

The Monthly Newsletter of the **Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren**
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Living the Word

by Pastor Ken Miller Rieman

'In like a lion, out like a lamb' has long described the seasonal transition in the month of March. It could also be applied to Jesus' last week in Jerusalem.

Each year, thousands of pilgrims made their way to the Holy City for Passover, the Hebrew people's most important celebration. Passover recalled Israel's liberation from slavery in Egypt many centuries earlier.

In Jesus' time, Israel found itself under the thumb of another empire. The Roman occupation of Judea placed great strain upon the people. The empire fed upon the resources and labor of its subjects, but it could not have done this without the cooperation of some of the locals. If you want a sense of the people's feelings about those who cooperated with the Romans, just search for references to tax collectors and temple scribes. They're not too popular.

With devout Jewish folks coming into the capital of their occupied and corrupted homeland to celebrate their historic escape from slavery and oppression, Passover was electric with tension.

Pilate, Rome's local governor, rides into the city upon a stallion, surrounded by a great army. His message was clear—he was in charge and he would defend his authority with force.



Our adult Sunday School class prays while young Gabriel Hernandez sneaks a photo!

Jesus, at the height of his popularity, rumored to be Israel's king in waiting, with many of his followers hoping for a show-down, plans his own dramatic and surprising entry to the city. Like a king who comes in peace, whose realm needs no army, he sits astride a donkey and the crowds go wild.

Then Jesus makes his appearance at the Temple. He turns over the tables of the money changers and chases them out. Quoting prophets before him, he blasts the temple leaders for harboring thieves and mercenaries and foretells its destruction.

As the week progresses, Jesus is challenged by those looking for any pretext by which they might arrest him. He sidesteps the challenges. His teaching and interactions increasingly reveal the gravity of one who faces his own death. Finally, he gathers with his closest disciples for the passover feast but it isn't feeling so much like a celebration.

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That night, all the warnings he's given them about his betrayal and death begin to fall into place. He is arrested. He is tried and sentenced to crucifixion, the customary Roman method for executing seditious. Pilate makes his customary passover offering to the people, to commute the sentence of one prisoner. The chief priests turn the crowds against Jesus, and they instead release a popular insurrectionist. That same day, Jesus is hung to die in between two men who are either robbers or insurrectionists, depending on how one translates the Gk. *lestes*.

To be fair, the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection has been one of the central controversies in the history of Christianity. Even the symbolism of Jesus as the Lamb of God is understood in various ways.

Jesus' death was used to call young Christian men to battle in the crusades, promising that their violence would 'redeem' the Holy Land and cleanse their own sin. Some Christians teach that God's anger and righteous wrath against fallen humanity required a sacrifice—that as God's firstborn son, Jesus gave his life to save us from God's eternal damnation. Others see Jesus' execution as the natural outcome of his radical message—that his critique of the powerful, his lifting up of the oppressed, and his inclusion of the outcast threatened the dominant social, political, and religious orders of his day.

Whatever one's perspective, it is clear that Jesus saw the political and religious leadership of his day as unjust and idolatrous, and rather than raising an army to overthrow

them he sought to transform the way his own people thought about God's law, and lived it out in their personal and public lives. It is also clear that some of these leaders perceived Jesus, even without an army, as a threat. That's how powerful his non-violent teaching and example were!

So, was Jesus a lion or lamb? Has his church followed his teachings or corrupted them? Does Jesus' healing and saving power come from how he died or from the way he lived?

As much as our world looks for black and white, either/or answers to our hardest questions, we who follow Jesus may have to live with greater complexity. Jesus was the Lion of Judah AND the Lamb of God. His teachings have been misunderstood and misused, but have also freed individuals and peoples from brokenness, hatred, and violence. His witness and power are surely revealed by the seamless whole of his teaching, his example, and even his death.

In like a lion, out like a lamb, the living Christ journeys with us through all seasons, opening our minds, warming our hearts, transforming all of creation for God's-kingdom-coming, on Earth as it is in heaven.



On Sunday, March 30th we celebrated the consecration of three beautiful babies and their parents!

Pictured below from left: Aaron & Carmen with Emilee Rose Lau Woo; Jeanesse & Rob with Miles Levi Miller; Kate & Ken with Marigold Louise Miller Rieman.



Spring Cleaning: All Church Work Party

Saturday, April 12 — 9:00 to 12:00

Whether you've tackled that Spring honey-do list already, or you've yet to pull out the pen and paper to write it, Spring cleaning is an annual reality none of us can avoid.

The same is true here at OVCC, so we've scheduled our Spring cleaning for April 12. As we all know, many hands make for lighter work — join us in service!

