



EMMANUEL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April, 2026

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From the Rector

Holy Week is one of the most profound periods of time in the church calendar. It begins on Palm Sunday, where we joyfully usher the rightful king Jesus into Jerusalem, then by the end of the Gospel reading we are screaming for His execution, which is granted at the hands of Pontius Pilate.

On Wednesday, we celebrate Tenebrae, which is a service which mirrors the monastic praying of the hours. There are readings from the Bible, prayers, Psalms, and the extinguishing of candles on a large candelabra called a hearse. All of this is designed to take us through a journey to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Thursday takes us to our Maundy Thursday service where we participate with Jesus in the washing of feet as we remember that just as our Lord lived to serve and not be served. Then, we celebrate the feast that was ushered into our world two thousand years ago. Perhaps the most moving aspect of this service is how it ends. The Altar is stripped of all objects and ornaments. Denuded, the altar lights are extinguished as we remember that the disciples abandoned Jesus in His time of need. It remains this way until the Easter Vigil.

Good Friday is a service with a laser focus on the Passion, or crucifixion narrative of Jesus. We read the Passion Gospel, participate in the prayers, and leave with our Savior dead in a cave. This service is designed to take us to the depths of our despair, to see that we are the ones who crucified Him. It opens our eyes to the reality that for much of our lives we live in anticipation of the fulfillment of our redemption but struggle with the brokenness of this world. We marinate in this discomfort until Saturday evening.

The night before Easter we celebrate the wonderful Vigil of Easter. This service contains so many unique parts. Beginning with the lighting of the first light of Easter, which is passed from person to person as we share the light which Christ shines in our hearts. The plan of God's salvation of humanity is then recounted through the Scriptures, those who are newly pursuing God are brought into the faith through baptism, and we celebrate the salvation of the world by sharing in the Eucharist, which we have not received since the table was stripped on Maundy Thursday. This service which begins in darkness, closes in brilliant light.

In the morning we celebrate the full joy of the Resurrection in our Easter Day services. Here, there is none of the shadow, nuance, uncertainty of the past week, but joy in the fullest. Jesus Christ is risen never to die again! This day then becomes the template for every Sunday, because each week we are reminded of the hope of Christ. Since He died and rose again, so will we.

Holy Week takes us on a journey through the Bible, but also through our own hearts. I hope that this year you and I will walk this road together and see Jesus, the God of love and mercy, with us the entire way.

In Christ

Seth

HOLY WEEK CALENDAR

Sunday, March 29, Palm Sunday 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
Walking with Jesus in His Triumphant Entry.

Wednesday, April 1, Tenebrae 7:00 p.m.
A contemplative service of Scripture and Prayer.

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. *Celebrating the Last Supper, washing of feet, and stripping the altar.*

Friday, April 3, Good Friday at noon.
A service of standing with Jesus at the Cross.

Saturday, April 4, the Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.
The service begins with lighting the first light of Easter and then moves through salvation history to the empty tomb.

This is also a time for Baptism. If you want to get baptized, contact Fr. Seth fatherseth@emmanuelgv.org

Sunday, April 5, Easter Day 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
The day of celebration when Jesus rose from the dead.

*Easter Egg Hunt following the 10 o'clock service.
Easter Reception in Frank Buck Hall following each service.*

PALM SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Many services on Palm Sunday begin with "the Procession of the Palms," where worshipers hold palm branches as they process into the church.



Sometimes Palm Sunday is also observed as "Passion Sunday," a commemoration of Jesus' suffering and death. Passion Sunday was once celebrated on the Sunday before Palm Sunday, the fifth and last Sunday of Lent.

HOLY WEDNESDAY, TENEBRAE



Holy Wednesday traditions focus on Judas' betrayal and Christ's impending Passion, marked by solemnity, reflection, and services like Tenebrae, where candles are extinguished to symbolize darkness, with some cultures holding special processions or personal sacrifices like fasting or giving up luxuries, setting the stage for the Easter Triduum.

