



Transfiguration
Episcopal Church

THE

JOURNEY

SEASON OF LENT

FEBRUARY 2022





FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR

INTO THE DESERT

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.

On March 1st, we begin the season of Lent. As I think about it, this is our third “COVID” Lent. And, some might insist that we never left that first COVID Lent in 2020. Much has changed over the past two years – vaccines for everyone over five years of age, booster shots, a return to indoor services, and sometimes we even have a choir. Despite all the positives, it still feels like we are hermits in the desert, tucked away in our hermitages. Our sense of isolation continues with mask mandates, school closures, and new variants appearing just as we feel more secure. The ups and downs can be maddening.

Is it fair to think about the last two years as an endless Lent, stuck in a circle and unable to escape? Maybe it is better, healthier to think about the previous two years, and our lives in general, as traveling on a helix where we come in and out of Lent but move ever upward. When we come back around, unlike a circle, we are not at the same point, we are different, and our Lent and its impact are different.

The Gospel reading for this First Sunday in Lent is the story of the Spirit leading Jesus into the desert. A desert is a wild place, an austere place, one barely inhabitable. Yet, this is where the Spirit drives Jesus. For Jesus, the desert will be like a “refiner’s fire” where he is tested and retested.

Similarly, Sarah Hart released a song titled “To the Desert.” In the song, she sings,

*To the desert follow me,
for I am God,
who is your hope.
To the desert follow me.*

The songwriter reminds us that, like Jesus, God calls us to the desert, to a place where we place our trust and hope in God. In this Lenten place, technologies are useless; self-reliance doesn’t help. We face so many distractions. God’s calling us to the desert gives us respite and allows us to reply to God’s seeking. In the Lenten desert, God feeds us with love and compassion as we turn again toward the Divine. God asks us to reset our priorities – to love God and love our neighbor. Or, in the lyrics of Sarah Hart,

*Return to me with all your heart;
let go the world and come to me.
Rend your heart and not your clothes,
for I am kind, my name is mercy.*

Wherever you find yourself this Lent, remember God’s call, the subtle tug constantly pulling you toward the Divine. The helix we call life rises ever upward; with God’s love, we return to our creator. I pray that we escape our self-made circles and our COVID Lent through God’s grace. The master of the helix is calling, “come to me.”

Blessings,
Bob+



Hiroshi Sugimoto, Conceptual Forms



Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument
La Quinta, CA

photos by Noreen Huey

This season of Lent, we journey through the desert and reflect, and sing each week a verse of “The Desert Shall Rejoice.” We look forward to experiencing Holy Week and the blossoming at Easter.

THE DESERT SHALL REJOICE

The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with praise and singing.

The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
for the ears of the deaf shall hear
and the blind, their eyes be opened.

The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
for the tongue of the mute shall sing
and the lame will dance with gladness.

The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
for the ground will become a pool
and the dry land springs of water.

The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
as the ransomed return to God
and come singing back to Zion.

The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
unto Zion we come with joy,
for our God has come to save us.

Gracia Grindal (b. 1943)

from Wonder, Love & Praise Supplement to the Hymnal, #722

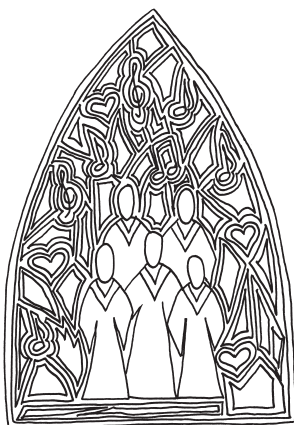




MINISTRIES

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

COVID cases are subsiding in San Mateo County and the indoor mask mandate is changing to “masks recommended.” Also other groups are beginning to restart, and some offices which had remote work are now starting to revert to in-person. With the pandemic lifting and the omicron surge subsiding, it feels safe to resume choir with precautions.



Weekly Thursday night choir rehearsals will be **re-starting on February 24 at 7:00pm**. Our first Sunday to have the choir back will be **March 6**. The plan is for the choir to sing for the Sundays services through Lent, on Palm Sunday, the Great Vigil on Saturday and Easter Sunday. Hopefully we can continue until summer if infections and severity remain low.

It will be great to have the choir again leading our services. **Anyone interested in joining is invited to come.** There will also be an online calendar where you can record the dates you intend to sing with us, which will greatly help in planning the anthems. The link will be sent by email to everyone who has participated in the past.

