



The El Estero Echoes
El Estero Presbyterian Church
490 Camino El Estero, Monterey, CA 93940

Pastor Joe Park

Office: 831. 375-6622

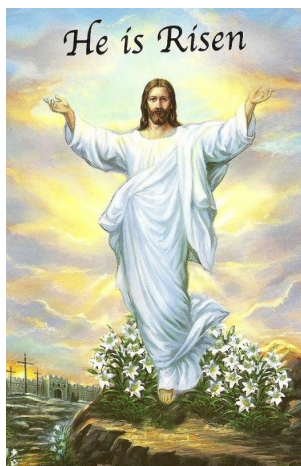
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March **2024** Vol. 2024. Issue 3

The Mission of the El Estero Presbyterian Church is to
Glorify God through a Grateful Commitment to the Great
Commandment and the Great Commission.

Pastor Joe's phone number: (858) 735 4461 His email address is joerock3712@gmail.com.

Pastor Joe's Message



**Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ a
historical fact or a made-up story?**

Easter is around the corner. What comes to mind first when you think

of Easter? Is it the Easter Bunny? Or perhaps spring break and vacations for the kids?

For us Christians, the resurrection of Jesus Christ should be the first thing that springs to mind.

Are you a Christian? Being a Christian means you believe in Jesus. But believing in Jesus means believing in His resurrection.

If someone claims to believe in Jesus, His teachings, and His crucifixion but not His resurrection, then strictly speaking, they can't truly be considered a believer in Jesus. Romans 10:9 says, "*If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*" In other words, salvation comes to those who believe in Jesus' resurrection, not just His teachings or His sacrifice on the cross.

So, we need to be sure: Is the resurrection of Jesus Christ a historical fact or just a made-up story?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a historical fact, and here's why:

First, the resurrection fulfilled prophecies. Apostle Paul pointed out to the Corinthians, who doubted the resurrection, "*If it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?*" (1 Corinthians 15:12). Jesus' resurrection was not an accident or a fable, but the fulfillment of prophecies made hundreds of years before His birth, as seen in Psalms 16:10 and prophesied in Isaiah 25:8, 26:19, Daniel 12:13, and Hosea 13:14. Jesus Himself predicted His resurrection at least fifteen times.

Second, there were numerous eyewitnesses to His resurrection. It wasn't done in secret but was witnessed by many. 1 Corinthians 15:5-8 lists these appearances, including to Peter, the Twelve, over 500 followers at one time, James, all the apostles, and lastly, to Paul himself. The transformation of doubters and persecutors, like James (Jesus' brother who became a believer

after Jesus' resurrection) and Paul (formerly Saul, a persecutor of Christians who became an apostle after encountering the risen Jesus), underscores the reality of the resurrection. These witnesses' testimony, along with their willingness to die for their belief, strongly supports the truth of the resurrection.

Furthermore, non-Christian sources mention Jesus and His followers. Josephus, a Jewish historian, wrote, "Jesus, a wise man, performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of people who accepted the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and Greeks. He was the Messiah. When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing among us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him. On the third day he appeared to them restored to life."

Tacitus, a Roman historian, acknowledged, "Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome."

Ignatius, an early Christian martyr, confirmed, "Jesus Christ was truly persecuted under Pontius Pilate, was crucified and died, and truly rose from the dead. Those who believe in His resurrection will also be resurrected."

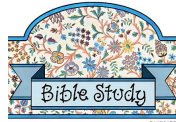
These testimonies, alongside the willingness of early Christians to die for their belief in Jesus' resurrection, underscore its historical reality. Therefore, you're encouraged to firmly believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The risen Jesus is alive today, ready to come to those who call on His name, listening to their prayers and conversations.

Let's remember this Easter that the resurrection of Jesus is not just a story but a transformative truth that offers us hope and salvation.

COME AND JOIN A BIBLE STUDY

*Magnify * Maturity * Membership * Ministry * Mission*

Please join us.



Let's learn together.

Morning Prayer: Tuesday thru Saturday mornings from 6:30 to 8:30 am. (Saturday's time may be flexible). Come when you can and leave when you need. It is in the sanctuary at church. A quiet time to pray individually. Ring the doorbell and someone will come down and open the front door. It may look dark, but we are there. So please come into the sanctuary. You may also let Pastor Joe know of your prayer requests as Pastor Joe and June will be praying for our church family and friends.

