

## **Rev. Amy Denney Zuniga, Rector, Grace-St. Helena**

Rev. Amy has started and grown a Spanish Language Ministry in Napa Valley, including family worship. Here is her story.



*The inspiration and courage for the latest iteration of the Spanish Language Ministry of the Episcopal Church of the Napa Valley has come from the children. Children are adept at “code switching,” moving fluidly between different languages and modes of understanding and expression. The children inspired our Bilingual Family Celebration, an informal, joy-filled Eucharist, which we celebrate monthly either at Grace in St. Helena or St. Mary’s in Napa. A presentation from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd forms the core of our liturgy of the word, and children and adults together delight in engaging beautiful, handmade materials, deep questions, and the rich symbolism present in the sanctuaries themselves. Our hope in creating this service was to bring our English and Spanish speaking congregations closer together. Both Grace and St. Mary’s have experienced a bilingual family celebration during the 10 AM Sunday service at Grace and the 5 PM Saturday Eucharist at St. Mary’s. While it takes courage to stretch out of our worship comfort zones, the children continue to lead the way. They walk into the center of the worship space and know they are right at home.*