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

The New Olympian
 Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren
 425 NE 95th Street
 Seattle WA 98115

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Beauty in the House:

Art and Meaning in the Christian Church, 235–2014 AD

Presented by Bobbi Dykema, PhD

In 1920, a soldier digging a trench near the village of Salhiyé in present-day Syria unearthed an extraordinary group of wall paintings. This discovery brought to light the earliest Christian church art yet known. For nearly 2,000 years, Christians have labored to make the words of scripture both visible and beautiful in the interiors (and sometimes exteriors) of churches, often creating new interpretations of familiar stories and giving them new power.

Dr. Bobbi Dykema presents a slide presentation and talk on some of the glories of Christian visual art through the centuries:

Tuesday, April 29 – 7:00 pm
Broadview Community UCC,
325 N. 125th Street, Seattle

A freewill offering to benefit Broadview Church will be taken. For more information, please contact the Broadview Church office at 206.363.8060.

✠ *Bobbi Dykema, PhD, is the author of numerous scholarly articles on artistic representations in the Reformation and of Mary Magdalene at the Resurrection. She teaches in the Humanities department at Strayer University and serves as a youth pastor here at Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren.*

Many Faiths, One World:

An Interfaith Earth Day Gathering

Wednesday, April 30, 4:00–5:30 pm
 Seattle University, Student Center 160
 901 12th Ave, Seattle

Come hear speakers from five different traditions – an Orthodox rabbi, Muslim community leader, Episcopal priest, Zen Buddhist, and Swinomish tribal elder – on how faith puts us in touch with the natural world. Light refreshments will be provided. Sponsored by Earth Ministry / WAIPL and Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry, Interreligious Dialogue Initiative, and Campus Ministry. For more information, contact karin@earthministry.org or call 206.632.2426.

P.S. Don't forget to check out our blog, www.earthministry.blogspot.com



Easter Sunday Schedule

April 20, 2014



8:00 'Bob Marley' Easter Sunrise Service

9:00 Easter Breakfast

9:30 Sunday School

11:00 Worship

12:15 Fellowship

All are welcome!

Maundy Thursday Love Feast & Footwashing

April 17 — 6:30 pm



Pictured above: sisters-in-law Thelma & Eloise Sheets.

In an act of great love, Jesus gave his life for ours. The Brethren, as Jesus' followers, love God and each other – and take that love into the world. Once or twice a year, Brethren celebrate what the earliest Christians called agape: the outflowing love that seeks not to receive but to give.

Jesus taught us this practice, sharing with his disciples a last, loving meal the night before he died. He washed the disciples' feet, ate supper with them, sought to draw them closer into the fold of his love, and offered them the symbolic bread and cup.

During love feast, we repeat these simple, meaningful acts. After reconciling any discord among ourselves, we lovingly wash each other's feet, then enjoy a meal together. Quietly we share communion, the bread and the cup that remind us of Jesus' great gift; we renew our commitment to follow his example of sacrificial love.

Love feast closes with a hymn; then follows the humble task of cleaning up, in which all are invited to participate. When we leave the feast, reunited in our dedication to Christ and to each other, the deep, nourishing love goes with us.

Please join us as we gather together to serve one another with love on April 17, Maundy Thursday evening at 6:30 pm.



Sharing Together in Prayer

In Our Community:

- For the families of **Thelma Sheets** of McPherson, KS who died March 28, and **Eloise Sheets** of Seattle, WA who died April 1 -- Gracie Edmark's two dear sisters-in-law. Please keep **Gracie** in your thoughts as she mourns their losses and the end of a generation, something that many of us can relate to. May the Lord wrap her spirit in comforting warmth.
- For **Stephanie Herkelrath** now serving Children's Disaster Ministries in Darrington, WA. The PNW District welcomes contributions to the **North County Family Services Relief Fund**; 100% of funds benefit affected families.
- For **Joe Edmark**, assisting Search and Rescue work on the Oso Mudslide.
- Thanks that **Alice Dalrymple** is recovering well from her recent dental surgery.
- For **Hal Lauridsen**, recovering from a fall.
- For the **Wilderness Awareness School** where Sam Bowman works which is experiencing staff turnover in the midst of a re-organization.
- For **Eileen Birky** and family, mourning the recent death of her father, **Neil**.
- For the family of **JoAnn Lindsay**, mourning her recent death.
- For **Cindy Alsobrook**, recovering at home after being hospitalized at UW Medical Center with blood clots in her lungs and leg.
- Thanks that **Myrna Latschaw** is back at home recovering from her recent surgery. Pray for her rebuilding strength and management of her pain.
- For the **Quiroz family**, prayers for safe travel as they visit family in Oaxaca, México.

In Our State, Nation, and World:

- For the **unemployed and hungry** who are losing public assistance due to federal budget cuts.
- For the **victims of civil strife in Syria**, and the political will of International powers to broker a truce.
- For an end to the violence in **South Sudan**.
- For the progress of negotiations between **Israel and occupied Palestine**.
- For **Nate and Angela I.**, volunteering in Unión Victoria, Guatemala.