



Little Brown Church of Sunol

United Church of Christ – Congregational

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April 2020

Worship services at LBC continue to be suspended during the coronavirus pandemic. We are worshipping together in spirit and looking forward to being able to gather in community again.

A quote for our time, on getting the coronavirus under control:

"It won't happen unless we respect science, science, science. And for those who say we choose prayer over science, I say science is an answer to our prayers."

— Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi of California

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April-May Calendar

Please look for ways to observe these events while maintaining social distancing.

Sunday, April 5 ... Palm Sunday

Friday, April 10 ... Good Friday

Sunday, April 12 ... Easter Sunday

Sunday, May 10 ... Mother's Day

Monday, May 25 ... Memorial Day

Sunday, May 31 ... Pentecost

A Message from Pastor Mary

What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again, there is nothing new under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9

We all need stability in our lives, especially now when the world seems to have turned upside down. Esther de Waal in *Seeking God, The Way of St. Benedict*, writes, "Stability from the Latin word meaning to stand, means staying still, remaining firm, not necessarily in a geographic sense but in the fundamental sense of the interior holding firm, refusing to run away, recognizing that we are in it for the long haul and we will stick it out to the end." It is my hope

that the members and friends of Little Brown Church have come to understand and are living stability as best they are able on a daily basis.

But as each day passes, and Robin and I have dropped into our new coronavirus distancing routine, another word has come to be important to me. And that word is delight. The dictionary defines it as to “please someone greatly or a high degree of pleasure, enjoyment, joy and rapture.” How can we find delight when the news each morning is more grim than the day before? How can we feel delight when our activities are curbed? How can that be when fear abounds even walking around the grocery store?

Because we all need delight. We need enjoyment. We need joy. Find one thing each day that provides you with utter delight. What makes you laugh out loud? Keep a daily delight list. Look for something each and every day that makes you smile. Share it with others in email or on Facebook. This past week, I watched an old friend do a crazy dance in her living room, in cleaning a drawer found some sweet family photos that were at least twenty years old that I am going to share with family. The turkeys make me laugh every day with their mating craziness and I saw my first bluebird pair setting up a home in the nesting box outside.

Find delight. Savor delight. Hold onto delight. You will be glad you did.

The Church Forests of Ethiopia

This short documentary and long essay explore the origins, ecology, religious significance, and future of the forests that surround Ethiopian Orthodox churches in the rural highlands. It appears in *Emergence Magazine*. Here’s the introduction:

Nearly all of Ethiopia’s original trees have disappeared, but small pockets of old-growth forests still surround Ethiopia’s churches, living arks of biodiversity amongst the brown grazing fields.

This is a great read for an evening at home.

<https://emergencemagazine.org/story/the-church-forests-of-ethiopia/>

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