

# The Living Word

1035 Indiana St.  
Vallejo CA 94590  
707-643-7973



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## LORD'S PRAYER STUDY - TED GOODE

Worship (Beth Grose) and Education (Ted Goode) invite the congregation for a two-session study of the Lord's Prayer. We will study the prayer in use during worship now and its Biblical roots, and then hope to update the prayer (content and language) for our personal prayer life and for use periodically during worship. The first session is scheduled Monday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. This session will be Zoom only (keep an eye out for the link in your email). The second session will be in person, Sunday, March 22, following worship (bring your lunch). It is not clear that we will be able to effectively present the second session on Zoom, however, we will make every effort to make it available and as interactive as possible. Stay tuned.

## Save The Date

The Christian Church of Woodland invites you to a community viewing of **1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted a Culture**

This will happen on June 13th in our sanctuary with a movie screening and a meal! More details to follow.

-Pastor Shannon

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**PASTOR'S PEN**

**An understanding mind gains knowledge;  
the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.  
~Proverbs 18:15 (CEB)**

The book of Proverbs is a collection of wisdom literature and guidance in the Hebrew Bible. Most of the sayings are attributed to King Solomon who was known for his wisdom and godliness. This verse is just one of many that promote being a learner throughout your life. Following God takes a sharp mind and an open spirit!

Some of you know that I've 'gone back to school' by joining a certificate program presented by **Disciples Seminary Foundation**. Here's the blurb from their website about what it entails:

*The **DSF Certificate Pastoral Leadership in a Divided World** is a 10-course, one-year, online program designed to equip emerging and experienced leaders with theological grounding, practical skills, and culturally aware education. Through participation in the DSF Collective, students join a diverse community dedicated to spiritual growth, justice, and meaningful ministry. With flexible coursework and scholarship support, the certificate helps prepare individuals for ministry — especially within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) — while accommodating the realities of work, family, and vocational discernment.*

I'm nearly finished with the second unit and I've really been enjoying the chance to dip back into the academic world in a way that fits around my ministry and family responsibilities. I decided to enter the program because I was interested in picking up new resources and perspectives after being away from ministry for a decade and out of seminary for two! It's been fabulous to do the readings and reflections with this congregation in mind, considering how to bring what I'm learning to our common ministry here in Vallejo. Ask me about it some time - I'll be glad to tell you more!

What have you been learning lately? What new interests are you following? Is it time to pick up something new that brings you fresh perspective and vitality? I'd love to hear about it!

God Bless You,  
Pastor Sara

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**NOTES FROM THE PASTOR**Pastoral Ale

This month instead of meeting up for coffee we're going to try something new! Meet me for a beer (or seltzer or soft drink) at **Vallejo Brewing Company** (430 Virginia St. in downtown Vallejo) on **Thursday, March 26th** between **4pm and 6 pm**. This is a chance to get together and hang out during the week. It's informal and open to any (21+) who'd like to join. I hear you can order food from Gracie's next door if you need snacks or a meal, too.

Bible Study

We continue to meet on the last Sunday of the month to dive into scripture together. For March we'll meet after worship from **Noon to 1:30** on **Sunday the 29th** (Palm Sunday). Bring a brown bag lunch and your Bible. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall and take a look at the Easter text: **John 20:1-18**.

Good Friday Service

Save the date to attend our Good Friday service on Friday, April 3 at 7:00 pm in our sanctuary.

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**ARE YOU READY FOR PALM SUNDAY? - David Mezzera**

We will celebrate Palm Sunday on the last weekend of this month. This month's challenge questions all have to do with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem:

[1] This triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (on what we now call Palm Sunday) is recorded in all 4 Gospels. True or False?

[2] Palm Sunday always occurs on the Sixth Sunday of Lent. True or False?

[3] Palm Sunday always begins Holy Week. True or False?

