

Lent/Easter 2025

Palisades UMC

The Messenger



Our Identity:

*A place of light where all can
experience God's grace.*

Our Vision:

Inviting. Everyone. To know God's Love.

Our Mission:

We put Christ's message into action.

Upcoming Worship:

Lenten Series: Walking With Christ to the Cross

March 9, 2025: Matthew 4:1-11 – Temptation in the Wilderness

March 16, 2025: Luke 9:23-26 – The Call to Deny Ourselves

March 23, 2025: Jesus Cleanses the Temple (John 2:13-22)

March 30, 2025: Jesus Foretells His Death (Mark 8:31-38)

April 6, 2025: The Road to Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-44)

April 13, 2025: The Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:1-11)

April 20, 2025: He is Risen (Matthew 28:1-10)

Pastor's Musing

Greetings Church Family,

Imagine a challenging, uncertain path winding through a rugged landscape. The road stretches endlessly before you, shadowed by towering cliffs and shrouded in a heavy, oppressive fog. The weight of the journey presses down—exhaustion, doubt, and fear threaten to overwhelm as each step feels more labored than the last. The world around you seems silent, almost lifeless, with only the distant echo of your own footsteps for company. Then, in an instant, a steady guide appears—a figure radiant with light, His presence cutting through the darkness like a beacon. He offers not just direction but a profound sense of purpose, strength, and unwavering love, illuminating the path forward with hope and clarity. This is the essence of walking with Christ to the cross: a journey of transformation, sacrifice, and ultimate victory, as Jesus Himself leads us through the trials of life toward His redemptive purpose.

This journey isn't confined to a single season, though we often reflect on it most deeply during Lent and Easter. Following Jesus isn't merely a historical event recounted in Scripture—it's a living, breathing invitation extended to each of us today, a call to walk alongside Him in the fullness of our daily lives. Whether we're studying the pages of the Bible, bowing our heads in prayer, or reaching out to serve those in need, we're drawn into the significance of His sacrifice—a love so deep it led Him to the cross for our sake. And yet, this call isn't just to remember; it's to participate, to align our hearts, minds, and actions with His mission, trusting that His presence will guide us through every valley and shadow.

This journey with Christ isn't easy—far from it. The path He trod was marked by suffering, rejection, and the weight of humanity's sin, culminating in the agony of the cross. But its difficulty is matched by its profound meaning. Jesus' path to Calvary wasn't just a solitary moment in history—it's a timeless gift that continues to shape our lives, offering us a model of obedience, a promise of redemption, and a hope that transcends our struggles. It assures us that God's strength is ever-present, His peace is unshakable, and His love is a steadfast anchor, carrying us through every challenge, no matter how daunting our circumstances may seem.

As we begin this Lenten season, let's pause and refocus. The busyness of life—work, responsibilities, and the daily grind—can so easily distract us, pulling our attention away from the call to follow Jesus. Yet, He stands before us, extending His hand, inviting us to walk with Him. He calls us to carry our cross, to embrace the challenges of discipleship, and to trust in His transformative power. His journey to the cross turned the story of humanity upside down, shattering the chains of sin and death, and offering forgiveness, hope, strength, and love to all who choose to follow Him. As we enter this sacred season, let's open our hearts to His leading, ready to walk with Him toward the promise of resurrection and new life.

Let's explore the beauty of this truth through this Lenten series that echoes the themes of Walking with Christ to the Cross.

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Lenten Series: Walking With Christ to the Cross

March 9, 2025: Matthew 4:1-11 – Temptation in the Wilderness

Jesus' time in the wilderness, facing and overcoming temptation serves as a model for our own journey. This passage challenges us to rely on God's Word and Spirit to navigate life's trials, trusting in Jesus' victory as our own.

March 16, 2025: Luke 9:23-26 – The Call to Deny Ourselves

Jesus' invitation to take up our cross and follow Him is a call to surrender, sacrifice, and trust. It reminds us that walking with Christ requires prioritizing His will over our own, finding life in His purpose.

March 23, 2025: Jesus Cleanses the Temple (John 2:13-22)

Jesus' passionate act of cleansing the temple reveals His zeal for purity and holiness in our hearts and lives. This passage inspires us to examine our own lives, removing anything that hinders our devotion to Him, as we continue to walk with Christ toward His sacrifice.

March 30, 2025: Jesus Foretells His Death (Mark 8:31-38)

Jesus' clear prediction of His suffering and death underscores the necessity of His sacrifice for our salvation. Understanding this truth deepens our appreciation for His love and prepares us to reflect on the weight of His journey as we approach Holy Week.

April 6, 2025: The Road to Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-44)

As Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem, He demonstrated unwavering determination to face the cross and fulfill His mission. This passage inspires us to press forward in our own journey, trusting God's plan even when the path is difficult, as we near the culmination of His sacrifice.

April 13, 2025: The Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:1-11)

Jesus enters Jerusalem as a humble king, showing the true nature of His reign. This moment, celebrated on Palm Sunday, invites us to worship Him as our Savior and King, preparing our hearts for the events of Holy Week and the cross that follows.

April 20, 2025: He is Risen (Matthew 28:1-10)

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and its transformative power in our lives today. This victory over death assures us that Christ's journey to the cross wasn't the end—it's the beginning of new life for all who follow Him.

As we walk through these weeks, let's hold onto these truths:

- Jesus invites us to find strength in quiet moments with Him.
- He models victory over temptation, empowering us to overcome.
- He calls us to deny ourselves and embrace the cross, finding true life in Him.
- He demonstrates passion for purity, foretells His sacrifice, and determines to fulfill His mission.
- He enters as a humble king, leading us to the cross and beyond to resurrection power.

Walking with Christ to the cross isn't just about looking back at His sacrifice—it's about experiencing His presence today and trusting His power to carry us forward. May this Lenten season and Easter celebration renew our commitment to follow Him, and may we live as people transformed by the truth that Christ walks with us every step of the way—and has risen to give us eternal life.

I look forward to journeying through this season of reflection and celebration with you all.

In His Love,



Pastor Rich



EASTER

Service

APRIL 20TH AT 10 A.M.

He is Risen

PALISADES UMC

please join us for...

PALM

SUNDAY

Service

APRIL 13th at 10 a.m.

with Rev. Richard Annett

Palisades UMC &
St. Andrews by the Sea
invites you

HE DIED SO YOU COULD LIVE



GOOD

FRIDAY

Service

APRIL 18TH, 2025 | 7PM

PUMC will be joining St. Andrews by the Sea for Good Friday Service.
Location: 2001 Calle Frontera,
San Clemente, CA 92673

March/April Birthdays:

Connie Butler	March 1
Deanna Oakley	March 30
Robert Young	March 30
Gloria Norris	April 10
Kate Henderson	April 16

December Anniversaries:

Bill Brownson & Terri Turner-
April 3

PALISADES UMC

GRIEF SHARE CLASS

"God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."
Psalm 46:1-2

STARTING THE
FIRST WEEK OF MAY

With Rev. Richard Annett
*more details to come

Join us for the...

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

MARCH 5TH
6:30 p.m.



LENTEN SERIES

STARTS SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH

AFTER WORSHIP FROM
11:15-NOON IN THE
MISSION ROOM



CRUX DINNER

SATURDAY, MAY 3rd
at 5:30 p.m.

CRUX Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at 5:30 p.m. Lasagna, salad, Italian bread and dessert will be served. Door prize & entertainment. Tickets will go on sale in April, \$25 per ticket. Lots of fun!!

