

October and  
November  
2024



# The Ambrosian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church  
900 Edgewater Boulevard, Foster City, California 94404

## In This Issue:

Message from Mother  
Rebecca.....P 1

Layman's Reflection P 2

Outreach Program...P 3

Sea Breeze School  
News.....P 3

Announcements...P3 to 4

Birthdays &  
Anniversaries...P 4 to 5

Editor's Corner.....P 5

### Editor

Suzanne Canada-Tjandra



## Who Do You Say that I Am?

Greetings, Friends in Christ,

Over the last few weeks, as we have journeyed together through the Gospel of Mark, we have reflected upon stories that are at the heart of the Great Story- who is this man Jesus, and how are we to live and minister as his followers?

In Mark Chapter 8, Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am? And Peter, always the one to grab the spotlight, declared him to be the Christ, the Son of God! And he told them not to tell anyone, because his hour had not come. Peter and the others were enthusiastic, energized, and then Jesus went on to tell them that he must suffer, and be killed, and on the third day he would rise again. We can imagine the dismay that came over their faces as they heard that. This could not be, not the one they trusted to overturn the hated Roman rule and restore Israel to power again. Not the one who was to rule over all with great strength. Peter dares to speak up and rebuke, and he is told that he is getting in the way and that his thoughts are not God's thoughts.

So, down through the ages, the question comes to us- Who do we, in 21<sup>st</sup> century Foster City, say that Jesus is? Who is he for us? Is he the good teacher, whose wisdom we try to follow? Is he the divine One, who seems to be human, but is very far above us? Is he the exclusive way to God, the one we must believe certain things about to know salvation? Or is he Emmanuel, God with us, God who takes on human form and comes among us, sharing our life, walking with us, laughing with us, crying with us, drawing us into his life of compassion and love? Might he be the one, who out of that great love, suffered on the cross so that death itself might be defeated forever, and that we may know that nothing can ever overcome the amazing love of God?

And knowing the amazing love of Jesus, how are we then to live? Later on, in the same passage from Mark 8, Jesus tells his followers that they must take up their cross and follow him. That means that we are to walk in the way of the cross, the way of sacrificial love, the way of peace, of sharing the burdens of others, of risking our old comfortable way of life to serve others as Jesus did.

As Jesus opened wide his arms on the cross, so we, too, are to open ourselves in love to our brothers and sisters, all of them, to invite them into the circle of God's grace and hospitality. Taking up the cross and following means that we commit ourselves to live as Jesus did, putting the love of God, God's reign of peace and generosity, first in our lives.

In the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of Mark, the disciples are quarrelling and bickering among themselves about who was the greatest. Jesus reminds them that the one who wants to be first, who wants to be the greatest, must be last of all and servant of all. This is counterintuitive, and really at odds with the competitive, ego driven values of our culture. In our modern world, being the greatest means coming out on top, and therefore, other people will have to lose. But the economy of Jesus turns all of that upside down! We are not to be winners and losers, but neighbors who lift each other up so that all grow into fullness of life! Whoever would be the greatest, the leader, must lay aside the ego, the narrow perspective of the world, take on the vision of God, and serve the least of these. For it is in letting go graciously of our own power that we can serve others in the power of the Spirit.

And continuing in the Gospel of Mark, John, full of self-importance, reports to Jesus that they found a man casting out demons in Jesus' name, and they asked him to stop, because he was not following them, he was not part of their group. Instead of praising him for this, which John probably expected, Jesus said that "Whoever is not against us is for us." Those who are ministering in the name of God are part of that fellowship of believers, of neighbors that are working to bring about the reign of God. They too are part of the Great Story of grace, of unconditional love, of Jesus, God with us.

The Great Story of the Gospel is found in the stories of many people, not just our particular version in our time and place. Many people, of different denominations, of different faiths, and no formal faith are telling the Story of grace, of fellowship and reconciliation that is at the heart of God. I see that story being shared here at St. Ambrose, through worship, through the care you have one for the other, through the many ministries, through the breaking of bread and the prayers. May God continue to bless us as we grow into our call as disciples of Jesus.

Faithfully,  
Mother Rebecca+

## Layman's Reflection

*From the Wardens, Hamilton and April*

Welcome to St. Ambrose!

This place...

A place of stories.

Told for thousands of years.

We listen...

Our community comes from all over the world.

Different languages, many points of view.

We live our stories, living stories, life today.

A safe place, if you choose to tell your story,

We listen...

We practice kindness and respect.

We may screw up...

Ask and receive forgiveness,

Keep practicing, get better.

## **Outreach Ministry**

*From Dulce Lord, coordinator of the Outreach Program Ministry*

One of the most memorable events of our Outreach Program is just around the corner!



Join us for the 2024 St. Ambrose Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 6, from 2-4 PM at the Foster City Dog Park. In the true spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, this cherished tradition goes back centuries to harvest time, when farmers expressed their gratitude for their animals and brought them to be blessed.

For as long as any of us can remember, St. Ambrose has proudly continued this beautiful tradition. Don't forget to bring your beloved animals to the 10:00 am Church Service as well.

