

Pastor D's Letter April 3, 2022

What happened to Lent? It seems like only yesterday I was burning the palm fronds from last Palm Sunday to make ashes for "Ash Wednesday" services. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday once more, and then comes Easter. What happened to Lent?

Though Lent has come and (is almost) gone, it has served its purpose. Lent has reminded us of our need for God's grace and called us to trust in Christ Jesus alone for our salvation. As part of Lent, we have heard from some of our Mission Partners and been reminded of our "partnership in the Gospel" (Phil 1:5).

On April 3, 2022 we will welcome a new Mission Partner, KCFY (local Christian Radio in Yuma). As I prepared the service and got ready to preach on Sunday April 3rd, I looked at Isaiah 52:7.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who **publishes** peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who **publishes** salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

The word PUBLISHES is repeated twice. We tend to think of PUBLISH as preparing something written for public distribution. But in Isaiah 52:7 the word publish, is the Hebrew word shama'. Pronounced shaw-mah', the word means to hear intelligently, or with understanding. It also means to hear and obey – or in the case of Isaiah 52:7 to respond with faith.

Isaiah reminds those who bring good news, to be certain that those whom they hear UNDERSTAND the good news of God's peace, happiness, and salvation. Isaiah is calling upon those who know the good news to share the good news, so others can hear and believe, "OUR GOD REIGNS!"

To me that is a call to Mission. Publishing the good news is what KCFY does every day on the radio. In both the traditional meaning of the word publish and the Isaiah 52:7 meaning, KCFY daily calls people to hear and believe, the good news of Jesus. Through music and talk KCFY publishes, proclaims, calls people to hear and believe, "Jesus is Lord". That is the good news we also share. In this world where news is often bad, may we be people who PUBLISH peace, bringing **GOOD NEWS** of happiness and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ to everyone.

By the way, the rest of April holds some very special services, I hope you will take advantage of all of them.

*April 10, 2022 Palm Sunday. Stuff Easter Eggs during Fellowship time.
April 14, 2022 Maundy Thursday Service 6 P.M.
April 17, 2022 Easter Sunday. Easter Egg hunt after worship.*

*See you on Sunday if not before,
Darren*

NEWS UPDATES

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- **MASKS ARE OPTIONAL** IN WORSHIP! Be considerate of those who choose to wear masks and maintain social distance.
- THIS WEEK, we welcome our Mission Partner, KCFY.
- Remember to bring books or make your donations for Reach Out and Read before Easter Sunday.
- Join us for **Fellowship after church** in the Fellowship Hall.
- Join us for Adult SUNDAY SCHOOL this week. THE FINAL CLASS for Cold Case Christianity meets at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Join us for WWN Bible Study this Wednesday, at 6 p.m. We will be studying Luke 6.**
- If you cannot come in person, we continue to broadcast our **SERVICE LIVE** every Sunday at 9 a.m. on <https://www.facebook.com/SierraVistaPresbyterianChurch/>. Our account is public. **YOU DO NOT NEED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO WATCH.** If you come to worship in person or watch at home, **invite a friend to join you.** **Worship sheets** are available on our website at <https://www.sierravistayuma.com/> under the NEWS Tab.
- If you wish to receive the monthly **newsletter** or know someone who wants to receive **Pastor D's Letter**, contact the church office with your email information.
- **THANK YOU for your CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT** of the church by giving in person, mailing a check, or giving ONLINE.