



GARDENA VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH



SUMMER IN THE PSALMS

BY DOUG BROWN, SENIOR PASTOR

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Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Colossians 3.16

During this month we will conclude our almost 2-year journey through the Gospel of Luke entitled "Living the Kingdom Today". It has been a time of reacquainting ourselves with the life and ministry of Jesus. It is also been a season of being challenged to embrace the lifestyle of discipleship which is best expressed by continuing the ministry of Jesus today. This means demonstrating and declaring His truth in all areas of our lives. As we continue this goal of following Jesus, we will spend the summer immersed in the songbook Jesus so frequently quoted.

For millennia the church has mined the richness of the Book of Psalms for her prayers and hymns. The very hymnals kept in the pews of our sanctuary at GVBC have their origins in centuries of inspiration and reflection on the Psalms. The Psalms were not only the songbook for Israel, they were Jesus's songbook. The hymn that Jesus sang at the Passover meal (Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26) would have been the Great Hallel, Psalms 113–118. Indeed, there is good reason to believe that Jesus would have sung the Psalms throughout His life, so that he knew them by heart. It is the book of the Bible that He quotes more than any other. But the Psalms were not simply sung by Jesus; they also are about him. These Messianic Psalms are one of approximately eight different types of Psalms we will discover this summer.

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs..."

Colossians 3:16

The Psalms lead us to do what the psalmists do—to commit ourselves to God through pledges and promises, to depend on God through petition and expressions of acceptance, to seek comfort in God through lament and complaint, to find mercy from God through confession and repentance, to gain new wisdom and perspective from God through meditation, remembrance, and reflection. The Psalms also help us see God—God not as we wish or hope Him to be but as He actually reveals Himself. The descriptions of God in the Psalter are rich beyond human invention. He is more holy, more wise, more fearsome, more tender and loving than we could ever imagine Him to be.

My prayer for us this summer is that we would allow God's Word found in the Psalms to penetrate our minds and imaginations while saturating our hearts thereby further forming us in His image!

Pastor Doug



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

BY PASTOR EIJI OSATO - NIHONGO PASTOR

4月19日の受難日には日本語と英語の2か国語で、また、小学生以上の子供たちもいっしょに礼拝をしました。ユダとペテロのスキットがあり、一人一人が自分の罪を紙に書いて黒い壁に貼りました。イエスの十字架だけがわたしたちを神とつなぐ橋であること、イエスがわたしたちの生きる希望であることが日本語と英語で語られました。教会全体で礼拝ができたのは大変意味深いことでした。

GVBC held its first bilingual (Japanese/English) and family-friendly Good Friday Service on April 19.. After a skit on Judas and Peter, both individuals and families wrote down their sins on a small paper and put them on a black wall. Pastor Eiji's self-translated message was that Jesus is the only bridge between God back to us. He is our living hope. Praise God to have a Good Friday Service with a whole church family.



JESUS CHRIST, OUR LIVING HOPE

BY JAMES CHANG - WORSHIP PASTOR

This Holy Week 2019, April 14-21, we celebrated Jesus Christ, our Living Hope. From Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his crucifixion on Good Friday to his resurrection on Easter Sunday, we were invited to re-enter back into the week that radically change the entire course of the history of all mankind and brought new hope and renewal into our lives. We praise God for the many ways you all contributed toward, prayed through, and invited others into experiencing this week together. The Spirit of God was truly moving in our midst and we continue to move into this year with a renewed sense of his living hope!





MINISTRY

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

BY STEPHANIE NAKAYAMA - WOMEN'S BREAKFAST SPEAKER

About 80 women gathered to hear Stephanie Nakayama, LMFT, present a devotional titled, "The ACTS of Prayer" (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication). Besides great food, fellowship, worship (led by Dylan and Lindsay), encouragement and prayer, Stephanie gave a devotional focused on Philippians 4:6-7 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Stephanie shared how she turned to God in prayer when she was overwhelmed with anxiety. She experienced God's guidance and peace when her husband, Rick, was unconscious due to a hypoglycemic episode. She also shared how God worked when her mom, Yuri Ogawa, was having a stroke. Both Rick and Yuri are now recovering at home. Stephanie is thankful for God's faithfulness through answered prayer.

The women also shared their own testimonies of God's love and grace. We were all encouraged by each other, knowing that we can trust in a God who loves and cares for us as we seek Him through prayer and His Word.

Stephanie's message was recorded and is available on CD.

*"Be strong and courageous."
- Joshua 1:9*



PROFILE OF PATRICIA KOBAYASHI

BY KATHY AISO

"As a believer, I feel truly blessed and honored to be a child of God."
--Patty Kobayashi

Since coming to GVBC regularly, Patty Kobayashi has a more intimate relationship with God. In 2011, Patty first came to GVBC, when a friend introduced her to the Hula Ministry. Fast-forward to 2015 when Patty's former church, Faith United Methodist Church (FUMC), underwent building renovations, she began attending GVBC. Originally, Patty planned to return to FUMC, after the renovation, but God had other plans.