Years ago, the Wednesday in Holy Week was often called "Spy Wednesday." It marked the day Judas betrayed Jesus, going to the high priest and offering to hand Him over for 30 pieces of silver. From then on, Judas "spied" on Jesus, looking for an opportune time to deliver

Him to the Sanhedrin. This marks the start of the final Passion events leading to the Crucifixion.

THE TRIDUUM, or "THREE DAYS"

The Paschal Triduum or Easter Triduum is the three-day liturgical celebration spanning from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. It begins on the evening of Maundy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes at sundown with evening prayer on Easter Sunday. It commemorates the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, acting as the summit of the church year and marking the end of Lent.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday commemorates the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper and Christ's washing of the disciples' feet. "Maundy" is likely derived from the Latin "mandatum" which means "commandment."

Because Thursday night of Holy Week corresponds to the Last Supper, it includes Jesus saying, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you." This is the night of that New Commandment, in other words, it is New Commandment Thursday.



Maundy Thursday services traditionally focus on the Last Supper, not only as the beginning of the Triduum (the Great Three Days), but also as the institution of the Lord's Supper (or Eucharist, or Communion). In many places, a foot washing service is included, and the service often ends with the Stripping of the Altar.

Traditionally, there would be no Eucharist on Good Friday. So, the altar was stripped of all eucharistic elements on Maundy Thursday. Today, washing feet and the stripping of the altar is often an integral part of Maundy Thursday at the end of the service.

Interestingly, this tradition developed simply because the altar guilds needed to strip the altar after Maundy Thursday in preparation for the bare, stark altar on Good Friday. People stayed after worship to observe this, and it was soon experienced as a powerful spiritual moment. Because of this, Maundy Thursday ends with the starkness of the empty, bare altar. Our souls are bare as well, as we begin to walk through the rest of the weekend.

GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday, we remember the events leading up to and including the crucifixion and the crucifixion itself. The Solemn Collects are read, with the leader requesting prayer for a particular purpose (like the salvation of the lost), keeping silence while the people

pray, and then “collecting” their prayers in a written prayer. Eucharist is not celebrated on Good Friday because this is the day in which we try to live in the reality of the brutal starkness of the cross of Christ. In some places, Eucharist is administered from reserved sacrament - consecrated bread and wine that have been set aside during a previous service of Holy Communion.



The Gospel reading for the day is taken from the Passion narrative. It is therefore quite long and is often read slowly and deliberately. The people traditionally stand when Jesus is taken to the cross, and all observe a lengthy moment of silence after Jesus dies. The readings end before the resurrection and the people depart from the church in silence.

HOLY SATURDAY

On Holy Saturday, before the Easter Vigil, we remember the time that Christ spent in the grave. This is traditionally observed by taking time for silence and meditation upon the death of Christ.

EASTER VIGIL AND EASTER SUNDAY

At the Easter Vigil we gather in darkness, just as the women who went to the tomb went there before dawn. Our vigil begins in this darkness and the light is carried into the midst of the people, and spreads. We rehearse the story of our redemption. This is the story of the preparation for the Light to come into the world.

As the light grows, we welcome new members into Christ’s church through baptism. In the early church, this would have been the service where the catechumens were baptized and could then receive their first communion.



After the reading of the Story of Salvation, the light blazes as we celebrate the coming of the day of his resurrection, with shouts of Alleluia! And then we celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter.

It’s really pretty amazing. Between covering all of salvation history in a single service, saying “Alleluia!” again for the first time since the beginning of Lent, and celebrating the Resurrection in the early hours of Easter morning, this really is a unique service! Additionally, this is the service at which people were traditionally baptized and welcomed into the Church.

