

South Hayward United Methodist Church

Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 25, 2012 -- 10:30 AM

****Those Who Are Able, Please Stand** (PLEASE, silence your Cell Phone)

Child Nursery available – Just Ask an Attendant

WE ENTER TO WORSHIP

PRAISE SINGING

PRELUDE & PROCESSION OF THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Jesus Shall Reign”

Joseph Clokey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

Gail Stringer

God is always seeking our renewal. The prophet Jeremiah proclaims that the days are coming when God will make a new covenant with Israel—a covenant written on the heart. The psalmist proclaims that we will be washed clean by God and have a new spirit placed within us. Jesus proclaims that such renewal requires sacrifice, even death—for unless a grain of wheat dies, it yields no fruit. The author of Hebrews maintains that Christ has made the sacrifice necessary for this renewal in our lives.

INTROIT ***“Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land” Spiritual*** ***SHUMC Ensemble***

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

We feel tired and worn out.

Renew us, Lord.

Past mistakes weigh heavily upon us.

Wash away our sin.

Petty squabbles distract us.

Make us whiter than snow.

Don't send us away from your presence!

Put your Holy Spirit within us!

****HYMN OF PRAISE**

“My Hope Is Built”

UMH#368

****INVOCATION (unison)**

God of renewal, neither troubled soul nor threat of death could stop your Son from living with passion and purpose, teaching us to reach for more. In the teachings of our Savior, Jesus, we behold your glory and learn to face death and the unknown unafraid: “Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” Help us bear the fruit of new life, that you may be glorified and all people may come to know your ways.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD TO US

CHILDREN’S TIME

****+THE PEACE OF CHRIST IS GIVEN TO ALL**

ONE: The peace of the living Christ be with you all!

ALL: **And also with you!**

CHORAL ANTHEM

“I Am”

Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gail Stringer

SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:20-33

THE WORD FOR TODAY

“Say What?”

Pastor Elmar

BLESSING VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

HYMN OF DEDICATION

“Living for Jesus”

FWS#2149

(Vv1, 2)

(As the congregation sings this hymn, you are invited to come to the altar to pray and to receive a prayer of blessing)