You can contact me at terry@transfig-sm.org with any questions. -Terry

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRY

It feels like spring and I love it! We could use more rain, but for now the hillsides are green, fruit trees are blossoming and the air is fragrant with the scent of flowers and fertile earth. Our mild winters do not diminish the splendor of spring and the hopefulness that the new season brings. This year spring feels especially full of hope and new growth. Dare I say that the threat of covid is finally waning? Lower hospitalizations and deaths, increased vaccination rates and better testing have allowed us to move

towards a time when we feel safe to gather again and enjoy our community in ways that were not possible at the height of the pandemic. For me that means Community of Wonder meeting in person during the 10:30 service, Faith Lab getting together for indoor and outdoor activities and eventually having Joyful Noise celebrated in person again! It also means that some of our favorite traditions can return such as our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and our Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning.

I am looking forward to this season as we look for new growth and new ways to be together to share God's love and rejoice in community.

Please mark your calendars and join me for our regularly scheduled programs and some special seasonal events.

More details can be found below.

With love and blessings of spring,
Michele



JOIN US SUNDAYS FOR JOYFUL NOISE AT 9 AM, COMMUNITY OF WONDER DURING THE 10:30 SERVICE, FAITH LAB ON VARIOUS DATES AND TIMES AND OUR OTHER SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Tues. March 1, 6 pm.

Join us in the parish hall for delicious pancakes made by the Faith Lab youth. Please RSVP using this form, <https://forms.gle/KGWneXAw1Gj1G8NJ9> to join the fun and support our youth program.

Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday April 17 following the 10:30 service

All children are welcome to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. The great egg hunt will take place on the preschool playground. Youth in grades 6 and up are invited to help the Easter Bunny get everything ready for the hunt. Please contact michele@transfig-sm.org if you'd like to help with the Easter Egg Hunt.

Joyful Noise needs your help. More storytellers are needed for Joyful Noise. Please take a look

at our sign up, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094FAAAD29A3FB6-joyful> and volunteer to tell your favorite story.

Community of Wonder will be inspired by our Lent theme “The Desert Shall Rejoice” to explore stories, activities and games related to the desert habitat. Come along each week to explore the desert with us!

Faith Lab continues to meet in person for fun and to talk about faith. We are continuing our exploration of what it means to be Episcopalian. Our sessions are for all youth in 6th grade and above and will prepare interested youth and adult candidates for confirmation later this year. **Our next activity is Shrove Tuesday, March 1.** We will be decorating the parish hall, preparing our pancake feast and serving our families and friends a delicious meal. Please plan on arriving at 5:30pm to help prepare. Please email michele@transfig-sm.org so I know you can come join the fun.

Love,
Michele

FROM THE DEACON

Tilling & Planting in Sacred Ground

For the past six months or so, a group of people has gathered from several area parishes to read and reflect on systemic racism as part of the Episcopal Church’s Sacred Ground initiative. This series led us to watch films and read books and articles designed to help white people understand the America’s history of race and racism. It’s hard work!

We had three groups: A Sunday afternoon group, a Monday evening group and a group for people of color to provide safe space for discussion and reflection. We looked at a variety of topics including our own family stories, as well as economic class, and political and regional identity.

The beauty of the curriculum is that it is based in our faith—and our belief in the dignity of every human being. “Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church’s long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society,” the web site explains. “Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.”

It’s something that we are doing as part of the wider church. The most difficult question that we have hit up against, though, is: What do we do now? There are so many systems, so many organizations, so many experiences that need to be healed, transformed and even dismantled. The “what next” questions

are difficult. There are so many big projects to be tackled: education, prison reform, affordable housing, employment and so much more.

In that vein, we will be having a “Session 11” that will bring together everyone in the community who has taken Sacred Ground over the past year. As a group, we will look at what we might, as a group or as individuals, work on doing next. Stay tuned for more details!

-Hailey

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

As we enter the season of Lent and our in-person worship continues forward, it is a perfect time to share your gifts and talents with our community. All of our ministries are welcoming volunteers. Come try a new activity or reconnect with a beloved ministry. Some of the various ministries that need your help are listed below:



Lectors—Readers and prayer bidders at the 10:30 am service

Eucharistic Ministers—Help distribute communion during the 10:30 am service

Sacristy team—Work behind the scenes to make the service run smoothly

Greeters—Welcome and hand out bulletins to people as they enter church for the 10:30 service

Coffee Hour Hosts—Make and serve coffee and small snacks after the 10:30 service.
(Coffee Hour returns March 6)

Joyful Noise readers and storytellers—Join us on zoom Sundays at 9am to read or tell a story



Community of Wonder helpers—Adult helpers to participate with children in C.O.W

Faith Lab adult mentors—Be present for our youth during our biweekly meetings.