EASTER SUNDAY



On Easter Sunday, we remember and celebrate the triumphant Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! Easter Sunday then kicks off a period of 50 days traditionally known as Eastertide - ending with Pentecost Sunday. (Palm Sunday – Easter Sunday from Anglican Compass.com)

EASTER

Dear God, today we celebrate the triumph of light over dark, day over night, truth over lie. We’ll take this message with us into the uncertainties of tomorrow, bearing Your promise in the songs of birds, who begin singing again before the storm has fully ended. They know all along that clouds cover, not banish, the sun.
 – Margaret Anne Huffman

If you are new to Emmanuel, fill out a Visitor’s Card found in the pews and drop it in the plate during the offering. You can also send your information through the mail to Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 235 South Church Street, Grass Valley CA 95945, or phone the church office at 530-273-7876 on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

MEN’S GROUP BREAKFAST MEETING Saturday, April 11th

Our next meeting is on **Saturday, April 11th** at 8:30 a.m. All men of Emmanuel Church are welcome. Please come for donuts and coffee and enjoy great fellowship.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Spence Strickley at 530-205-0937 or srstric14@gmail.com.

Ray Gearheart, Ed Scofield, Paul Keasberry

ST. CATHERINE’S GUILD

All ladies are invited to the first Victorian Faire meeting of the year on **Tuesday, April 14**, at 11 a.m. in Frank Buck Hall. Come to listen, learn, and share your ideas. This year the fair, an important part of the Guild’s ability to support 11 nonprofits as well as the church, will be held November 6th – 7th.

Stay, or come for the Guild business meeting at noon. We’ll have a presentation on healthcare fraud by Glorianne, who over the past eight years, has assisted the Federal Government with their investigation regarding Medicare Advantage Fraud conducted by health plans



(insurance carriers). She will share how healthcare fraud violates the False Claims Act and how it can affect us all in one way or another. What does the Bible have to say about honesty?

Debbie Wicks will be preparing lunch for us – yum! Questions? Carey Daly, President (530)277-5970 or jimdaly@comcast.net

DENIM AND DANCE . . .

Line Dancing for All!



Line Dancing

Designed for Beginners!

Bring the Family and Come Join in on the Fun!

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

45 minutes of instruction followed by 15-minute breaks

Location: Frank Buck Hall at Emmanuel Church

235 South Church Street, Grass Valley

Phone: 530-273-7876 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., or for any informational needs

email us: office@emmanuelgv.org

Fee: \$10.00 Cover or via Donation

Live Music from the Troupe Band (our own Richard Colunga, Coordinator)

Instructor lead dance that is easy to learn.

Plus, Refreshments provided including Cowboy Punch (No alcohol), and light snacks.

**WEAR YOUR DENIM: JEANS and/or TOP
BOOTS or Comfortable shoes**

AND COME READY TO ENJOY YOURSELF!

The origin of the Easter bonnet dates back to medieval Europe when women would dress up in their best, newest clothes as a sign of religious devotion during the Lenten season. The hats were often adorned with bright ribbons and flowers to symbolize renewal and rebirth.



The New York City Easter Parade began in the 1870s as a post-Civil War "fashion promenade" where the elite strolled down Fifth Avenue to showcase new spring outfits and hats after Easter services. Originating from traditions near St. Patrick's Cathedral, it evolved into a popular, secular, and creative gathering, now famous for extravagant bonnets

rather than formal marching.

HELPING TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED



We would like to establish a team of parishioners who are handy or willing to help on minor maintenance projects around the church. This will help reduce our expenses and we will have some fun along the way.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the team. Spence Strickley – Jr. Warden, 530-205-0937 or srstric14@gmail.com

ROSE EXPERT NEEDED

As we officially begin Spring on March 20th, we are looking for an individual or team of individuals willing to tend to our beautiful roses. Please contact me if you have knowledge as to the proper care of roses and are interested in volunteering.

Spence Strickley – Jr. Warden

530-205-0937/srstric14@gmail.com

THE EASTER LILY



During the Easter season, homes and churches alike are adorned with the gorgeous, fragrant white blooms we know as Easter lilies.

