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JV Handbell Director..... Ruthanne Adams Martinez
CCAV Folk Music Director John Hawes
Webmaster www.ccavucc.org..... Kelly Yamanishi
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.....(office@jointventurechurches.org)

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Check out our Facebook page: Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC.
<https://www.facebook.com/CCAVUCC>

We extend a special welcome if you are a visitor with us. Please sign our guest book in the narthex and speak to our ushers regarding more information about our church. We share our “open and affirming statement” and want you to know that “wherever you are along your life’s journey, whatever your name, however you feel, you are welcome here.”



Open and Affirming Statement

We the members of The Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, United Church of Christ, seek a deeper understanding of God’s grace as it moves through the life of our church. We are called by Christ and empowered by God to love all people and affirm the sacred worth and dignity of each individual. We invite into the full life and ministry of our church all people, recognizing no boundaries of age, race, education, ethnic origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, economic circumstance or family structure. We embrace our diversity of thought and scriptural understanding, and we respect and honor all who seek to be in covenant with us as we share in the joys and responsibilities of our church family.



***THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ALMADEN VALLEY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation
March 15, 2020
Third Sunday of Lent***



An Order of Worship for March 15, 2020
Third Sunday of Lent
The Deeper Questions

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Greetings

Congregational Sharing and Announcements, Joys, and Concerns

Sounding of the Bell

Prelude

Lighting of the Peace Candle

In silence we light the peace candle. May its light illuminate the path of peace and justice for all of God's creation.

~~~*Moments of Silence*~~~

**\*Call to Worship** (Please rise in body or spirit) \*

L= Leader P= People

L: O come, let us sing to our GOD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**P: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,  
singing joyful songs of praise!**

L: O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the HOLY ONE, our Maker!

**P: Yes! God is our God, and we are God's people:  
O that today we would listen for the Lord's voice!**

L: Let us not harden our hearts, as they did in the wilderness,

**P: When our ancestors tested our Liberator,  
requiring proof of God's faithfulness,  
even though they had witnessed miracles!**

L: For forty years God contended with that generation and said,

"They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways."

**P: Today, Holy One, we have learned from their struggles.**

**Today, we re-dedicate our hearts to you and strain our ears to hear your voice. Speak now, Still-Speaking God, for your people are listening!**

*Please silence phones, \*=Stand if you are able, Bold Print indicates congregation responds*

NOTE CH= Chalice Hymnal, NCH = New Century Hymnal

6. Volunteer for a Sunday job on the matrix.

7. If none of these appeals to you but you have ideas of other ways you would like to support CCAV, please let Debbie know. It takes a village to keep a small church running, and every one of you is appreciated as a part of our congregation.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Sandy Baldwin 03/03, Kuang-lei Tsao 03/09, Athena Ballek 03/11, Perla Runge 03/16, Pauline Heaton 03/20, Connie Moore 03/26

**Continued Prayers** – Jill, Jan B., Homer, Maria's father, Dot A., Connie, Debra, Amy M., Tam W., Ruth W., Jan M., prison ministry, our Council, Vestry, JV Board, JVTT, gun control, immigration detention centers, hospice, Gene & Diana M., Maria B., Audrey W., Rob H., Hay Soon; Debra, Randall & Joyce; Adam, Jeanne, Bob & Phyllis G., Shirley L., Joy D., Susan L., David V., Village House, those unsheltered, those traveling, those incarcerated, Duerksens, Strandbergs, Jan S., Tom F., Dick & Jean S., Jerry, Ted F., Dirk, Will (Marty's brother)

**Ongoing:**

CCAV Council Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays, 10:45 a.m.

Yoga, Mondays 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Joint Venture Board Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

AA Meeting, Tuesdays 8:15 - 9:15 p.m. at our church.

Quest, Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.

JV Handbell Rehearsal, Wednesdays 4:30 p.m.

CCAV Shalom Choir, Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays are Folk Choir Sundays. Potluck Brunch Sunday!

**JOINT VENTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND FELLOWSHIP WITH  
OUR ECA FAITH COMMUNITY**

**Lenten Study Series: Wednesday Evenings: 7-8:30pm – thru April 1:** In the early church, belief in the Resurrection plus the gospel readings we have during Year A (this year) on the five Sundays of Lent were considered sufficient knowledge of Jesus' teachings and deeds of power to prepare people for baptism. Our Lenten study series this year is exploring those five stories from the Gospel of John, paired with artwork and a study of the liturgies of Holy Week. This will help us understand the connection between scripture and our worship in this important season leading to Easter. Looking at famous paintings of these scripture stories will access our right brain and inform us in non-linear ways, opening up new thoughts and conversations. Open to all - each lesson is self-contained...come to those you can!



**We appreciate those who are serving this Sunday:**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Marty Williams**

**Reader: Sue Goddard**

**Greeter/Coffee Host: Carla & Tom Gerber**

**Music: Ilya Blinov**

**Flowers: Jan Blake & Debbie Bemis**

**Fellowship Events**

- On March 15th after worship in the Learning Center, Carolyn Cheng is hosting a music trivia game for all of us based on the music of the 60's. We will listen to a snippet of a familiar tune, then each person writes down the recording artist and the title. After 20 songs, Carolyn will reveal the answers by playing the entire recording of each song. You are encouraged to sing along. Bring your great knowledge of oldies! The prize is a bottle of wine.