At GVBC, Patty underwent a spiritual awakening through Pastor Ron Matsuda and his classes, "Following Christ Today" and "Oasis" Bible Study. For the first time, Patty received in depth Bible teaching, along with practical application for living the Christian life. Patty asked many questions about Christianity, which Pastor Ron answered. As Patty absorbed and applied what she learned, she felt the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and God's peace. She developed a servant's heart and began a personal relationship with the Lord. "I have to give our Lord God and Pastor Ron all the credit for my spiritual awakening," Patty shared.



When FUMC completed its building renovation, Patty struggled whether she should return there or make GVBC her home church. Patty shared her predicament with a few GVBCers. They were in prayer about Patty's decision on where to attend church. They were good listeners and supportive of whatever decision Patty made. After much prayer and deliberation, Patty felt God calling her to GVBC. Patty knew that in staying at GVBC she would continue growing in her faith and relationship with God, Patty returned to FUMC to honor her commitments before returning to GVBC.

In September 2018, Patty was baptized by Pastor Doug and became a member. She enjoys being part of the Greeting Team serving as a greeter for Sunday morning worship services.

Patty's favorite Bible verse, Joshua 1:9 reminds her how God has been faithfully with her from the start of her faith journey. Patty grew up attending St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church with her family for 13 years, followed by Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd with her daughter for 14 years, and FUMC for eight years, before coming to GVBC in July 2015. "Have I not commanded you. Be strong and courageous. Do not tremble or be dismayed for the LORD your God is with you, wherever you go." "God has been with me, wherever I went, especially going from one faith to another. God was preparing me for where I should be now," Patty confirmed. She acknowledged that it's been an amazing faith journey. Patty is joyfully confident, knowing that her faith journey has eventually led her to personally knowing Jesus.

MISSION UPDATES

Ken & Diane Kudo

Ken and Diane, along with Hamilton and Carlos from the Kudos' church in Sao Paulo, ministered in Asia. They visited their church's missionaries in Cambodia. These missionaries are learning Khmer, while sowing spiritual seeds in different places. One of the places is a high school with university professors, language translators, and business people. It has been challenging as these missionaries have faced Satanic attacks, corrupt police trying to extort money, or a neighbor who is a pedophile. There will be a church planting in Phnom Penh, as the OMF leadership of Cambodia has authorized three missionaries, Yuki, Karla, and Lucia to start a church. Please pray that Yuki, Karla, and Lucia raise up disciples for Christ and that the missionaries' supporter-intercessors in Brazil continue in steadfast prayer and support for them.

James Choung

"God is up to really good things, and I'm thankful for all of you!" writes James. James' department hosted 60 staff and guests in Albuquerque for the first Innovation Summit (IS). Its goal was that mystery and strategy meet, resulting in greater innovation in the Christian movement. The feedback was overwhelming positive! He is thankful that the conference went well and he is already planning for IS '20.

James was also involved in Asian American Ministries Staff Conference (AAMSC) '19. 250 Asian American staff filled the room from many different cultural backgrounds. James describes the teaching as solid from a new generation of Asian American leaders.

MINISTRY LEGACY: HAROLD KOBATA

BY KATHY AISO



Advocate for Nehemiah

Harold Kobata's valued input contributed towards successful planning of the Nehemiah building project. Along with Pastor Steve Langley, Harold met with the contractor weekly during the 3 years of construction. The plans were discussed in detail and both of them provided valuable suggestions which produced necessary changes. Along with some work day crew, Harold installed the electrical and cabling in the building. Decades earlier, Harold served as GVBC Moderator. In the 1970's, Harold & his wife Reiko were one of ten families who put up the deed on their homes to back up the bank loan for the building of the new sanctuary. In the early 1900's, Harold's mother, Mrs. Umeno Kobata was one of a few individuals, who initiated starting what would become GVBC. Over the decades, the Kobata Family provided solid leadership, support, and direction for our church.



FAMILY NEWS

FAMILY NEWS

Flowers & Donations Given in Honor or Loving Memory:

From: Jodie & Voltaire Rivera & family and Merrick Yoshida

To: Mrs. Kazuko Ishimoto

From: Jean Nojima

To: Lyman Nojima

Monetary donations given in honor or memory of loved ones support College Scholarship Fund, unless specified.

MINISTRY OUTLOOK

May 10	Parent Social - Children's Ministry
May 12	Mother's Day
June 8	Women's Breakfast
June 15	*Driftwood Healthcare & Rehabilitation Ctr Outreach
June 16	Father's Day
June 22-28	*Youth Long Beach Missions Trip
June 23	All VBS Volunteers Meeting
June 30 - July 6	*JEMS Mt. Hermon Family Camp



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