There are several theories about the meaning and symbolism that surrounds the Easter lily, and much of it is related to Christian religion. The flowers are often referred to as "white-robed apostles of hope," and they symbolize the purity of Christ, who was free from sin. In many paintings, the angel Gabriel is depicted as handing Mary white lilies, which symbolizes her purity as well. The trumpet shape of the Easter lily represents a trumpet sounding the message that Jesus has risen, and the nature in which lilies grow is symbolic of the Resurrection as well. From bulbs that grow underground for three years or longer, they become beautiful flowers. This process is reminiscent of Jesus' brutal death and holy Resurrection. Thus, lilies represent rebirth and hope, just as the Resurrection does in the Christian faith.

FEBRUARY 2026 FINANCES

February Revenue	31,551.64
February Expenses	30,912.33
February Net	639.31
Year-To-Date Revenue	67,541.13
Year-To-Date Expenses	67,996.06
Year-To-Date Net	(454.93)

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

We continue to search for a treasurer for Emanuel. If you know someone with bookkeeping and financial experience, please encourage them to contact Father Seth or myself about the satisfaction of being involved in the church operations. Ray Gearheart, Senior Warden

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



07 Julie Barker	16 Tom Benoit
10 Barbara Colborn	19 Ruth Barsotti
13 Paul Keasberry	21 Gregg Lefferts
13 Lorraine Lingonis	21 Patricia Wolff
16 Cathy Edger	25 Gilda Buchanan
16 Grace Dolan	30 DonnaJo Woollen
16 Darryl Welborne	

If you and members of your family would like to see your names printed in the monthly newsletter on your birthday, please send Debbie, our church secretary, the name, date, and year of each birthday. The year is not published, but Debbie needs it to be able to enter your birthdate into her computer program.

You can also send her your names, the date, and year of your wedding anniversary.

Debbie can be reached at 530-273-7876 on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. or email emmanuelgv@sbcglobal.net.

MEXICO MISSION 2026

Thank you to all the people who support Emmanuel's Mexico Mission. This summer we will again be going to the Ensenada area of Mexico to develop relationships, and serve the people at Mi Casa Esperanza, working alongside missionaries Dennis and Debbie Hollanbeck.



We are blessed to have you praying for us. The financial and material support you donate will make our time there work so smoothly.

We hope that you will join us this year on the mission. We plan to go July 25th through July 31st. Talk to Fr. Seth for more details.

THE MESSENGER HAS GONE ELECTRONIC

From this time forward you will only receive The Messenger monthly newsletter with the Saturday E-Newsletter via email from Fr. Seth, or you can find it on

the church website at www.emmanuelgv.org. There will be a few printed copies of The Messenger, which can be found in the foyer of Buck Hall for those who don't have access to the Internet.

If you want to receive information about upcoming events and activities at Emmanuel Church, you need to send your current email address and/or corrections to your email address to the church office at 530-273-7876 or emmanuelgv@sbcglobal.net.

This change is part of the Vestry's effort to reduce annual expenses in 2026. - Emmanuel Church Vestry

THIS YEAR'S CRAB FEED A SUCCESS!

The 2026 CRAB FEED on Saturday April 21st sponsored by the Men's Group was a success. We were blessed with over 80 people attending, enjoying seeing friends, and sharing a delicious and abundant dinner of fresh crab, the DeRego famous Spaghetti and fresh green salad, and even ice cream. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked hard for 2 days to make this event happen. We will make room for more people next year. We will keep you updated when we set next year's date. *A special thank you to SPD Market for donating a case of wine this year!*

THE EASTER BUNNY



Where did the Easter bunny come from? The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on Easter Sunday; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a prominent symbol of Christianity's most important holiday.

The exact origins of this mythical mammal are unclear, but rabbits, known to be prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life.

