

## **Pastor D's Letter April 10, 2022**

Shortly after going to Oakhurst Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth Texas, my love of music became known. One day two choir members came to my office to "Stump the Pastor." They had found an old Navy Chaplain's service book that had the "Boruch ATAH." They figured that they had found the one song I'd never heard, so they asked if I knew it. To their amazement, (and mine) I began to sing it. Don't ask me to do this today, I can't without the music and a little help.

While I no longer sing the Boruch Atah I do say it – every time we celebrate communion. The Boruch Atah is the prayer that Jewish people pray (sing) before shared meals. It is a prayer that has gone unchanged for millennia.

*Boruch atah Adonai, Ehloheyenu, Melech ha-olam, ha-motzi lechem min-ha-aretz.* "Blessed art Thou, O Lord, Our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth."

I'll never forget the first time I heard those words. It was at a communion service at Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church. I was in college and the Pastor, who was there for almost 30 years, was a converted Jew. He always prayed the Hebrew blessing for the bread and wine before he broke the communion bread and lifted the cup. These words were so amazing to me as a college kid, that I asked him to write them down for me, and to teach them to me. I then memorized them. I still have his original typed copy of the words, someplace. And, to this day, with the exception of some key words and phrases, it is the bulk of what I remember about Hebrew.

Several years later, when I was in Seminary, I took a group of Sr. Highers to a Jewish Shabbat Service. As we gathered with the Synagogue after the service for fellowship, guess what happened. They sang The "BORUCH ATAH." Because of my college experience, I was able to sing along, much to the amazement of the youth with me.

That is the story behind why the choir members couldn't stump their pastor.

I invite you to come celebrate God's provision and our "Communion" with God and one another through faith in Jesus this Thursday. It's a special day and a special service. Maundy Thursday, is the night when Jesus was betrayed after celebrating the "Passover" with his disciples. It was that Thursday that Jesus gave the command (in Latin, mandatum) which is the "Maundy" part of Maundy Thursday, to "Do This In Remembrance of Me." After observing Lent, we now celebrate the Grace of God given to us in Jesus who died for us and rose again to give us new life through faith. Join us for Communion at 6 P.M. in the Sanctuary and again on Easter Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>.

See you in worship,  
Dr. D

## **NEWS UPDATES**

- Join us for **Fellowship after Church**.
- **NO WVN Bible Study this Wednesday.**
- **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE** – Thursday 6 P.M.
- **MASKS ARE OPTIONAL** IN WORSHIP! Be considerate of those who choose to wear masks and maintain social distance.
- 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.