

# CLARION

Bridging the Centuries through Faith  
1913 – 2020

Communion  
July 4, 2021



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA

Altadena, California 91001  
Wednesday, June 30, 2021  
Volume LXXIII, Number XXVI

## OUR CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

Clarion Mailing

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

Mission Study 7:00p

SUNDAY, JULY 4

*Communion Sunday*

*Services Suspended for Health Concerns  
Live Stream Online Worship*

TUESDAY, JULY 6

Clarion Mailing

SUNDAY, JULY 11

*Services Suspended for Health Concerns  
Live Stream Online Worship*

Sunday, June 27, 2021

## “Safer At Home” Worship LXVI Priorities

By: Rev. Ann Oglesby-Edwards

Welcome to Worship! WELCOME! Good morning! I am grateful that you have joined us for worship this morning as we live-stream our worship services. We gather in God’s name as the people of God. We trust in Jesus as we sojourn through this life we share together. We believe the Holy Spirit guides us to share God’s deeds and love throughout this world. Let us now come together to give God our praise!

### Call to Worship:

Jon Maeda

One: Call to mind the mighty acts of God. Remember the wonders God has revealed in our life.

All: With a strong arm, God redeems the people. Day by day, God leads us with a shepherd’s care.

One: We have inherited the mission of the prophets and to step out with deeds of love.

All: We have gathered in worship for renewal of our lives. We have gathered to be equipped as God’s disciples.

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

We begin with lighting the Christ candle to remind us of Christ’s guiding light and love in our world.

Opening Prayer: In these changing times, Holy God, stay steady as our light. Lead us through the narrow valley of challenge and difficulties and guide us in the paths of righteousness. Help us to grow in our faith as we learn to follow you. Meet us here, Loving God, so that we may praise you with our whole hearts. In Christ, we pray, Amen.

### Music “As We Gather”

Scripture: Luke 9: 51-62

Virginia Gin

### Sermon: ‘Priorities’

Jesus is getting ready to enter into Jerusalem which means that he is getting ready to face the difficult circumstances ahead of him by way of the cross. He is realizing that his deadline is fast approaching. And yet, while this may look like an ending, we know that what happens in Jerusalem is ultimately a new beginning for the world.

It’s important to remind ourselves that Jerusalem is the heart of Jewish existence. The Jews in the first century believed that it was where God lived - in the temple, the Holy of Holies. Jesus wants his followers to comprehend the seriousness of what lies ahead for him. But he also wants them to realize what is ahead for them. After spending three years with his disciples, he is hoping that they understand the new perspective that he has been teaching them and that he is the new way of life for them.

Verse 51 starts us in the area of Samaria. In Samaria, they get a taste of the rejection that they will experience later on as they proclaim Christ to the world. As they travel through this area, different people make overtures of commitment to follow Jesus. Two of them seem to have good intentions to follow him, but they come up with real and legitimate reasons for delaying - such as burying a loved one and taking care of family needs. Jesus’ answers, from our perspective, seem insensitive and callous, as well as a little bit strange. (Continued on page 2)

## LEADERS IN WORSHIP

We are grateful to those persons who led us in live on-line worship on Sunday, June 27, 2021, with social distancing. Call to Worship, Jon Maeda; Scripture, Virginia Gin (Luke 9: 51-62); music, Allison and Karina Lee, Ann Kiriyama, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Sam Gin, Ron Ota, and Nick Tomoyasu; and Rev Ann Oglesby-Edwards for her on-line worship sermon “**Priorities**”.

