



# LIGHTHOUSE

March 2020

Horeb Mar Thoma Church, Los Angeles

## ISAIAH 54: 9-14

9 “This is like the days of Noah to me:  
as I swore that the waters of Noah  
should no more go over the earth,  
so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you,  
and will not rebuke you.

10 For the mountains may depart  
and the hills removed,  
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,  
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,”  
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

11 “O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted,  
behold, I will set your stones in antimony,  
and lay your foundations with sapphires.

12 I will make your pinnacles of agate,  
your gates of carbuncles,  
and all your wall of precious stones.

13 All your children shall be taught by the Lord,  
and great shall be the peace of your children.

14 In righteousness you shall be established;  
you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear;  
and from terror, for it shall not come near you.



**For the mountains may depart  
and the hills removed,  
but my steadfast love shall  
not depart from you,  
and my covenant of peace  
shall not be removed,”  
says the Lord, who has  
compassion on you.**

ISAIAH 54:10

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, March 1st**

Diocesan Sunday

*Service led by Rev. Sam Philip*

**Saturday, March 28th**

Western Regional Sevika Sangham Conference

*Phoenix Mar Thoma Church, Arizona*



Dear Beloved in Christ,

The beauty of springtime is one that we gladly welcome into our lives – the green leaves and colorful flower buds beginning to sprout from the bare branches is always a refreshing sight that stirs within us a sense of renewal and hope. We take in the fresh air, bask in the warmth of the sunlight, and it's all a rejuvenating experience for our bodies. We open all the windows to let that fresh air in and clear out the cobwebs and dust that accumulated during winter.

On the contrast, do we welcome the season of Great Lent in the same way? The name 'Lent' itself comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Lenten' meaning 'Spring', yet we tend to approach it with a more somber feeling. However, every year the journey of Great Lent offers us the great opportunity to truly refresh and renew ourselves in a much deeper way. It's the opportunity to clear the cobwebs that have gotten in the way and refresh our senses, so we can realize God's presence much more in our life experiences. It's the time to bask all the more in the light of the Lord and God's word and thereby be rejuvenated in mind, body and spirit.. It's a journey which empowers us to live our lives filled with the love

revealed on the cross and the hope of His glorious resurrection.

Great Lent is the journey to the cross. Cross is about denying ourselves and giving of ourselves for the Kingdom of God – it's not an easy journey but nevertheless one that promises to fill us with the joy of salvation. Let's make the journey with open hearts and minds, submitted in God's hands.

May these days of Great Lent be a time of repentance, renewal and transformation, during which the Spirit breathes new life and imparts greater vision and sense of purpose to our lives. Let's meaningfully take part in this year's Great Lent, and may our Lent experience witness the love of Christ and be a blessing for the glory of God.

Yours in Christ,

**Rev. Arun Samuel Varghese**

# Welcome Sharon Kochamma

Sharon Kochamma arrived safely in Los Angeles on Wednesday afternoon, February 19, 2020 from Bahrain.



Achen and Kochamma want to thank everyone for their prayers and support during the lengthy and arduous wait for her visa. Thanks also to members who went to pick up Kochamma at the airport, welcome her at the parsonage, and donated items. Sincere gratitude to Mrs. Riya George and the Horeb Sevika Sangham for coordinating.



## Thankful for the Unanswered Prayers

By Anna Chandy Jacob

May your will be done on earth as in heaven... We say the Lord's Prayer (almost) every day (several times) in our lives. Yet, when His will is done and not ours, why do we go into this strange mode of non acceptance. Recently I have been pondering on these thoughts and that's when I was requested for an article. The first thing that came to my mind is how thankful I am right now for those unanswered prayers. Some of them took several years to make sense. My initial reaction in these situations was and still is, the question 'why me?'. Then after several days of grumbling I would accept it as my destiny or fate. But now after all these years when I look back on those instances, I thank Him for taking control and not working the way I wanted Him to. These were God's big plans in my life. May He continue to bless us in His ways and not in ways we want Him to. Trust in Lord with all your heart and lean not in your own understanding.

# MTVEA *Western Regional Conference*

Horeb members attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists' Association Western Region Conference held at the Mar Thoma Church of Silicon Valley in San Jose, CA on February 15-16, 2020. Dr. Thomas George was the main speaker. Horeb member, Dr. Susan Varghese, also led a track session.



## MARCH CALENDAR

SUN MAR 1	1:30pm - 2:45pm 2:30pm - 3:00pm 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Sunday School Praise and Worship Holy Communion Service (English); <i>Diocesan Sunday led by Rev. Sam Philip</i>
THU MAR 5	8:30pm - 9:30pm	Western Region Sevika Sangham Tele-Prayer - 605-472-5563; 567791
SAT MAR 7	6:00pm - 8:00pm	South Area Prayer - <i>Naomi &amp; Rajan Abraham, Portola Hills</i>
SUN MAR 8	1:30pm - 2:45pm 2:30pm - 3:00pm 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Sunday School Praise and Worship Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
TUE MAR 10	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study - <i>Anna Chandy Jacob &amp; Philip Jacob, Yorba Linda</i>
WED MAR 11	8:00pm - 9:00pm	MTVEA Western Regional Tele-prayer - 515-603-3108; 638599#
FRI MAR 13	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Youth Fellowship Meeting - <i>Location TBD</i>
SAT MAR 14	6:00pm - 8:00pm	West Area Prayer - <i>Parsonage, Anaheim</i>
SUN MAR 15	1:30pm - 2:45pm 2:30pm - 3:00pm 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Sunday School Praise and Worship Holy Communion Service (English)
SUN MAR 15	5:15pm - 6:15pm	Sevika Sangham Meeting - <i>GGUMC, Room 20</i>
SAT MAR 21	6:30pm - 8:00pm	East Area Prayer - <i>Dr. Sunil and Dr. Susan Thomas, Anaheim Hills</i>
SUN MAR 22	1:30pm - 2:45pm 2:30pm - 3:00pm 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Sunday School Praise and Worship Holy Communion Service (English)
SUN MAR 22	5:15pm - 5:45pm	Sevika Sangham Mary's Kitchen Outreach - <i>GGUMC, Room 20</i>
TUE MAR 24	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study - <i>Ann &amp; Isaac George, Buena Park</i>
WED MAR 25	8:30pm - 9:30pm	MTVEA Western Regional Tele-Bible Study - 515-603-3108; 638599#
SAT MAR 28	4:30pm - 6:30pm	Young Family Fellowship - <i>Sobha &amp; Lejo Mammen, Brea</i>
SUN MAR 29	1:30pm - 2:45pm 2:30pm - 3:00pm 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Sunday School Praise and Worship Divine Service (English)



*Congratulations  
Bindu & Sojan!*

***Bindu John and Sojan Mathews were wed on  
Saturday, February 15, 2020 in Sugar Land, Texas.***

***Best wishes from the Horeb family.***

***May God bless your marriage.***