

# Church in the Forest

at Erdman Chapel, Stevenson School • 3152 Forest Lake Road  
P. O. Box 1027 • Pebble Beach, CA 93953 • 831.624.1374  
email:citf@mbay.net • www.churchintheforest.org

Monday morning, March 19, 2018

Dear Friends,

Maggie Holm gave me a wonderful book, *Salvation With a Smile*, a scholarly account of Joel Osteen, who pastors America's largest church, Lakewood Church in Houston. 40,000 people worship there every week!

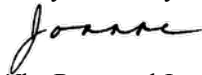
One of the most fascinating chapters is about Joel Osteen's adversaries. This optimistic, smiling man with beautiful teeth has attracted fevered opposition from fellow Christian leaders. Their complaint? That Osteen has misunderstood Jesus: "It's a cotton candy gospel... Osteen's core message is Jesus is nice, you're nice, be nice."

Who is the "right" Jesus these critics prefer? According to this book, Osteen's critics are from the "Neo-Calvinist" movement, committed to the golden age of 16th century theology—when women could not lead nor preach, when divorce was prohibited in any situation, when Christians worried endlessly if they had been elected for salvation or damnation, and where they were certain their non-Christian friends would burn in hell. That is, if they even had any non-Christian friends.

Wonder what Jesus would say about that?

Did the 16th century really understand Jesus? Do these Neo-Calvinists really understand Jesus? Did the first century followers who waved palm branches and hailed Jesus, "the King of Israel," really understand him? This Sunday, as we mark Palm Sunday, we face the problem of understanding Jesus.

See you Sunday!



The Reverend Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.

## EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

It's that time of year again! Please use this form to order a Lily for our Easter decorations. The cost is \$10 per plant and you may order more than one.

Please fill out the order form below and return it with the appropriate amount.

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of/ In Celebration of/ or Thanksgiving for (please circle):

\_\_\_\_\_

## Calendar

**Sunday March 25, 2018 — Palm Sunday**

**8:30 AM** Bible Study in the Multipurpose Room led by the Reverend Ken Feske. Topic: John 12:9–19

**9:15 AM Chapel Concertino**

**9:30 AM Morning Prayer**

**Passages** Colossians 1: 9–12; Psalm 118 (selected verses); John 12:9–19

**Lector** Bob Mulford **Crucifer** Rae Janzen

**Cookies** ?

**Flowers** Kristen and Doug Davenport

**Ushers** Jack Davis and Linda Banner

**Altar Care** Martha Jordan, Linda Mackie, and Sandy Rice

**Sermon** The Reverend Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.

**Title** "A Skeptic's Guide to God: A Sermon Series for Lent"

This Sunday: "Who understands Jesus?"

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Friday, March 23, 11 AM**, Pastor Joanne leads a study of the gospels' resurrection stories, Carmel Valley Manor. All CitF members and friends are welcome. Contact: joanne@churchintheforest.org

**Sunday, March 25, 1:00 PM, Celebration of Life for Lawrence Wilsey at CitF**

## HOLY WEEK

Sunday March 25, 9:30 AM Palm Sunday

Thursday March 29, 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday

Friday March 30, 6:00 PM Good Friday

Sunday April 1, 9:00 AM Easter Sunday

*One service with festive concertino beginning 9:00 AM; worship 9:30 AM.*

## SAVE THE DATES:

**April 22** is our next New Members' Sunday. Join our mission to be a "Light in the Forest"! Contact: joanne@churchintheforest.org

**May 6, 2018, 11:00 am, Spring Brunch at MPCC.** \$25 per/person. Alcoholic beverages \$10 per drink ticket.

**PLEASE HELP:** The April sign up sheets are posted and we need YOU!

**SMALL GROUPS:** *These are gatherings where CitF members and friends can explore faith and deepen fellowship.*

- *Sisters in the Forest Small Group* meets **March 22, 12 noon–1:15 PM**, at Linda Mackie's, 3110 Bird Rock Road, Pebble Beach. All women welcome.
- *The Men's Small Group* gathers **March 22, 10–11:30 AM** in the Multipurpose Room, currently studying the Book of John.
- *Women's Bible Study Small Group* gathers **March 29, 10:30 am–12 noon**, at the *Beach and Tennis Club*. Purchase book, "Women of the Old Testament" from Pastor Joanne.
- The *Small Group Bible Study* is held each **Sunday at 8:30 AM** in the Multipurpose Room where the topic is the bible passage of the day.

***Music Box***

MARCH 25, 2018 — PALM SUNDAY

**Solmaaz Adeli, mezzo-soprano  
Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano & organ**

*CHAPEL CONCERTINO*

Sweet, Sweet Spirit ..... Doris Akers  
The Palms..... Jean-Baptiste Fauré (1830-1914)  
A Simple Song from MASS..... Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)  
Ride On, King Jesus! ..... traditional Spiritual, arr. Hall Johnson

Laudamus Te ..... Christopher J. Hoh

Allegro ..... Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726)

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

—*John 12:12-18*

*Melinda Coffey Armstead*



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**Address service requested**

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