Which of these roles are calling to you?

Your time and talent adds to the richness of our community. Please email Noreen office@transfig-sm.org or Michele, Michele@transfig-sm.org, if you’re ready to join one of these ministries or would like more information.



LENT/HOLY WEEK/EASTER

BEGIN THE SEASON OF LENT WITH US!

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER MARCH 1 AT 6PM



We are excited to celebrate Shrove Tuesday together. Join us in the Redwood Room (new parish hall!) for delicious pancakes made by the Faith Lab youth. To help with planning and to ensure Covid safety we are limiting participation to 30 people and are

asking for reservations. All attendees age 5 and over must be fully vaccinated against covid-19 and masks will be required when not eating or drinking.

Please RSVP using this form, <https://forms.gle/KGWneXAw1Gj1G8NJ9> to join the fun and support our youth program. If you have any question, please email michele@transfig-sm.org



ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

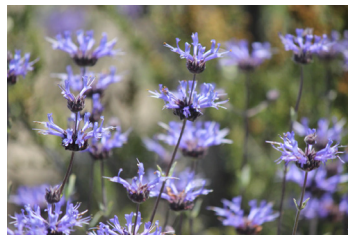
Noon - Spoken Eucharist at Epiphany

7pm - Imposition of Ashes with Eucharist at Transfiguration, with cantors and organ with livestream

EASTER LANDSCAPE FUND & DEDICATIONS

This year for the Easter decor & dedications, we are asking for donations to be made in honor of or memory of loved ones in support of the landscaping fund. We plan to purchase plants and trees which will adorn our sanctuary for Easter and then be planted in our new landscape areas.

To give and donation and make a dedication use this link: <https://forms.gle/EtmVLhpQeZBiDd5a9>



BAPTISMS AT THE EASTER VIGIL

The Great Vigil is at 7:30pm on Saturday, April 16th.

Traditionally, the Great Vigil is a time when the Church gathers, and we baptize new members into the Church. Other times include Pentecost and the Feast of All the Saints. This year we plan to host the Great Vigil in our Church with a candlelight service, along with baptisms. It is a joyous occasion where we celebrate many of the traditions of our historic Church. We light the Paschal Candle, retell our stories of light overcoming darkness, renew our baptismal vows, and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

We invite families and anyone else who would like to be baptized and participate in this service. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Bob: bob@transfig-sm.org

The Great Vigil is at 7:30pm on Saturday, April 16th.
Please plan on joining us for this joyous celebration as we welcome new members to our Church family.



OUTREACH THIS SEASON OF LENT



PEACE PANTRY FOR LENT/EASTER

Prior to the pandemic, the Hillsdale High School Peace Pantry was providing canned and boxed foods weekly to 20 food-insecure Hillsdale High families. That number has jumped to 150 since the start of the pandemic. Every Friday morning volunteers in the school parking lot load fresh and packaged food staples from Second Harvest and Mi Rancho Market into the trunks of cars as families drive through. The need continues, even two years into the pandemic.

We can reach out to support the Peace Pantry - and these 150 families - with donations of Target gift cards (which give families the freedom to purchase other non-food items they might need) and monetary donations to fund special Easter dinners for families. More details will be forthcoming.

For further information about the Peace Pantry and how we have supported their ministry in the past, please email garipatton@gmail.com. Many thanks for extending care and compassion to these families through your donations!

-Gari

LifeMoves

COLLECTING SNACKS FOR LIFEMOVES SHELTER NETWORK

For a second Lenten outreach, we will be collecting healthy snacks and bottled water/juices to assemble snack bags for the people supported by LifeMoves. This program includes residents at Maple Street Shelter, individuals and families living in the RWC RV parking lot, and those who are currently COVID+ quarantining in local hotels. These snacks are a needed and welcomed subsidy to the meals that are provided.

We will be asking for donations of the following items to be dropped off at church on Sundays or at the office now through Sunday, March 27.

- CHIPS/CRACKERS
- BOTTLED WATER/JUICE BOXES
- GRANOLA BARS/TRAIL MIX
- FRUIT SNACKS/RAISINS
- COOKIES/GRAHAM CRACKERS
- INDIVIDUAL TUNA/CRACKERS
- PAPER LUNCH BAGS

The Faith Lab youth will assemble the bags. We will need of a volunteer to deliver the bags - if you are willing to help with this, please contact Michele michele@transfig-sm.org or Hailey: hailey@cyberdeacon.com.





