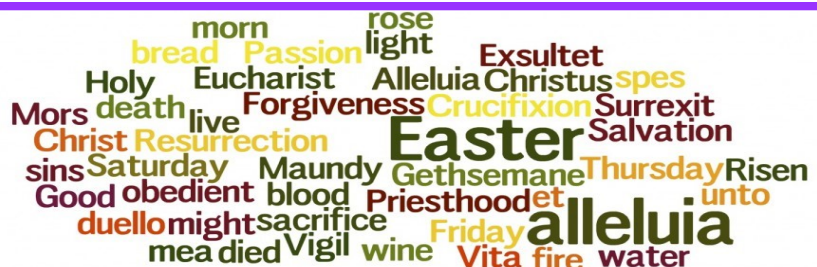
WINTER SHELTER

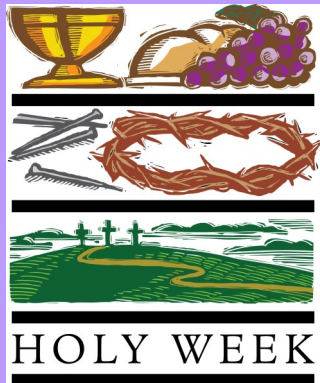


Thanks for your continued support of the emergency winter shelter. Presently, we continue to house 8-10 men a night at the Lighthouse. We have dramatically reduced the number of women we are housing at the motel due to financial limitations, but thanks to some recent donations will again offer emergency housing to women. We hope to keep the shelter open through April. The folks in our community presently experiencing homelessness are very grateful for the communities support

HOMELESS SHELTER

We hope to make the shelter a permanent source of assistance to people in our community. Toward that end we are looking for a dedicated home for the shelter, and on-going financial support for the shelter. Thus we would appreciate your continued prayers, ideas and support as we work to establish a permanent shelter in our community for people who chronically or unexpectedly find they are experiencing homelessness. If you have an interest in getting involved, if you have ideas or resources to share please reach out to Tom Abbott, Beth Sanders, Cheryl Walker or Hal Walker. If you would like to make a donation you can write a check to "Caring and Sharing" putting "winter shelter" in the memo-line. Or you can use this link to give on the go-fund-me page: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/salida-colorado-overnight-winter-shelter>





Palm Sunday and Easter Worship

On April 5th our worship will have a Palm Sunday theme and on April 12th we will celebrate Christ's Resurrection. We will have a full-blown Easter celebration again as soon as we can gather together in the Sanctuary.

Holy Week Prayer and Communion

We hope to have daily prayer and communion services through Facebook Live Monday through Friday of Holy Week: April 6-10. Be watching for more details.

JOB OPENING

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR NEEDED

The search is on for a new Office Administrator!

If you are interested in joining our team or know of anyone who might be please give us a call! All FPC or community members are welcome to apply. A job description is available in the office or can be emailed. If you are interested, please submit a resume to the office. Give us a call with questions or to get more details.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Love Fund— As of March 31: \$2,944.67 in local emergency assistance (rent, gasoline, car repairs, bus tickets, medicines, etc.) has been provided this year.

Energy Outreach Colorado-Utility assistance since the start of the grant period October 1, 2019 has been 7,261.01.

ELDERS

Linda Colling	719-539-8634	lrcoll327@yahoo.com
Bob Grether	719-530-1788	grether@outlook.com
Phil Maes	719-530-1224	philmaes@yahoo.com
Brian King	719-530-1534	chiroking@live.com
Debbie Quintana	719-221-2557	spikewee4u@yahoo.com
Cecil Rhodes	214-493-8157	CECILWR1948@gmail.com
Barb Snyder	719-539-3956	bsnydermail@gmail.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church office 719-539-6422 office@salidapresbyterian.org
 Rev. Tom Abbott, Pastor: tom@salidapresbyterian.org
 Rev. Hilary Downs, Associate Pastor: hilaryd@salidapresbyterian.org
 Dan Shuford, Praise Band Director: danny@salidapresbyterian.org
 Liz Riley, Choir Director, Pianist: emusic1955@gmail.com
 Kathy Moore, Admin Assistant: office@salidapresbyterian.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY-9:00 AM-5:00 PM

FRIDAY/SATURDAY-CLOSED