



Gustave Doré, Jesus Preaching

“Stories of Our Faith”

The Season of Lent may be something of an anomaly within our contemporary progressive Protestant tradition. The traditional observances – Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, “giving up something for Lent,” fasting and self-scrutiny, the somber lectionary readings and liturgical colors, strike a very “Catholic” – almost Medieval – tone in today’s world.

And yet, Lent is a part of our Christian heritage that we ignore only at great loss. The season can greatly enrich our faith and carry us far into the deep things of God. If we are willing to venture trustingly into it, Lent can expose us to profound new spiritual insights and practices.

Our seasonal theme this year – “Stories of our Faith” explores both the stories of Jesus and our own stories using the tools of narrative theology and the honored spiritual practice of personal testimony. We invite you to come, and find your life narrative in the ongoing narrative of God’s redeeming love!

*~ Pastor Frank Baldwin,
Director of Community Life Leslie O’Brien,
Pastoral Intern Jeff Crews, and
Minister-In-Training Steve Sanchez*

Ash Wednesday, February 17

7:00-7:45 p.m. in the Chapel

“The False and the True”

Share the Ashes of Repentance and the music of the Demi-Choir.

Special Opportunities at OCC during the Season of Lent

Sunday, February 21

11:00-11:30 a.m.

“Love Grows Here”

Help our Learning Community to celebrate the newly-completed rehabilitation of the Nursery Building with a Fellowship Time ceremony of re-naming and rededication.

Sunday, February 28

11:30-12:30 a.m.

“Peace in the Middle East”

Ambassador Warren Clark of Churches for Middle East Peace presents an after-church forum on the prospects for peace between Israel and Palestine.

Tuesday, March 16

7:00-8:30 p.m.

“God of Intimacy and Action”

OCC’s lively Theology Book Club gathers for a discussion of “The God of Intimacy and Action” by Tony Campola and Mary Albert Darling (discount copies available at Orinda Books).

Sunday, March 29

11:30-12:30 a.m.

“The Future of Theological Education”

Retiring President of Pacific School of Religion Bill McKinney reflects on the past, present and future of pastoral formation.

“Stories of Our Faith”

***Lent & Easter
2010***

Orinda Community Church

*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ*

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-4906
www.orindachurch.org

Thursday Fellowship Gatherings

6:30-8:00 p.m., in the Church Kitchen

Life Stories: Sharing our Faith

Each week during Lent, we'll gather in the kitchen to bake bread for dinner, and after a light soup supper, share the stories of our faith. We'll focus on the next Sunday's worship theme, searching for the connections between the Gospel Story and our own life journeys. Children are welcome, and will have their own age-appropriate program after supper (*just let Leslie know your children will be coming*).

Events Of Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 28

10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

"Into Jerusalem"

Jeff Crews preaches on Luke 19:28-40. Children and youth will lead our traditional "Procession of Palms," which forms at 9:45 a.m. in the Courtyard. Bring green branches from home to share and wave in this parade of joyous welcome.

Holy Week Friday, April 2

Taizé Tenebrae

7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

"Jesus, Remember Me"

Gather around the labyrinth to share in the Lord's Supper and the moving Medieval Rite of Tenebrae, accompanied by the singing of Taizé chant.

Easter Sunday, April 4

Sunrise Service

7:00 a.m. in the Olive Grove

"Why Are You Weeping?"

Using elements of the ancient Vigil of Easter Eve including Holy Communion and the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, our outdoor worship begins at first light and ends with the first alleluia of Easter. Steve Sanchez offers the homily.

Easter Celebration

10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

"Resurrection Joy"

Frank Baldwin preaches on John 20:1-18. Join the congregation for dramatic festival worship with glorious music by the Chancel Choir.

Our Special Easter Offering

will be dedicated to help support the ongoing relief and reconstruction effort of our United Church of Christ in Haiti.

Easter Egg Hunt

The children's traditional Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 11:15 (meet at the Peace Pole). Bring dyed, refrigerated eggs to hide and retrieve. Afterwards, help our youth package Easter goodies that they'll distribute to the local homeless.

Lenten Sunday Worship
10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

February 21

"Wilderness Companions"

Frank Baldwin preaches on Luke 4:1-13.

February 28

"Strong and Tender"

Jeff Crews preaches on Luke 13:31-35.

March 7

"The Open Invitation"

Frank Baldwin preaches on Isaiah 55:1-9.

March 14

"Embracing Love"

Steve Sanchez preaches on Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

March 21

"The Fragrance of Perfume"

Frank Baldwin preaches on John 12:1-8.

Throughout the season, enjoy a wide range of music from the Chancel Choir, the Family Choir, the Crossroads Gospel Quartet, our extraordinary soloists, and David Milnes at the Organ.

Children's Learning
Community

Each week of Lent and Holy Week our young people will be invited to join in a loving and inclusive program of Christian nurture and experience. Infant and toddler care is provided every Sunday in the Nursery Building