

Church in the Forest

at Erdman Chapel, Stevenson School • 3152 Forest Lake Road,
Pebble Beach • P. O. Box 1027, Pebble Beach, CA 93953
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Monday morning, January 8, 2018

Dear Friends,

We begin a new sermon series on the Gospel of Mark this Sunday: “Walk in Wonder.”

“Wonder” is a word with two very different meanings. It can mean, “astonishment,” “rapture,” “adoration,” a sense of the Holy and transcendent. “Wonder” can also mean puzzlement, confusion, exasperation. “I wonder what’s true,” “I wonder what to believe in—anything?”

Wonder is a perfect word for Mark and us. In Mark’s Gospel, you see people encounter Jesus. Some feel rapture and reverence—the first meaning of wonder. But most experience confusion, exasperation, even rejection—the second meaning of wonder.

That’s our situation, too. We’re pulled between these two kinds of wonder. As we study Mark, we’ll also consider one of the most acclaimed books of the last ten years, [A Secular Age](#). Author Charles Taylor describes our age as an era where we’re pulled between the longing to believe and a world that makes it so hard. We feel a continual tension between doubt and longing, faith and questioning. From low-church to no church, none can escape this tension.

Where are you on your walk in wonder? Join us now through February 11, as we walk with Mark—and wonder.

See you Sunday!



The Reverend Joanne Swenson, Th.D.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: New members will be received into the church on January 21. Please contact Pastor Joanne or Sherry St. Clair to let us know of your desire to join.

Small Groups are gatherings where CitF members and friends can explore faith and deepen fellowship.

- The *Small Group Bible Study* is held each **Sunday at 8:30 AM** in the Multipurpose Room.
- “Sisters in the Forest,” our new *Women’s Small Group*, gathers **January 11, at 12 Noon**, in “The Community Room” at 615 Abrego Street, Monterey. Newcomers welcome! (This is an off-site meeting room maintained by Union Bank—but not at the Bank. Brown Bag Lunches welcomed. Group will dismiss at **1:15 PM**—come when you can and leave when you must.)
- *The Men’s Small Group* gathers **January 11, 10–11:30 AM** in the Multipurpose Room, currently studying the Book of Romans.
- *The Tuesday Study Group* meets **January 16, 10:15–11:30 AM** at the home of Gloria Bigelow.

The **2018 Flower Calendar** is posted and awaiting your sign-ups! The sponsorship is \$75 and we can have two flower sponsors per week.

Other Sign-ups! We need you! As well as flowers, we need cookie sponsors (none signed up so far this month!), as well as other participants (lector, crucifer, ushers—you name it!)

Weekly giving envelopes can be picked up on Sunday. If you want them, but did not request them, please contact the office.

Save the Date! *Shrove Tuesday* is February 13!

Calendar

Sunday	January 14, 2018 — Second Sunday after Epiphany
	Baptism of the Lord
8:30 AM	Bible Study in the Multipurpose Room led by the Reverend Ken Feske. Topic: Mark 1: 4–11
9:15 AM	Chapel Concertino
9:30 AM	Morning Prayer
Passages	Romans 6: 3–5; Psalm 104 (selected passages); Mark 1: 4–11
	Lector Bob Mulford Crucifer Marilyn Gorman
	Ushers Chuck & Diane Elliott
	Cookies ??
	Flowers Barbara and Vinz Hake
	Altar Care Martha Jordan, Linda Mackie, and Sandy Rice
Sermon	The Rev. Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.
Title	“Wonder Walks Among Us: A Sermon Series for Epiphany” This Sunday: “Baptism for Unbelievers”

Music Box

JANUARY 14, 2018

Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano & organ

CHAPEL CONCERTINO

Snowflakes Charles Haubiel (1892-1978)
Silent and soft and slow descends the snow Arthur Benjamin (1893-1960)
Des pas sur la neige (Footsteps in the snow) Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
La neige danse (The snow is dancing) C. Debussy
Troika Peter I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Auf stillem Waldespfad Op. 9 No. 1 Richard Strauss (1864-1949)
(In silent Forests)

Waltz "Les Patineurs" (The Skaters) Emile Waldteufel (1837-1915)

Today's music speaks to the wonders of wintertime enjoyed in other places. To the purity and quiet of a gentle snowfall at evening and blue diamond glitter in moonlight. To the dazzling white that transfigures the morning and stuns you with pleasure when you awake, wondering in a fluttering heartbeat whether heaven has arrived.

Full disclosure: You budget an hour a day to put on and take off your winter wraps to go anywhere. But plan not to go, as your car won't start, and even if it does the snow plow has already buried it, so it won't move. And if you stay home you can run the water occasionally so the pipes won't freeze and burst. Water cascading somewhere inside your house when you return is a sound never to be forgotten, assuming you can get there.

But it is worth the trouble to go outside, just to watch the breathtaking ballet of cars in graceful rotation, imbued with the beauty possible only in a really massive object on an icy street, under the ballistic control of nature, she having lost interest in the screaming driver. From a passenger's point of view the effect is, if possible, even more riveting. Later a pack of trolls will spread salt on the streets, so that automobiles will corrode and shoes will be ruined.

Put aside your envy. Someone has to live here.

Melinda Coffey Armstead



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This past Sunday, Church in the Forest celebrated Epiphany with the "Burning of the Greens"
Enjoy some pictures of the event! — Photos: Mary Wiltse

