

# PALO ALTO CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Fifth Sunday in Easter  
May 2, 2021



# Gathering: God's People Together

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PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 104:1-2, 10-11, 13-15, 33-34; ESV

*Bless the LORD, O my soul!*

**O LORD my God, you are very great!**

*You are clothed with splendor and majesty,*

**covering yourself with light as with a garment,**

**stretching out the heavens like a tent.**

*You make springs gush forth in the valleys;*

**they flow between the hills;**

*they give drink to every beast of the field;*

**the wild donkeys quench their thirst.**

*From your lofty abode you water the mountains;*

**the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.**

*You cause the grass to grow for the livestock*

**and plants for man to cultivate,**

*that he may bring forth food from the earth*

**and wine to gladden the heart of man,**

*oil to make his face shine*

**and bread to strengthen man's heart.**

*I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;*

**I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

*May my meditation be pleasing to him,*

**for I rejoice in the LORD.**

OPENING PRAYER

*Lord in heaven,*

*we rejoice in you this morning.*

*For the food you have provided us to strengthen our bodies,*

**we thank you.**

*For the water you have provided us to quench our thirst,*

**we thank you.**

*For the body of Christ, broken for us on the cross,*

**we adore you.**

*For the precious blood of Christ poured out to grant us life,*

**we praise you.**

*Risen and living Lord,*

*may you now quiet the noisy cares of our hearts*

*and heal the brokenness we bear,*

*that we may receive your everlasting spiritual nourishment,*

*as we lift our voices in praise.*

*In Christ's name we pray,*

**Amen.**

HYMN (#502; v. 1-5 )

*O Give the LORD Wholehearted Praise*

O give the Lord wholehearted praise.

To him thanksgiving I will bring;

with all his people I will raise

my voice and of his glory sing.

His saints delight to search and trace

his mighty works and wondrous ways.

Majestic glory, boundless grace,

and righteousness his work displays.

God's wondrous deeds of faithfulness

his people ever keep in mind,

His works of love and graciousness

reveal that God the Lord is kind.

God's promise shall forever stand;

he cares for those who trust his word.

Upon his saints his mighty hand

the wealth of nations has conferred.

His works are true and just indeed;  
his precepts are forever sure.  
In truth and righteousness decreed,  
they shall forevermore endure.

## Word: God Speaks, We Respond

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OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

Landon Sterk

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

HYMN (754)

Lord speak to me that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek  
your erring children, lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet.  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
your hungry ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
the precious truths which you impart.  
And wing my words that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflows  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as you will, and when, and where  
until your blessed face I see,  
your rest, your joy, your glory share.



*Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Loving God,  
You provide for our every need.  
You feed our bodies and our souls,  
yet we hunger to know and love you more and more.*

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

*Heavenly Father, may you nourish us with your Word today.  
Through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit we pray,  
Amen.*

SERMON

**Blessed are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness**

Matthew 5:1-6

HYMN (#746)

*Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*

Holy Spirit, living breath of God,  
breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
to renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause your Word to come alive in me;  
give me faith for what I cannot see;  
give me passion for your purity;  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within,  
may your joy be seen in all I do.  
Love enough to cover every sin,  
in each thought and deed and attitude.  
Kindness to the greatest and the least,  
gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my striving into works of grace;  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
giving life to all that God has made,  
show your power once again on earth,  
cause your church to hunger for your ways.  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;  
lead us on the road of sacrifice,  
that in unity the face of Christ  
may be clear for all the world to see.

## Table: We Share the Lord's Supper

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### THANKSGIVING

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right for us to give thanks.**

**It is our joy and our peace at all times and in all places  
to give thanks to you, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God,  
through Christ our Lord.**

### HYMN (807)

*All Who Are Thirsty*

All who are thirsty, come to the Lord;  
all who are hungry, feed on his Word.  
Buy without paying, food without price,  
eat with thanksgiving God's sacrifice.

Why spend your money on what's not bread?  
Why toil in labor and not be fed?  
God will provide you richest of food.  
Come to the waters, drink what is good.

Call on God's mercy while he is near;  
turn from your evil, come without fear;

ask him for pardon, grace will abound!  
This is the moment God can be found.

Where once were briars, flowers will grow.  
Where lives were barren, rivers will flow.  
Praise to our Savior, grace and renown.  
Ours is the blessing, his be the crown!