According to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its colored eggs. Eventually, the custom spread across the United States and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy and gifts, while decorated baskets replaced nests. Additionally, children often left out carrots for the bunny in case he got hungry from all his hopping.

From History.com

Using Easter Eggs, you can make this delicious snack for your family and guests for an Easter gathering.

BLT DEVILED EGGS

12 large eggs
3 or 4 tablespoons mayonnaise, to taste
1 or 1-1/2 teaspoons yellow mustard, to taste
1-1/2 teaspoon white vinegar
1/3 cup bacon bits, cooked and crumbled, finely chopped
1/4 cup *very finely* shredded green cabbage
1/2 teaspoon Cow Camp Pork & Poultry Rub, optional
Salt and black pepper, to taste
12 cherry tomatoes, halved
Paprika for garnish, optional
Optional Seasoning: Use this blend if you don't have Cow Camp rub:
1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon onion powder
1/8 teaspoon chili powder (optional)

Place the eggs in a large pot and cover with cold water. Bring to a boil, then turn off the heat and cover. Let sit for 10 – 12 minutes. Transfer eggs to an ice bath, let cool, then peel.

Slice the eggs in half lengthwise and gently remove yolks to a bowl. Mash yolks with mayonnaise, mustard, vinegar, bacon bits, cabbage, and seasoning rub (or substitute). Mix until smooth but textured – not too creamy, not too dry. Taste and adjust seasoning, mayo, or mustard as needed. Spoon the filling into the egg white halves. Top each with a cherry tomato half. Sprinkle with paprika, if using. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Don't leave out of the refrigerator for longer than 2 hours. Best enjoyed the same day for maximum freshness.

Want an extra kick? Add a dash of hot sauce or cayenne to the filling. Use fresh bacon for best flavor, but bacon bits work great, too. This dish is gluten-free. 24 servings. *Recipe from Erin Beatie*

ATTENTION SPD MARKET SHOPPERS



If you would like to participate in the program that pays Emmanuel Church 3% for most purchases, just fill out a form and hand it to the cashier at either SPD Market.

They will provide you with a Community Card. All you have to do is have the cashier scan the card each time you shop at the Grass Valley or Nevada City SPD Market. You may also just tell them your phone number. Your information is in their file so you don't need to present your card.

The forms are available at the Connect table in Frank Buck Hall or you can get a form from the SPD Market cashier. If you have questions, please contact Spence Strickley at 530-205-0937 or email him at srstric14@gmail.com.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME



Worship

Coffee and Fellowship Hour is a time enjoyed by all parishioners. There is a coffee hour after the 8:00 o'clock service and a coffee hour after the 10:00 o'clock service in Frank Buck Hall with lots of goodies to enjoy. If you would like to participate, there is a list of group leaders and their phone numbers on the bulletin board in Buck Hall. Just give them a call. Or, if you are interested in starting your own group, please call Adrienne Ybarrondo at 530-913-1773 for the 8:00 a.m. service and Pam Hall at 530-305-0569 for the 10:00 a.m. service. Thank you.

If you are celebrating a birthday, wedding anniversary, or other special event that you would like to celebrate with your fellow parishioners, you are welcome to bring a cake, cupcakes, or other item to share at the Fellowship hour following the service that you attend.



SPONSOR THE ALTAR FLOWERS



Do you have a birthday or anniversary coming up that you would like to celebrate by donating to the flowers which grace the altar on Sundays? Our Flower Ministry is committed to presenting beautiful bouquets each Sunday and they are funded by the donations which are given to sponsor flowers for each Sunday.

If you would like to sign up to have a loved one or a special event remembered in the church bulletin made visible with flowers, the sign-up sheet is on the wall in Frank Buck Hall. Choose your special date. The suggested donation is \$35 but you are welcome to offer more if you like. The additional money does not make a larger bouquet, but it helps to fill any empty days. A check should be made out to Emmanuel Church with Flower Guild written on the Memo Line. It can be put in the offering plate, through online giving, or dropped off at the church office. Contact the church office (530-273-7876) Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday with any questions or to sign up remotely. Thank you! The Flower Guild.