WAYS TO CONNECT @TRANSFIG & BEYOND

MORNING MEDITATION - WEEKDAYS AT 8:30AM

A group gathers for meditation at 8:30am every Mon thru Fri on zoom. <https://zoom.us/j/6503418206> (password: 3900) All are welcome! Those who have participated have found it to be a wonderful way to begin the day. Questions? email: bob@transfig-sm.org or michele@transfig-sm.org

EVENING BIBLE STUDY - TUESDAYS@7PM

via zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89096557150?pwd=OVV3WlpsRlBmRy9DL0VHVVE5S3JGdz09>

Join us as we engage with God's word in new ways. Each week, we read a portion of scripture (often something lesser known passages from the Hebrew Scripture, New Testament and Apocrypha). We meet for one hour to read, reflect and discuss. Led by Hailey.

Questions? hailey@cyberdeacon.com

MORNING PRAYER - WEDNESDAYS AT 9AM

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00, a group gathers for Morning Prayer via the Transfig zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/6503418206> (password: 3900)

All are welcome! Questions? email:

garipatton@astound.net

GOSPEL PREVIEW - WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30AM

Every Wednesday morning at 10:30, a group gathers for Gospel Preview bible study and lively conversation via the Transfiguration zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/6503418206> (password: 3900)

All are welcome! Questions? email:

bob@transfig-sm.org

ONGOING OUTREACH:

HILLSDALE PEACE PANTRY

Each week a crew of dedicated Transfig Bakers are there, providing breads and other treats in support of hungry Hillsdale High families. They welcome your contributions whenever this works for you. Friday mornings at 9:15 in the Hillsdale High parking lot.

For more information, contact Gari Patton, garipatton@astound.net.

Every gift, however small, makes a difference.

SAVE THE DATE: PARISH RETREAT @ THE BISHOP'S RANCH, JUNE 10-12

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the Parish Retreat at The Bishop's Ranch for a wonderful weekend together in the beautiful Healdsburg.

Please use this link:

<https://forms.gle/h7WJAAoKsPcAY8GJ6>

to let us know you are interested. Watch for more information in the coming months!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 20

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

9:00am Joyful Noise via zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/6503418206> password: 3900

10:30am In-Person, Indoor Eucharist
at Transfiguration (masks required)
with Livestream transfig-sm.org
7pm Masterworks Chamber Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Monday, February 21

Parish Office Closed - President's Day Holiday

8:30am Morning Meditation via zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/6503418206> password: 3900
6:30pm Masterworks Chorale Rehearsal (Church)

Tuesday, February 22

8:30am Morning Meditation via zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/6503418206> password: 3900

Wednesday, February 23

8:30am Morning Meditation via zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/6503418206> password: 3900
9:00am Morning Prayer via zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/6503418206> password: 3900
10:30am Gospel Preview via zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/6503418206> password: 3900

Thursday, February 24

8:30am Morning Meditation via zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/6503418206> password: 3900
7:00pm Transfig Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Friday, February 25

8:30am Morning Meditation via zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/6503418206> password: 3900
5pm - Sunday Women's Retreat at The Bishop's Ranch

Saturday, February 26

all day Women's Retreat at The Bishop's Ranch

Sunday, February 27

The Last Sunday after Epiphany

thru 2pm Women's Retreat at The Bishop's Ranch
(no Joyful Noise service this week)

10:30am In-Person, Indoor Eucharist
at Transfiguration (masks required)
with livestream transfig-sm.org

Monday, March 1

Shrove Tuesday

6:00pm Pancake Supper (Redwood Room)

LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Wednesday, March 2 - Ash Wednesday

noon Spoken Eucharist at Epiphany, San Carlos
7pm Imposition of Ashes with Eucharist at Transfig
In-Person, Indoor service with livestream

Sunday, March 6 - The First Sunday in Lent

9:00am Joyful Noise via zoom
10:30am In-Person, Indoor Eucharist with livestream

Sunday, March 13 - The Second Sunday in Lent

9:00am Joyful Noise via zoom
10:30am In-Person, Indoor Eucharist with livestream

Sunday, March 20 - The Third Sunday in Lent

9:00am Joyful Noise via zoom
10:30am In-Person, Indoor Eucharist with livestream

Sunday, March 27 - The Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00am Joyful Noise via zoom
10:30am In-Person, Indoor Eucharist with livestream

Sunday, April 3 - The Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:00am Joyful Noise via zoom
10:30am In-Person, Indoor Eucharist with livestream

Sunday, April 10 - Palm Sunday

9:00am Joyful Noise via zoom
10:30am In-Person, Indoor Eucharist for Palm Sunday
with Palm Procession and the Passion story
at Transfiguration with simultaneous livestream