- And on Sunday, April 5th (Palm Sunday), Jan and Debbie are planning to do a pancake dinner at the church with a Jeopardy game related to Holy Week.

**Looking ahead to next week:**

- The office will be closed Tues-Thurs 3/17-3/19 because Ruthanne will be on vacation. There will be no midweek this week, but an eBlast will be sent out on Friday if anything important comes up.
- **Serving Next Sunday 3/22:**
  - Worship Leader: Rev. Marty Williams**
  - Reader: Carolyn Cheng**
  - Greeter/Coffee Host: Pat McGarvin**
  - Music: JV Handbells, CCAV Shalom Choir**
  - Flowers: Betty Benson**

**Ways to Serve** Please prayerfully consider ways in which you could serve and support the ministry of CCAV. It takes many hands and hearts and gifts to have a vital ministry.

1. Plan a monthly activity for us to do together.
2. Volunteer to help Debbie revise the CCAV By-Laws, which are incredibly out of date and sorely in need of revision.
3. Volunteer to be on the Core Team to help develop a strategic plan moving forward with ECA and JV for our future together.
4. Volunteer to be part of worship planning and maybe even preparing something to share with us during the sermon time on Sundays when Marty will not be preaching for us.
5. Prepare special music for us on a Sunday this summer or on a Sunday when the choir is not singing.

**\*Invocation**

**In Unison**

Leader: Let us pray:

**ALL:**

**God of grace and truth, we come to your house today to worship you.**

**We bring all of ourselves to you. We entrust our hidden, fearful, and fragile selves to your transforming power and gentle, loving care.**

**Blessing, glory, and honor are yours alone.**

**Thank you for the many ways your Spirit breaks into our lives and into this troubled world. We offer this prayer in the name of the One whose name is above every name, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

**Fill My Cup, Lord**

**CH No. 351**

**Reading from the Old Testament Exodus 17:1-7 Common English Bible**

The whole Israelite community broke camp and set out from the Sin desert to continue their journey, as the LORD commanded. They set up their camp at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people argued with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses said to them, "Why are you arguing with me? Why are you testing the LORD?" But the people were very thirsty for water there, and they complained to Moses, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What should I do with this people? They are getting ready to stone me."

The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of Israel's elders with you. Take in your hand the shepherd's rod that you used to strike the Nile River, and go. I'll be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock. Water will come out of it, and the people will be able to drink." Moses did so while Israel's elders watched. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites argued with and tested the LORD, asking, "Is the LORD really with us or not?"

**Response**

**Thy Word**

**CH No. 326**

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

**Special Music**

**Lenten Prayer**

**Shalom Choir**

*Lord, I ask a blessing for my soul today.*

*Give me peace from heaven as I kneel and pray.*

*Forty days did Jesus face temptation strong.*

*Give me strength to conquer knowing right from wrong.*

*(lyrics continued on next page)*

*Lord, I ask a blessing for my soul today.  
Give me peace from heaven as I kneel and pray.  
I would be like Jesus turning from all sin  
With His love to keep me true and faithful within.*

*Lord, I ask a blessing from my soul today.  
Give me peace from heaven as I kneel and pray.  
When I look to Jesus, He will show the way.  
Help me come to meet Him pure on Easter Day.*

## Reflections

Rev. Marty

### John 4 – selected verses

He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.)

Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!"

\*Hymn of Response

Water, River, Spirit, Grace

CH No. 366

## Prayers of the People (your intercessions will be invited)

### Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## Call to Offering

### Offertory

\*Doxology **OLD HUNDREDTH** (NCH, No 778)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

### \*Dedication of our Offerings

\*Closing Hymn

God Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

CH No. 439

### \*Benediction

\*Sung Response (the congregation makes a circle around the sanctuary and sings)

### Peace I Leave With You

Peace I leave with you, my friends; Shalom, my peace in all you do;  
Peace I leave with you, my friends; I give to you, so you can give to others too.

## Postlude (please be seated)

### Taking Out the Light and Words of Dismissal (please remain seated)

*Worship has ended, let the service begin!*

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\*Worship Materials: **Thirsting for Grace: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Lent**, was written by the Rev. Dr. Renee C. Jackson, Minister for Ministerial Formation, UCC. Copyright 2020 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

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**Welcome to our church, a sacred space where, indeed, all are welcome. A special greeting if you are a visitor with us today. Thanks for signing our guest register! We welcome children in our service—activity boxes are available for children in the sanctuary. Our ushers are glad to help families locate the Nursery in case you have little ones who are in need of Nursery Care.**