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS July 4, 2021

Scripture: TBA  
Greeters: On Hold  
Ushers: On Hold  
Security: On Hold

## WHO’S MAILING

July 6 Volunteers  
July 13 Volunteers  
July 20 Volunteers  
July 27 Volunteers  
\*This week: Volunteers

## STAFF JUNE 19

Editor Donna Kiriyama  
Printer and Mailing Crew  
Dorothy Kirkland and Alice Young  
Email Bobby Hayashi

# OUR THANKS

Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from June 23, 2021 thru June 29, 2021

## In Memory for Father's Day

Mark and Midori Tajima, in memory of his father, Calvin Tajima, and grandfather, Rev. Kengo Tajima

## On the Birth of

### Corey Kentaro Woo

Elsie Hayashi  
Bob and Yoshiko Hayashi

# Welcome Baby Corey

With great joy we welcome Corey Kentaro Woo to the world! Born on June 19, 2021, Corey is the first child of David and Kelly Woo. Baby and parents are safely ensconced at home. Mr. Corey is the 4<sup>th</sup> grandbaby for Bob and Yoshiko Hayashi, and... great-grandbaby number 24 for Elsie Hayashi (new growth for the dynasty). Congratulations to the Woo/Hayashi family.



# MISCELLANEY

As mentioned in this week's announcements, we would like to thank our **Deacons** for their thoughtful Father's Day cards that were given to members and friends of our congregation. A kind thought to let them know that even during these times of remote meetings, we are thinking of them. Also, the Deacons will be taking a short hiatus during the months of July and August. They will resume meeting again in September.

A reminder that next Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, is **Communion Sunday**. Not only will we be celebrating our country's independence and the many sacrifices that were made for that independence, we will be remembering Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Please have your elements ready at home, so that we may partake together during our live-stream service.

## Priorities (continued from page 1)

But if we look at it from Jesus' perspective, it looks different. For Jesus, things are becoming urgent. His priorities have become clear and Jesus wants them to grasp new priorities for their lives. Dr. Karoline Lewis from Luther Seminary says: 'that this is a moment when 'but first' will not do anymore.' For Jesus, every moment counts.

Our commitment to follow Christ cannot be declared glibly. There is a cost. Following Jesus must be our highest priority in our lives. It's important to make sure that we do not see this as Jesus telling us to reject our responsibilities with our families. That is not what he is ultimately trying to do. He is calling us to see how our faith interacts with our lives. Jesus is asking us to sort out our priorities.

Just like we go through a developmental process of growing from a child to an adult, so do we go through a faith developmental process as a child of God. As our faith grows and matures, we discover that faith is not just a private matter for me alone, but it is meant to move and interact with the world around us. Christ is challenging us to become mature in our faith. We cannot be half-hearted about our faith because the world around us is waiting to hear the good news of the forgiveness, redeeming love and hope of God through Jesus the Christ.

Dr. Karoline Lewis again states: "In the truth of our lives, so fragile, so frail, every moment counts. In the midst of transitions and transformations, every moment counts. In the reality of ministry and meaning that take on all of the contexts and circumstances of our lives, every moment counts."

Jesus' face is set to Jerusalem, and we are asked to follow him in his footsteps. What will our priorities be? Amen.

## Prayers of the People ending with the Lord's Prayer

### Announcements

1. You are invited to join us every Sunday at 10:30a.m. via the internet for our live-stream services. An e-mail will be sent to you at the end of the week with a link for you to join us. You can log on as early as 10:15a.m. but the service will begin at 10:30a.m. The service will be recorded, and you are able to access it immediately following our time of worship.
2. On July 18, we will begin in-person worship services in the sanctuary. Safety protocols will be shared with you prior to that service. We are excited to finally be able to meet back in person! We will also continue to live stream our services, so if you are unable to join us in-person, you can join us through the internet. Again, a link will be sent to you prior to the service on Sunday mornings.
3. On Sunday, July 4, Communion will be served at our live-stream worship service.
4. I want to say thank you to our Deacons for celebrating our fathers on Father's Day.
5. Please continue your prayers for our leadership - Session, Deacons, Stewards, and the Mission Study team - as they make decisions for the life of this congregation.
6. Beginning in July, the Clarion will return back to its pre-pandemic format. Donna Gonzales will be accepting any articles from individuals, as well as the different groups of our congregation

### Benediction

### Postlude



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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