FIVE WISHES WITH FOOTHILLS COMPASSIONATE CARE WORKSHOP

On Thursday, May 28th from 3-4:30 p.m. Foothills Compassionate Care will host a workshop for those interested in becoming involved with this community nonprofit organization. Here is a link anyone can use to RSVP for this free workshop.

[Five Wishes: Advance Care Planning Workshop Tickets, Thursday, May 28 from 3 pm to 4:30 pm | Eventbrite](#)

This event can also be accessed through our website (foothills-cares.org) under the Events tab, then scroll down to Five Wishes towards the bottom. We have other events and fund raisers listed on that page that are also open to all.

LAMB, A TRADITIONAL EASTER FOOD

Lamb is a traditional Easter food. Christians refer to Jesus as the “Lamb of God,” though lamb at Easter also has roots in early Passover celebrations. In the story of Exodus, the people of Egypt suffered a series of terrible plagues, including the death of all firstborn sons. Israelites painted their doorposts with sacrificed lamb’s blood so that God would “pass over” their homes. Jews who converted to Christianity continued the tradition of eating lamb at Easter. Historically, lamb would have been one of the first fresh meats available after a long winter with no livestock to slaughter. History.com

Dear Lord, we ask that You be with us today. Bless all those who are gathered around the table, as we share this meal. Protect us one and all, and help us to grow in your love. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus, Amen.

EASTER LAMB

5 – 6-pound leg of lamb (or 3 pounds if boneless) deboned and butterflied

Marinade:

- 3 tablespoons fresh thyme
- 6 – 8 garlic cloves, slivered
- 3 tablespoons fresh rosemary
- Salt and pepper
- 3 tablespoons fresh parsley
- 1 cup red wine
- 3 tablespoons brown mustard
- ¼ cup olive oil

Remove thick fat from exterior of leg of lamb and visible tendon ends from interior. Using a boning knife, cut slits and stuff with slivers of garlic in the interior and exterior of the meat. Sprinkle meat with salt and pepper on all sides.

Make a paste of thyme, rosemary, parsley, olive oil and mustard. Spread it all over the meat. Place in a large zip-top plastic bag or deep glass or plastic container. Cover with wine. Refrigerate a minimum of 8 but no more than 24 hours; turn over at least once. Remove from refrigerator 1 – 2 hours before grilling to shorten cook time.

Grill lamb on medium to high heat (350 – 400 degrees). Place on grill opened up like a butterfly. Baste with remaining marinade when turned. Using indirect heat is best once meat is seared. Takes 30 - 40 minutes to grill. Internal temperature should be 135 – 145 degrees for medium rare to medium. *Recipe from Barbara Boyer*

EARTH DAY

Celebrated Each Year on April 22nd



In 1970, William K. Reilly, former Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1989-1993) along with Senator Gaylord Nelson, founded Earth Day.

It may be hard to imagine that before 1970 a factory could spew black clouds of toxic smoke into the air or dump tons of toxic waste into a nearby stream, and it was perfectly legal.

How was that possible? Because there was no EPA, no Clean Air Act, no Clean Water Act. There were no legal or regulatory mechanisms to protect our environment. In the spring of 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day as a way to force this issue onto the national agenda.

Twenty million Americans demonstrated in different U.S. cities, and it worked! In December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to tackle environmental issues, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

EARTH DAY

O God of whirling galaxies, rain forests and rivers, tides and thunderstorms, we’ve been too busy to notice how our choices affect our world. At last, we’re paying attention. You gave us a gift but we were careless and now it’s broken. We gather today, repentant, hopeful, and determined to restore, cleanse, and bring new life to earth, wind, and creature. Let us share Your imagination; let us be Your fingers as we tend this gift, which holds and carries us all.

- *Rev. Lynn James.*