

CONGREGATIONAL

Church *of* Soquel

*Bring a lasting
peace*



*that we might live as neighbors
and justice might increase*

From the hymn, "O God Who Formed Creation" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

**January 12, 2025
10:00 am**

**4951 Soquel Drive | Soquel, California 95073-2430
831.475.2867 | www.ccssoquel.org**

~ A Certified Green Church ~ A Solar Powered Community ~



Congregational Church of Soquel

Peace and Justice Sunday
January 12, 2025

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

***Introit #801** *This Is the Day*

v 1, Hymnal 1

***Responsive Call to Worship** (Psalm 37:28a, 29-31)

Minister: For the Lord loves Justice;

Congregation: God will not forsake his faithful ones.

Minister: The righteous shall inherit the land, and live in it forever.

Congregation: The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom, and their tongues speak justice.

Minister: The law of their God is in their hearts;

Congregation: Their steps do not slip.

***Hymn** *O God Who Formed Creation*

see insert

To the tune of Hymn #689 "The Church's One Foundation" Hymnal 1

***Invocation**

Responsive Reading (Deuteronomy 15:7-11, Matthew 22:34-40)

see insert

JOINING IN PRAISE AND PRAYER

Special Music *Courante from Partita No. 1*

by Johann Sebastian Bach

Katharine Burke, violin

*Congregation Standing (as you are able)

Morning Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us
from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory
forever. Amen.

Response In Song #690 *Bind Us Together* refrain only, Hymnal 1

SHARING THE WORK

Offertory

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

(Tune: *All Creatures of our God and King*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts, Praise Jesus Christ whose
power uplifts. Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* **Hymn #571** *What Does the Lord Require?* Hymnal 1

SHARING THE WORD

Reverend Dr. Mark Fountain

Sermon: *"Neighbor in Your Land"*

Scripture: Deuteronomy 15:7-11, Matthew 22:34-40

PARTING WITH SONG AND PRAYER

* **Hymn** *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

by Jars of Clay

*Benediction

*Congregational Response in Song

We are God's people, a people of the Lord, born of the Spirit,
the Love of God outpoured; our cornerstone is Christ alone,
and strong in Him we stand: O let us live transparently,
and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

*Postlude

*Congregation Standing (as you are able)



*NACCC Mission:
Bringing together
Congregational Christian Churches
for mutual care and outreach to our world
in the name of Jesus Christ.*

From the NACCC: Church Fair Share Giving Why Contribute?

- As an organization, our vitality is directly tied to the support our member churches provide. The NACCC exists to serve our churches and relies on financial contributions to carry out our various programs and services.
- While every congregation is unique, we strive to be valuable and relevant to all our member churches, regardless of size and needs of the church.
- We see value in being a part of a national organization, utilize our networking opportunities, take advantage of our leadership resources, or rely on us to find a pastor, we ask you to contribute your Fair Share to ensure we are able to help all of our congregations for years to come.

What is Fair Share?

- The NACCC requires each of our member churches to make an annual contribution to our Shared Ministries Fund, which directly supports our programs and services.
- FAIR SHARE refers to our suggested contribution. We do not require a membership fee, but we do expect that each church support the organization through a gift. Currently, the Fair Share we ask our churches to contribute is \$13 a member or Fair Share Plus, \$15.
- Consider joining other member churches who give their "Fair Share Plus," which is a contribution of \$15 or more a member. This level of giving has a significant impact on the ability of the NACCC to help churches.

How does the NACCC support our churches?

Your donation assures the continuation of educational programs, church resources, fellowship opportunities and administrative support that NACCC churches and members find so valuable. If all member churches give at the Fair Share level, we will balance our budget and have the critical dollars necessary to improve and expand programming. The NACCC thanks the churches that have faithfully given to the Shared Ministries Fund.

- **Pastoral Searches**
- **Financial Opportunities**
- **Fellowship**
- **Education**
- **Missions**
- **Church Growth and Vitality**

*CCS is Doing
its Part!
Consider
giving to the
NACCC.*

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOQUEL ~ Doing Our Part

- Last year Congregational Church of Soquel contributed at the **Fair Share Plus** level. Please consider contributing at the Fair Share or Fair Share Plus level.
- To give to this year's Fair Share, use a pew envelope or give online. Either way please designate it for Fair Share in the memo or comment section. **Thank you!**





2025 IN SOQUEL! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January

Today - Peace & Justice Sunday!

19 - 10:00 am New Members Celebration

11:00 am Stay seated for a brief proposed budget presentation

26 - 11:15 am 156th Annual Meeting

NOTE: Traditionally boards and committees do not meet during January. Be sure to check with your chairperson for your schedule.