[4] What animal does Jesus ride on as He enters Jerusalem? (a) donkey; (b) colt; (c) ass; (d) horse; (e) trick question - Jesus walked and didn't ride into Jerusalem.

[5] What did the disciples do with their cloaks during Jesus' entry into Jerusalem? (a) spread them on the animal's back; (b) waive them the air; (c) spread them on the road.

Answers below.

## ARE YOU READY FOR PALM SUNDAY? - Answers

[1] True: the story is found in Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; and John 12:12-19.

[2] and [3] are both also true.

[4] Has multiple answers: Matthew refers to the animal as an ass along with her colt; Mark refers just to a colt; Luke refers just to an ass; and John refers to a donkey. So (a), (b) or (c) can be correct.



[5] Here again, the answer varies slightly from Gospel to Gospel: Matthew, Mark and Luke have the disciples first spreading their cloaks on the ass and then also on the road; while John does not mention the cloaks at all. In addition to (a) and (c) being correct, option (b) does not show up as the cloaks are not waved in the air. In addition, Matthew tells of the crowd laying tree branches on the ground, Mark says the people laid reeds on the ground, and John says the people greeted Jesus by waiving palm branches - as we do on Palm Sunday.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH VALLEJO

# BIBLE STUDY

John 20:1-18 - The Resurrection

SUNDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> 2026 | FROM 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

With Pastor Sara

Bring a bag lunch and a Bible

Fellowship Hall

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**MISSION ACTION REPORT- Suzanne Awalt, Mission Action Coordinator**Monthly Gift

The March monthly Mission Action donation of \$275 will be made on behalf of our congregation to Church World Service (CWS-the CROP people!) UKRAINE CRISIS RESPONSE FUND. From CWS: “CWS established the Ukraine Crisis Response Fund to address the unique needs of Ukrainians displaced by Russia's invasion. We are on the ground in the neighboring country of Moldova, where nearly 100,000 Ukrainian refugees are living with host families or staying in hotels, apartments and shelters.

We are teaming up with local and international partners to reach Ukrainian refugees with food, shelter, hygiene supplies, vital information and other services.

The situation in Ukraine and neighboring countries continues to change, and the relief effort for displaced Ukrainians continues to evolve. CWS is committed to help ensure that Ukrainians who have been forced to flee from their homes have a safe, comfortable and dignified place to stay.”

Mission Action Notes

In February, we donated \$19 in quarters to Vallejo Together to support laundry services for unsheltered individuals in our community. Thank you!!!

Thank you to John and Beth Grose for procuring the water bottle refill station unit to fulfill our plan to make fresh drinking water available to those who use the Little Free Pantry, visit our Peace Garden, or just need a refill as they pass by our property. A \$6000 National Benevolent Fund (NBA) grant is funding this mission initiative. When the weather clears, our team will make the installation and contract for a concrete platform. We hope to have the refill station working by the time of our next Haircuts for the Holidays event on May 2, 2026.

Thanks to Helen and Dave for faithfully stocking and restocking our pantry and the supply cabinet supporting it.

Thanks to all who make donations of non-perishable food, water, and personal care items for the pantry. Also needed are \$15 gift cards from 7-11, Subway, Dollar General, and similar retailers for Pastor Sara’s discretionary access. We have many visitors who come needing help for a meal. No questions asked. Thank you for your generosity.

## GRATITUDE AND GIVING - Sonya Blevins

From the February 22nd worship service:

I have been a member of this church for almost 23 years now. Although the learning curve at the beginning was not a steep one, there were some aspects of this church and denomination that were new to me. Take Lent, for example.

There has been some profound wisdom imparted within these walls on the subject of Lent.

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The wisdom of Viona Shuyler, a matriarch of this congregation:

One year, early in our membership, Cheryl and I decided to participate in the “giving- up” take on Lent and we determined that chocolate would go for 40 days. That was a challenge. We had mentioned to Viona that we were going without chocolate, and she imparted this bit of wisdom to us: “Never give up chocolate.”