You may complete the Prayer Request Card and send it to Pastor Joe. His email address is joerock3712@gmail.com. Pastor Joe's cell phone number is (858) 735 – 4461.

Passion Week: Monday, March 25 through Saturday, March 30, 7:00 am to 7:40 am Pastor Joe will share a prayer and devotional time on ZOOM. He will share scripture passages following the steps that Jesus took as he entered Jerusalem, leading to his crucifixion and his resurrection. Please join Pastor Joe each morning on ZOOM.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83128847393?pwd=6e2ArrzKBjd7x9X0aKsZb4e0MdBMB7.1>

Meeting ID: 831 2884 7393

Passcode: 251301

Thursday Evening Q&A: Every Thursday evening, 7:00 pm.

We have started a new study, "How To Really Know The Will of God." Dr. Wayne Shen leads our studies. If you would like to join the Bible Study, you may leave a message with elesteropc@gmail.com Please join us and we can study and learn together.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

Lynn Gunter was installed as an Elder and Taye Suzuki was installed as a Deacon. We welcome their dedication to our Lord and their constant service to our church.





CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

We will have a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
on Sunday, March 24 to review the 2023 Annual Reports.
This will take place after Fellowship Time upstairs in the Sanctuary.
The Annual Reports have been emailed to El Estero Presbyterian Church
members



Joys and Concerns



Don and Dori Chin, Bill Esaki, Pastor Ted and Sherry Esaki, Joyce Gota,
Tom and Lynn Gunter, Hiro Manaka, Helen Nakano, Bob McIntyre, Moko Nishiguchi, Joan Ouye,
Pastor Joe and June Park and their family, Lyle and Meja Quock, Jean Tanaka, Tomi Tanaka,
Rev. Sam Tonomura, Nami Uyeda, Hedy Yamamoto, Setsuko Yamanishi, George Wooding.

Prayers for our church family, for members who are ill, those away from their loved ones, and those who are
concerned for family and friends.

Prayers for the citizens of our world that we may defeat the Coronavirus.

Prayers for our medical professionals, first responders, emergency workers, caregivers, grocery clerks, teachers

Prayers for those who have been laid off or are without income.

Prayers for our research and medical scientists as they work for vaccines and a cure for COVID19.

Prayers for our world leaders as they deal with the complex issues facing their nations and our world
community.

Prayers for our state and local leaders as they work to keep our communities safe.

Prayers for the people living in areas of conflict.

Prayers for world peace.

While we have worship services on ZOOM, please email your prayer request to our church's email at
elesteropc@gmail.com

Prayer Card Writing Instructions

1. Reflect Before Writing Your Prayer Requests

- **Purpose of Prayer Answers:** Receiving an answer to your prayer serves a dual purpose. Firstly, it brings glory to God. Secondly, it allows the person who prayed to experience the living presence of the Lord.
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- **Specificity in Prayer:** The more specific your prayer, the more specific the answer you may receive. Vague prayers might result in uncertain answers.
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- **Tangible Prayer Requests:** Have tangible prayer requests. For example, instead of abstract requests like “Please fill me with the Holy Spirit” or “Let my faith grow,” opt for specific ones like “I want to pray 20 minutes a day 5 days a week to grow my faith. Please help me,” or “Help me find the determination and support to quit smoking this year to deepen my relationship with God.”

2. Set Goals in Two Main Areas for Your Prayer Requests

- **Spiritual Aspects:** These are prayer requests about your relationship with God. For example, “Grant me the ability and wisdom to read the New Testament in its entirety in the year 2024”, “Send a passionate believer of the Christ to our father in Japan.”
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- **Physical Aspects:** Pray for matters such as physical health, acquiring a new home, children’s education, marriage, promotion, business expansion, or financial stability.

3. Share Your Answered Prayers

After you receive an answer to your prayers, please inform the pastor who interceded for you. Share your testimony. Testifying about what Jesus has done is a way to glorify God.