Thursday, April 14 - Maundy Thursday

6pm Maundy Thursday with Joyful Noise style
Eucharist, foot washing, stripping of the altar,
cantor and organ In-Person, Indoor (church)
with livestream

Friday, April 15 - Good Friday

noon Good Friday liturgy at Epiphany, San Carlos
7:00PM Good Friday liturgy at Transfig with livestream

Saturday, April 16 - Holy Saturday

4:00pm Family Easter Vigil at Epiphany, San Carlos
7:30pm Easter Vigil with lighting of the Easter Fire,
Baptisms and the first Eucharist of Easter
In-person, Indoor service with livestream

Sunday, April 17 - Easter Day

10:30am Festival Eucharist for Easter at Transfiguration
In-person, Indoor service with livestream
11:45am Easter Egg Hunt

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS



Concrete and asphalt has been poured and we move closer and closer to completion of the accessible parking, pathways and reception area.



CALL FOR VESTRY AND DEANERY NOMINATIONS

The Vestry nominating committee is meeting to make recommendations for new members of Vestry. If you are interested or want to recommend someone for nomination, please contact Bill Peters wjfpeters@me.com

A formal Annual Meeting and Elections has been postponed until the new Rector is called. The current Vestry members will continue to serve for the near term. We currently have two openings: one for the Class of 2023 and one for the Class of 2024 (Anne Gearhart graciously continues to serve from her new home in Oregon until a replacement is appointed). We currently have two continuing Deanery delegates and will have an election for two more during the Annual Meeting.

LAY LEADERSHIP AT TRANSFIGURATION

VESTRY CLASS OF 2022



Michael Hutchinson

m.s.hutchinson@gmail.com



Michelle McLean
Junior Warden

julsmontgomery@gmail.com



Bill Peters
Senior Warden

wpeters@gordonrees.com



Ann-Marie Wiese

krausewiese@gmail.com

VESTRY CLASS OF 2023



Barbara Carlisle

davbarcarl@yahoo.com



Eric Johnson

ebj.pdx@gmail.com



Hilary McClure

hilarymcclure@gmail.com

VESTRY CLASS OF 2024



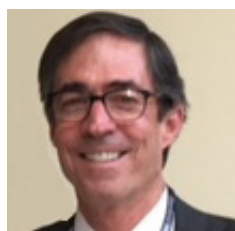
Tim Fox

timothyfox@gmail.com



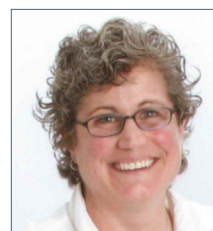
Anne Gearhart

gearhart_bio@yahoo.com



Brad Lewis

bclhome@gmail.com



Chris Villanis

chrisvillanis@yahoo.com

DEANERY



Aidan Jobe Sea
Deanery Delegate



Stacy Ryan
Deanery Delegate

Mees Tielens, Alternate Deanery Delegate



PARISH DIRECTORY

STAFF

Interim Rector: The Rev. Robert Kossler
415 309-9118 - bob@transfig-sm.org

Director of Family Ministry: Michele Maia
510 816-4324 - michele@transfig-sm.org

Interim Director of Music: Terry Farrow
terry@transfig-sm.org

Operations Manager: Noreen Huey
650 341-8206 - office@transfig-sm.org

Bookkeeper: Christine Semenza
Contact via the parish office

ASSISTING PRIEST

The Rev. Amber Stancliffe-Evans
Contact via the parish office

DEACON

The Ven. Hailey McKeefry-Delmas
650 201-6139 - hailey@cyberdeacon.com
This position is shared with Epiphany, San Carlos.

PARISH OFFICE

650 341-8206
office@transfig-sm.org
3900 Alameda De Las Pulgas
San Mateo, CA, 94403
www.transfig-sm.org

VESTRY LEADERSHIP

Senior Warden: Bill Peters

Junior Warden: Michelle McLean

Clerk to the Vestry: Eric Johnson

Treasurer: Joseph Villa

Assistant Treasurer: Cathy Cohn

VESTRY MEMBERS

Class of 2022

Michael Hutchinson

Michelle McLean

Bill Peters

Ann-Marie Wiese

Class of 2023

Barbara Carlisle

Eric Johnson

Hilary McClure

Class of 2024

Tim Fox

Anne Gearhart

Brad Lewis

Chris Villanis

DEANERY DELEGATES

Aidan Jobe Sea

Stacy Ryan

Mees Tielens, Alternate