Responsive Reading (Deuteronomy 15:7-11, Matthew 22:34-40)

Reader: If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tightfisted towards your needy neighbor.

Congregation: You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.

Reader: Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing;

Congregation: your neighbor might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt.

Reader: Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.

Congregation: Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.'

~

Reader: When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

Congregation: 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?'

Reader: He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:

Congregation: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'



OFFICIAL CALL!

156TH ANNUAL MEETING CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOQUEL

Sunday, January 26th @ 11:15 am
in Parrish Hall

All members and friends are encouraged to attend and participate.
Active members are voting members!

O God Who Formed Creation

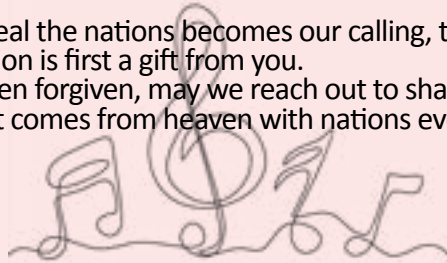
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O God, who formed creation and made each living thing,
We've seen the devastation that war and conflict bring.
We long to stop the violence and end the scourge of war;
We yearn for peace and justice, now and forevermore.

We join in celebration of those who've heard your call
To bring together nations and seek the good for all.
We thank you for their labors to bring a lasting peace,
That we might live as neighbors and justice might increase.

Some care for your creation, some daily feed the poor;
Some offer education, or seek an end to war.
Some labor bringing healing, or care for refugees;
It's you, O Lord, they're serving, in doing each of these.

This work to heal the nations becomes our calling, too.
For reconciliation is first a gift from you.
As we have been forgiven, may we reach out to share
The peace that comes from heaven with nations everywhere.



**Have you considered
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?
Join Our Community of Faith!**

**Contact the Church Office
831.475.2867**

*We will be welcoming New Members on
Sunday, January 19, 2025*



GREAT WORK IN ACTION!

Your generous donations in 2024 allowed for the CCS Ministry of Missions & Service to support the following Missions of the Months AND other programs!

Mission of the Months:

January - Gaza thru One Great Hour of Sharing, NACCC \$636

March - Community Bridges \$500

April - Save Our Shores \$500

May - Manna Ministries \$600

June - AFC, Association of Faith Communities, \$500

July - Grey Bears \$1000

August - PAI, PanAmerican Institute, \$1260 - 3 scholarships

September - CASA of Santa Cruz \$500

October - Habitat for Humanity \$1000

November - Hurricane Relief thru One Great Hour of Sharing, NACCC \$1071

December - Hospice of Santa Cruz County & Partnership for Children \$500 to each (This money will be sent in January 2025)

Also supported:

Survivor's Healing Center \$500

PAI Christmas Baskets for Students \$600

Coastal Kids Home Care \$500

Second Harvest Food Bank \$11,002

*Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.
from the Hymn "Here I Am, Lord"*



At Congregational Church of Soquel, we value the past with a sense of gratitude, but welcome the present moment with expectation and joy! Please join us Sundays at 10:00 am. The bell ringing from atop our historic church, established in 1868, reminds us of a rich and meaningful past. However, as our logo suggests, a living tradition of life, worship and progressive Christian faith lifts our hearts as we reach in the direction of an exciting future.

With this vision, we seek to live as Jesus taught, loving God and neighbor in ways that embrace the opportunities and needs of our time and place: creating a sustainable environment for the earth, addressing food insecurities among our neighbors, supporting families, celebrating the arts and creating a spiritual home for people of all ages and backgrounds. Together, we discover friendship and meaning through the interplay of faith, life, and service within the greater Santa Cruz community and beyond.

Join us as we unite a meaningful past with a hopeful vision moving forward.

Peace,
Mark Fountain
Minister



Scan with cell camera to view website.

THANK YOU!

- Announcer:** Katharine Burke
- Reader:** Bart Kent
- Ushers:** Kent Newbold & Bob Weers
- Fellowship:** Natalie Rynn & Carolyn Walker
- Media Team:** Zach Dando-Thompson & Friends
- We welcome back Susan Bass, our pianist, today!*

Church Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

OUR CHURCH STAFF

- Minister.....Reverend Dr. Mark Fountain
- Ministry Associate.....Reverend Patti Haaheim
- Office Manager.....Kristin Ard
- Music Director.....Camille Couture-Carter
- Pianist.....Susan Bass
- Maintenance Supervisor.....Ricardo Perez
- Ministers to the Community.....Congregation