The wisdom of Rev. Dr. Judith Jones:

Judith was the first to broaden my concept of lent practices when she encouraged us not to give up something, but instead to take on something more—like pray more, or make more time for reflection.

The wisdom of Rev. Dr. Christy Newton:

Christy challenged us with the theme of “Less”. She asked each of us to submit things we wanted less of in our lives and compiled a list that included less negativity, less impatience, less laziness... We were challenged to consider not only our own contribution to the list, but also those of our fellow congregants. There were 40 items on the list, (I still have a copy shared below). I bet we could add more things this year.

The wisdom of Rev. Sara Steenhouse:

As part of a Lenten series on the spiritual practice of seeking, Sara’s message today was about relying on the teachings of our faith and faith practices as a moral compass to filter the bombardment of misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation that we most likely encounter on a daily basis.

There are five more Sundays in Lent. Keep listening.

**First Christian Church (DOC) Vallejo suggestions for “Less” this Lent:**

1. *Less time on apps and social media*
2. *Less anger*
3. *Less busyness*
4. *Less worry*
5. *Less stress*
6. *Less impatience*
7. *Less gossip*
8. *Less fear of failure*
9. *Less fear of our differences*
10. *Less fear of the unknown*
11. *Less wanting things to be perfect*
12. *Less consumption of material things*
13. *Less pain /aching/ disease*
14. *Less politics*
15. *Less access to guns*
16. *Less depression /loneliness /sadness /heartache*
17. *Less highly-processed carbs*
18. *Less uncertainty*
19. *Less drama*
20. *Less clutter*
21. *Less weight*
22. *Less laziness*
23. *Less resentment*
24. *Less confusion*
25. *Less pickiness*
26. *Less books hoarded on the shelves (more sharing. . . )*
27. *Less traffic /time commuting*
28. *Less wanting*
29. *Less comparing ourselves to others*
30. *Less blaming*
31. *Less overscheduling*
32. *Less entitlement*
33. *Less negativity*
34. *Less guilt*
35. *Less complaining*
36. *Less conformity*
37. *Less self-sabotage*
38. *Less resistance to change*
39. *Less settling for less*
40. *Less ignoring the still small voice of God*

## HYBRID WORSHIP CONTINUES

We continue to develop and improve our hybrid worship abilities. Every Sunday morning, we have some members of our worshipping community onsite in our sanctuary and some members of our worshipping community online on Zoom. We continue to work to make both formats engaging and accessible. Please share comments and suggestions that might make both formats better for everyone.

Our worship services begin at 10:30. To join us for worship on Zoom, click the link below and joining us through video. Or dial in by calling the number below according to your time zone. The instructions to connect are fairly easy, but if you need help, please reach out.

In preparation for Zoom worship, please have communion elements of some form with you so that we can all partake together. This can be bread and juice—or any other elements that evoke the Last Supper for you. You may also want to light a candle near you as we worship together.

### **Worship on Sundays, 10:30 a.m. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW MEETING INFO!**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83204891403?pwd=YkJBNTQwWURabEtpRFVoaDU5aU5hQT09>

Meeting ID: 884 4460 0052

Passcode: 503337

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

# Mark Your Calendar

March 5 - Ministry Council Meeting, 5 pm on Zoom.

March 12 - Admin Council Meeting, 5 pm on Zoom.

March 16 - Lord's Prayer Study, session 1, 7 pm on Zoom.

March 22 - Lord's Prayer Study, session 2, after worship (bring a lunch).

March 29 - Bible Study, after worship (bring a lunch).

March 26 - Pastoral Ale, 4-6 pm at Vallejo Brewing Company.

April 3 - Good Friday Service, 7 pm in the sanctuary.

April 5 - Easter Breakfast, 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall (more details to follow).

April 23-25 - Annual Gathering, at FCC Concord.

June 13 - "1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted a Culture" film at Woodland Christian Church.

**The deadline for the next Living Word is March 25**

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