



# Join Us for Lent!

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## First Congregational Church of Berkeley United Church of Christ

At the end of the story of Noah and the flood in the Book of Genesis, God places a rainbow in the clouds as a promise to the people of Israel. It is a sign of covenant, or agreement, that God will be present with God's people, even in the most difficult of times. This will be our theme for Lent: "I have set my rainbow in the clouds."

This year, we will explore and celebrate this covenant. Lent is a powerful time to let the depth of our spirits flow forth. This time of prayerful preparation for the events of Holy

Week culminating in the glory of Easter Sunday, has been part of the church's practice for centuries.

We have many opportunities to mark this time together, to find out what is deep in our hearts and to celebrate the power of transforming community. Our first event actually happens the day before Lent begins—the **Shrove Tuesday Family Pancake Dinner**—which is followed the next evening by the powerful **Ash Wednesday** service.

The events planned for this year's Lenten season are exciting and varied. Many special worship services take place at this time of the church year: besides Ash Wednesday, we will celebrate **Palm Sunday**, **Maundy Thursday**, **Good Friday**, the **Easter Vigil** (the Saturday night before Easter) and **Easter Sunday** (all occurring during "Holy Week" beginning on April 9).

There will be exciting preaching each Sunday in Lent, including PSR professor **Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan**, a popular and respected professor of Old Testament at Pacific School of Religion, who will preach about "covenant" on Sunday, March 12.

**Rev. Patricia de Jong**, Senior Minister, and **Rev. Adam Blons**, Minister of Community Life, will also be sharing their wisdom and insights on the other Sundays in Lent, tying together themes of covenant, sacrifice, the power



**Join us for this powerful  
season of reflection and  
spiritual connection!**

### SPECIAL FAMILY EVENT

#### Shrove Tuesday Family Pancake Dinner

Feb. 28 • 5:30 pm • Large Assembly

### SPECIAL SERVICES

#### Ash Wednesday

Mar 1 • 7:30 pm • Large Assembly

#### Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan preaches

Mar 12 • 10 am • Sanctuary

#### Palm Sunday

Apr 9 • 10 am • Sanctuary

#### Maundy Thursday

Apr 13 • 6 pm • Large Assembly

#### Good Friday

Apr 14 • 7:30 pm • Sanctuary

#### Easter Vigil

Apr 15 • 7:30 pm • Hall of Entrance

#### Easter Sunday

Apr 16 • Special music begins 9:30 am • Sanctuary

## MUSIC/ARTS EVENTS *(during worship)*

### San Francisco Girls Chorus

Mar 19 • 10 am • Sanctuary

### “It’s Cool in the Furnace”

Mar 26 • 10 am • Sanctuary

### New Telling of the Palm Sunday Story

Apr 9 • 10 am • Sanctuary

### New Organ Preview

April 16 (Easter Sunday) • 10 am • Sanctuary

### Brassworks Brass Quintet

April 16 (Easter Sunday) • 9:30 am • Sanctuary

## ADULT EDUCATION

### The Myths, Stories, and Scripts that Shape Our Lives

Sundays • Mar 5, 12, 26, Apr 2 • 11:30 am • Small Assembly

### The Pilgrimage Process

Sundays • Mar 5, 12, 19, 26 • 11:30 am • Durant House

## SOCIAL ACTION EVENTS

### Commemoration of 3rd Anniversary of the war in Iraq

Mar 20 • Time TBA • Sanctuary

### CROP Walk

Apr 2 • 1:30 pm • Lake Merritt

### Katrina Relief Team

Preparations and fundraising ongoing

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERKELEY

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of community, and the promise of new life, in Scripture and in our daily lives.

On March 20 we will mark the **third anniversary of the war in Iraq** with a powerful **Interfaith Service** to be held in the Sanctuary. We will be gathering other faith communities and organizations to create this important event. On April 2, the FCCB staff has committed to participate in the **CROP Walk** around Lake Merritt in Oakland, to lift up issues of world hunger. During Lent we will continue to prepare for sending a team of relief workers from our congregation and UC Berkeley to help with recovery from **Hurricane Katrina**.

Special music and art opportunities abound as well. On March 26, the sermon will be replaced by a performance of

***It’s Cool in the Furnace***, featuring the children in the Pilgrim Choir. This delightful musical focuses on the adventures in faith of Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego, who found themselves in a fiery furnace but were saved by God, a story from the Old Testament. The **San Francisco Girls Chorus**, under the direction of Susan McMane, will again



sing both during worship and following it on March 19. For **Palm Sunday** on April 9, Adam Blons and Phil Porter are devising a new presentation of the story of Jesus’ exciting entry into Jerusalem. The **Brassworks Brass Quintet** will perform on Easter Sunday beginning at 9:30 am.

The highlight of Second Hour presentations during Lent will be a four-part called “**The Myths, Stories, and Scripts that Shape Our Lives**” led by Bill Jersey, widely celebrated filmmaker, and Sam Keen, celebrated author and philosopher. We will have opportunities to hear the faith stories of some FCCB members who have been working with Bill and Sam, as well as sharing some of own stories. This will occur on March 5, 12 & 26, and April 2. Our experience of the season will also be enhanced by the **Lenten Devotional**, which is full of daily reflections written by members and friends of FCCB.

**We hope you will join us on this journey through this important time of the church year. Enhance your experience of the season and deepen your spirit by attending the events that speak to your heart!**