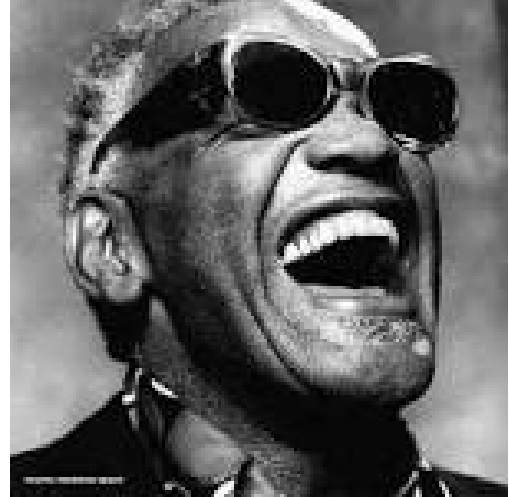


# Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

## Midweek Update

April 5, 2023

In this issue: Christ is the How, Holy Week schedule, Easter Flowers, April Mission, HPHS IB help



## Christ is the How?

If am willing to explore that Christ is not just my savior but is actually my best possible choice in any given moment, then the events of Holy Week are a good reality check for my willingness. As I shared on Sunday, when I related the basic outline of Holy Week to my daughter recently (enter Jerusalem on a donkey, last supper with disciples, betrayal, arrest, trial, death on a cross and then resurrection on Easter), she said, “That doesn’t seem like a very good way of going about things, Jesus.” Specifically she meant the resurrection. Death she could understand. Living one’s life in a way that the world would reject to the point of killing you? Yep, the world is a crazy place that rejects even love beyond understanding, maybe because it is beyond understanding. My daughter and her peers have seen and felt this rejection that leads to death.

*[Interlude: EPC family, take a moment to reflect on this. Our young people know what it means to try to carve out a life for themselves, to figure out where to stand up for what they believe and where to keep their heads low, all in the face of overwhelming chaos and rejection and challenge. All while navigating an online reality that is as wide as the world and as emotionally dangerous as a pool full of hungry sharks. Our young people are resilient and clear-eyed and crazily creative tentatively hopeful. They long for healing and connection, just like every person of every age. Are you afraid for our young people? You should be. Are you hopeful beyond reason for our young people? You should be.]*

But Jesus rising from the dead? That just does not happen. The world might kill you, but that’s that. You’re done. Grandma and Grandpa and Auntie Lauren and all those dead chicken pets are not coming back no more. Hit the road, Jack! (thank you, Ray Charles, your smile is like Easter morning.) I don’t mean to make light of Jesus’ death here, but I do love Lydia’s open-hearted cynicism. It invites me to take a step back and ask myself (and you) some questions.

- Do I believe in the resurrection of Jesus in a way that has impact on my daily life?
- What if I let hope rather than frustration be my default setting?
- Am I willing to consider the possibility that all the little deaths I experience every day are not an attack on me but are simply an invitation to more life?

- Do I trust, like Jesus, that my oneness with God is so much more powerful than the rejection of the world that I am safe and secure and free and loved in every single moment?

Right in this exact moment, I can say that I do believe, and I am willing, and I do trust!! And I'm hungry to gather with God's people on Thursday evening to eat together and let Jesus' command resonate through my heart: Love one another as I love you. And to gather again on Easter Sunday to belt out good songs and hear good news and feel my heart swell with hope and faith and love. Big hug to you today and see you in worship!

## Holy Week Schedule



This week is Holy Week. Here is the worship plan:

- **MAUNDY THURSDAY** - April 6 at 6pm **potluck & worship with foot (and hand?) washing with communion**. Soup will be provided; please feel free to come as you are or bring a side dish or dessert to share.
- **EASTER** - Sunday, April 9, 10 am worship in the sanctuary with a Zoom link on [www.epchurch.org](http://www.epchurch.org).

## Easter Flowers

We are trying something new in the sanctuary this Easter. We have ordered 6 daffodils and 2 hyacinths for decoration, instead of the usual azaleas and mums. The daffodils will be \$6 and the hyacinths \$9, if you would like to take one home with you after Easter Sunday.



## Voices of Hope - April Mission

Our April Mission will be Voices of Hope. During April, EPC will collect funds for Voices of Hope so they can continue to bring music and the choral experience to the women at Shakopee and Stillwater.

We had a wonderful visit with Voices of Hope staff during and after worship on April 2, hearing about this moving and exciting work.

### **Voices of Hope Mission:**

*To provide accessible music-making opportunities within justice-involved populations that foster individual growth and bridge unlikely communities through song.*



## Opportunity to Help at HPHS

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program at Highland Park Senior High School is inviting parents, guardians, and community members (That's **US** at EPC) to volunteer to help monitor the IB Exams in May. The exams run each school day from May 2 to May 18. This job is not glamorous, but it is an important aspect of the Diploma Program, and your help is most valuable and appreciated! Please go to the SignUp link below and consider registering for one or more spots. Encourage friends to sign up, too! Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to see our SignUp: <https://signup.com/go/MAZfKxT>
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like. Scroll down the page to see the available slots.
3. Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.

*The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a high-level college preparatory program designed for outstanding high school students. The IB program encourages students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right. Each sign-up spot is for about a 4 hour time commitment during the school day to monitor the students during their testing. All testing is done at the Highland Park Senior High School which is next door to EPC. If you have questions about this mission opportunity please contact Rich or Liz ([lrschiferl@gmail.com](mailto:lrschiferl@gmail.com)).*