We're ecstatic to share that this year, that St. Ambrose will be joined by the fantastic volunteers from Muttville! Donations received at the Dog Park will go to support Muttville Senior Dog Rescue in San Francisco. Huge thanks to Kyn and Nilda for connecting us with Muttville!

If you have any questions about this event or the St. Ambrose Outreach Program, please contact Mother Rebecca, Valerie Mersh (Outreach Program Advisor), or Dulce Lord (Outreach Program Lead) by email at [dulcelord@yahoo.com](mailto:dulcelord@yahoo.com) or text or call me at 650-918-8691.

Let's make it a day to remember!

## **Sea Breeze School News**

*By Jerelyn Weber*

We're thrilled to share that the school year is off to a fantastic start! After seven weeks, both children and teachers have adjusted beautifully to their schedules, and the drop-off tears have turned into happy smiles.

Our Annual Back to School Night was a wonderful success, with great attendance and enthusiastic participation from our families. It was a joy to see everyone gather in the Chapel, especially with the presence of Senior Warden Hamilton Fong and School Board President April Cherrington. Mother Rebecca warmly welcomed families, inviting everyone to be part of our church community. This night provided a great opportunity for families to connect with teachers, learn about the curriculum, and explore the vibrant classroom environments.

As October approaches, we're embracing the fun of Halloween! Classrooms are beginning to decorate, and the children are buzzing with excitement about their costumes and our Halloween Parade on the morning of October 31st. It's such a delight to see their creativity come alive!

We're also excited about our upcoming Fall Camp during the San Mateo Foster City School District's break from October 7-11. With a local artist leading specialized art sessions and a youth soccer program joining us, the kids are in for a week full of creativity and physical activity. Plus, our own Alex Avila will introduce engaging math activities, ensuring a well-rounded experience for all.

We'd love to have more families involved! If you have some extra time and would like to volunteer—whether it's reading to the children or working on special projects—we warmly welcome your support. It's a wonderful way to connect with our little learners and enrich their experience.

Here's to a joyful October filled with fun, learning, and community spirit!

## **Announcements**

### **Sunday School**

St. Ambrose has a Sunday School Program for children at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. It is taught by Raphael Gerber and Kay Ballantyne, in Room 1. Children come in for their program, and then join their parents at the Peace so they can participate in the liturgy of the Holy Eucharist. We are currently working

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on developing the curriculum and hope to add some singing each week. All children are welcome, so invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to join us for a service and bring their little ones! If you have any questions, please contact Raphaelae, Kay, or Mother Rebecca.

### **Tuesday Bible Study**

Remember that our Bible study group meets on Tuesday at 1 pm over Zoom to study the scriptures for the following Sunday's service. There is good discussion, and it usually lasts about an hour. For information and Zoom link, contact Warren Wong at [wwong@nd.edu](mailto:wwong@nd.edu)

### **Card Ministry**

Every month our members receive birthday and anniversary cards and sometimes, get well or sympathy cards. In September, we sent 13 birthday cards, 3 anniversary cards, and 2 get well/ thinking of you cards.

If you become aware of a member's good news, illness, or a family loss, please let Kyn Dellinger know at (650) 291-6208 or email her at [bonanzalady@gmail.com](mailto:bonanzalady@gmail.com).

### **Contemplative Meditation Group**

Our "Contemplative Meditation" Zoom group meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Enjoy a 40-minute respite of mindful breaths, compassionate, and contemplative community. Be heard should you choose to share. If you wish an email-list reminder to arrive in your inbox Tuesday nights, then write to: [hfongster@gmail.com](mailto:hfongster@gmail.com) (Questions are welcome).

[Click this link on Wednesday's 10am to join Zoom.](#) Or use the QR Code below:



## **October and November Birthdays**

October 4	Ngoc Rodriguez
October 10	Raphaelae Gerber
October 16	Warren Wong
October 22	Julio Rodriguez
October 27	Lance Lucas-Greene
October 30	Emily Miller
November 3	Stephen Yuen
November 11	Susan Yates
November 13	Connor Moriarty
November 14	Eddie Avakoff
November 17	Bettie Davis
November 17	Landon Matsuo
November 19	Wendy Walker
November 25	Doug Stewart
November 30	Andrew Balamiento

## October and November Anniversaries

October 2	Brenda & Kirk Matsuo
October 7	Rami & Linda Amireh
October 11	Susan & David Yates
October 23	Christina Brockman & Stan Hui
November 7	David McIntyre & Cathy Rincon
November 10	Reena Davis & Tarumpreet Ubhi
November 19	Ngoc &ri Julio Rodriguez



### The Editors' Corner – *by Suzanne Canada*

Dear Ambrosian Readers,

It is exciting to see additions from our Wardens, the Outreach Program Ministry, and Sea Breeze School in this issue. As mentioned, we are trying out a bi-monthly publishing schedule (every two months). The St. Ambrose website is being updated; if you have any nice pictures of recent events that you don't mind sharing, please send them to Alison LeBlanc ([alisonleblanc0507@gmail.com](mailto:alisonleblanc0507@gmail.com)). Please keep sending me any content that you want to share with our congregation at [421srcanada@gmail.com](mailto:421srcanada@gmail.com).

Regards, Suzanne