4. Please Mark Your Preference:

For Pastor Joe’s Eyes only (), OK to Share with the Congregation (

El Estero Presbyterian Church
2024 Prayer Request Card

Name: _____

Email Address & Phone Number:

1. Family Information (Please write names!)

2. Spiritual Prayer Requests for Yourself and Your Family

3. Physical Prayer Requests for Yourself and Your Family

HOME VISITATIONS



Pastor Joe would like to make home visitations to meet you or to make a hospital visitation. If you would like Pastor Joe to visit you, please speak to him, email him, or call Pastor Joe. Please let him know the best day and time to plan a visit. Pastor Joe looks forward to meeting everyone.

Pastor Joe's email address is joerock3712@gmail.com.

Pastor Joe's cell phone number is (858) 735 – 4461

Fellowship Lunch for February

Thank you to Pastor Joe, June, and Faith for serving us a delicious lunch of bibimbap and seaweed soup with tofu.



Please join us on the third Sunday of each month for a Fellowship Lunch with our church family . The lunch is prepared by Pastor Joe and June Park





UKULELE PRACTICE

Invite a friend as all are welcome to join us.
Ukulele, guitar, mandolin, banjo, drums

Ukulele Practice is on the 1st Sunday of each month after worship service in the Fellowship Hall . New participants are always welcome!

The **Hiking Fellowship** group will be meeting in April, 2024. Prayerfully it will be drier, not rainy and the paths will not be muddy. Watch for more hiking news in The Echoes. Or contact Richard through the church email:
elesteropc@gmail.com

See you then for a morning hike on our beautiful
Monterey Peninsula.



Open ART Studio

Join us for an art class led by Bob McIntyre. We meet on Saturdays at 10:00 am on ZOOM. Our class is sponsored by the El Estero Church. Please send an email to elesteropc@gmail.com if you are interested in joining our Open Art Studio and we will send you a ZOOM invitation. All are welcome to join us.

Rainy Day.
Rose



Zion Canyon. Tim



Ocean Stacks. Michelle



Chugach Ski. Michelle



Lighthouse. Suzanne



Sunset Sail. KC



Paragliders at Sand Dollar Beach. Nancy



Rocks. Nancy

Montauk Lighthouse. Nancy





Blue House On The Alley.
Mark



Cannery Row Umbrella Time.
Mark



Birthday Card for Tomi Mike



Desert. Michelle



Yosemite. Suzanne



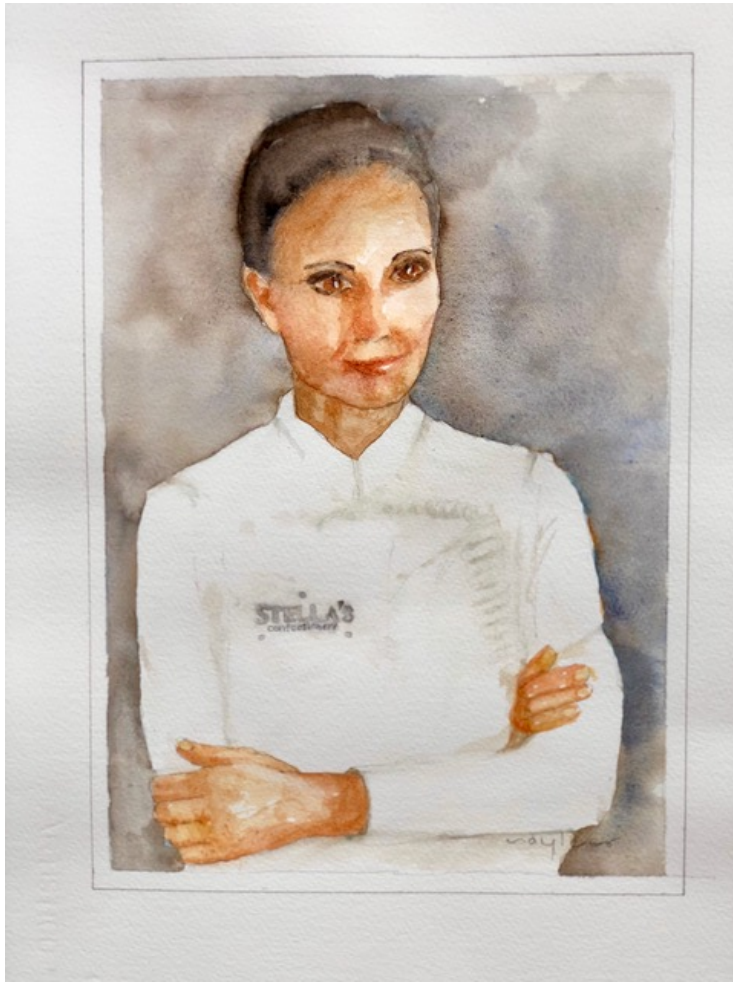
Winter. Suzanne



The City.
Suzanne



Half Dome.
Suzanne



Something Sweet. Suzette



El Capitan.
Suzette

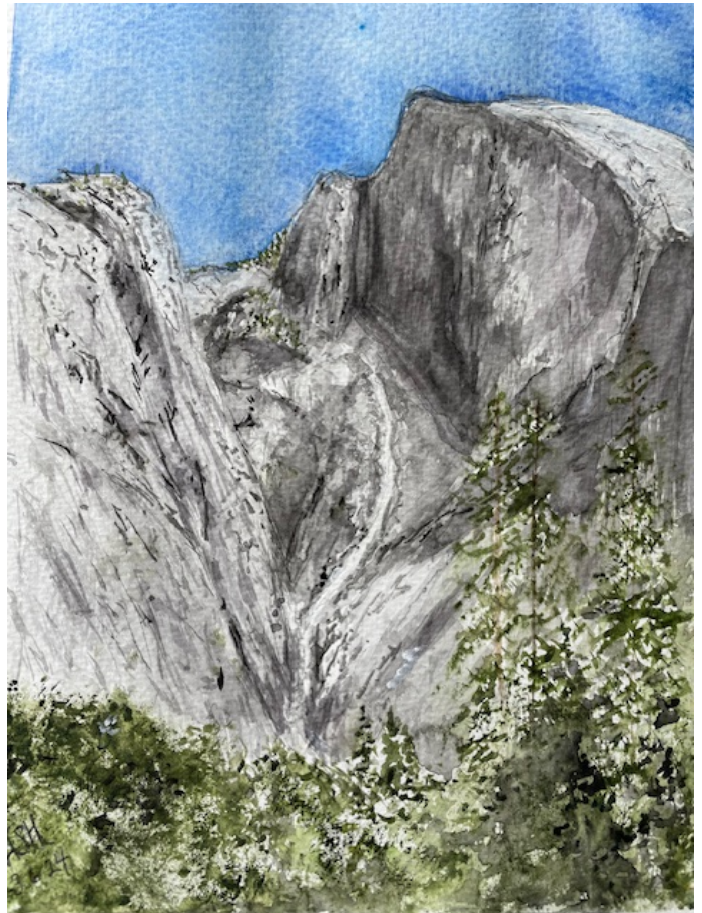


Half Dome.
Nancy



Sunlit Blooms. Nancy

Utah Rocks. Nancy





Calico Bunny.
KC



Red Rocks.
KC



PG Asilomar Beach Rainy Day.
Mark



China Cove
At Point Lobos.
Mark



Marsh Building from El
Estero.
Mark



Walking to Class in the Snow.
Ohio State University.
Mar



Central Park in Winter. Mar

River Walk.
Mar

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Service in church and on ZOOM starts at 10:30 am. Communion will be celebrated every Sunday.						
	1	2 7:00 pm Spiritual Growth Mtg	3	4 7:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom	5	6 10:00 am ART on ZOOM
7 10:30 am Worship Service Communion Coffee Hour Ukulele Practice	8	9 7:00 pm Finance Mtg	10	11 7:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom	12	13 10:00 am ART on ZOOM
14 10:30 am Worship Service Communion Coffee Hour	15	16 7:00 pm Session Mtg	17	18 7:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom	19 Echoes Articles Due	20 10:00 am ART on ZOOM
21 10:30 am Worship Service Communion Coffee Hour/Lunch	22	23 5:00 pm Session Mtg and Dinner	24	25 7:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom	26	27 Hiking Fellowship
28 10:30 am Worship Service Communion Coffee Hour	29	30				

El Estero Church's ZOOM worship service on Sundays, 10:30 am, Please email the church at elesteropc@gmail.com to request an email invitation to ZOOM worship service.
To access the "Sermon Outline" and the "Worship Bulletin" for Sunday's worship service, go to our website elesteropc.org and click on Message



El Estero Presbyterian Church

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I am the resurrection and the life.

Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.

John 11:25-26