## INSTITUTION

*Let us give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice, until his coming again. For the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

**We shall do as our Lord commands.**

**We proclaim that our Lord Jesus  
was sent by the Father into the world,  
and that he took upon himself our flesh and blood,  
and bore the wrath of God against our sin.**

**We confess that he was condemned to die  
that we might be pardoned,  
and suffered death that we might live.**

**We proclaim that he is risen to make us right with God,  
and that he shall come again in the glory of his new creation.  
This we do now, and until he comes again.**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

*Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine, that our sharing of them may be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ, and that we may become one in him. May his coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer, strong in truth and love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread.*

**Then, at last, all peoples will be free,**

**all divisions healed,  
and with your whole creation we will sing your praise,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray,  
Amen.**

#### PREPARATION OF THE ELEMENTS

*The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.*

**We who are many are one body, for we all share in the same loaf.**

*The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.*

**The cup which we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

#### THE INVITATION

*He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, he was always the guest. At the meal tables of the wealthy, where he pled the cause of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest. But here, at this table, he is the host.*

*Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him. Those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean.*

*For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new.*

*So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.*

#### THE COMMUNION

## **Sending: God Goes with Us**

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Heavenly Father,  
we give you everlasting praise and thanks that you have given us, poor sinners,  
so great a benefit—that you have drawn us into the communion of your Son, Jesus Christ, our*





*Savior, whom you give to us as food and nourishment for eternal life. Grant us now this benefit also: that you will never allow us to forget these truths, but rather imprint them on our hearts, that we may grow and thrive vigorously in faith—a faith committed to all good works. In so doing may we order and direct our whole human life to the exaltation of your glory and the upbuilding of our neighbor, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, who in the unity of the Holy Spirit lives and reigns with you eternally.*

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

HYMN (#936)

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

## POSTLUDE

## Participants, Music, Art & Liturgy

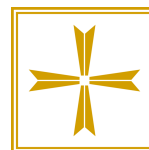
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Cover	Paramentics, <i>Way to the Father</i>
Prelude	Valerie Sterk, organ: <i>Toccata and Fugue in F Major</i> , by Dietrich Buxtehude
Liturgy	Parts of our liturgies are selected or adapted from <i>The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition</i>
Pastor	Rev. Rich Loerop
Hymns	The Hull and Sterk families
Postlude	Valerie Sterk, organ: <i>Toccata on "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High,"</i> by Michael Burkhardt

## Offering

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As you worship this weekend, we invite you to respond with your gifts. If you'd like to send a check, please make it payable to the PACRC and designate the cause (General Fund or special offering) in the notation line. Mail your checks (no cash) to the church and we will keep them safe until we are able to count them.

You are invited to give through our online portal on the PACRC website: <http://www.pacrc.org/donate>. Using the drop-down menu, you may specify which cause you would like to support. If you do not designate a cause, your donation will be applied to the General Fund. Please feel free to contact the deacons if you have any questions.

**PACRC General Fund** – The General Fund pays for the operating expenses of the church, including staff salaries, local education and outreach programs, and property maintenance, as well as ministry shares supporting the work of the Christian Reformed denomination in California and around the world.

**GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior)**– GEMS is a relationship-building club program created especially for girls! GEMS Clubs are offered in local churches and other Christian organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Their mission is:

To bring girls into a living relationship with Jesus Christ

To teach girls to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God

To foster caring, supportive relationships between counselors and parents

The ministry is non-denominational with club participation in several different denominations and non-denominational churches and other Christian organizations throughout the United States and Canada. GEMS has been recognized as the official youth serving agency for the Christian Reformed Church. Curriculum is developed from a reformed perspective.

## Offerings for upcoming weeks:

- 5/9 World Renew: Indian COVID Crisis
- 5/16 New Creation Home Ministries
- 5/23 PACRC Benevolent Fund
- 5/30 CRCNA Resonate Global Mission

## Announcements

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This Saturday at 10am please join us for a **wildflower walk** at Bedwell Bayfront Park! In the parking lot there is a structure for restrooms that can serve as an approximate meeting point, and the walking is planned to begin by 10:10. The walk will be about 2 miles on mostly flat terrain. As it may be windy and sunny, bring appropriate clothing/sun protection. Dogs are allowed on leash. If you have any questions, please contact Luke Seerveld (lseerveld@gmail.com) or Sharon Traeger (svhtraeger@gmail.com).

**Offering update: Next week's World Renew offering** has been updated to go directly toward their assistance in India's COVID crisis. The Deacons encourage and appreciate the congregation's attention and response to this crisis. Information from World Renew is included below:

India is currently experiencing a dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases that are threatening its healthcare system, claiming lives at an alarming rate, and leaving already vulnerable families in crisis. Right now, the hospitals have no more beds for the sick; the oxygen and drug supplies needed to treat COVID patients are in short supply, and every five minutes a COVID patient dies. Twenty percent of India's 1.3 billion population lives in extreme hunger, and they are struggling to feed their families and to protect their health.

Offerings will help World Renew to provide vulnerable families, in 15 communities where they work, with cash to use for urgent needs such as food or medicine. Hygiene kits that include essentials like masks and soap to protect their health will also be distributed. Your gift also helps to support the medical needs of a rural community of 5,000 people.

**A note from Jessica Brandse Flores** regarding donations from our preschool:

Please pass along our gratitude for the donation of puzzles and games to everyone who was involved with the preschool. They came at a perfect time as we put together packets to send home for our students on distance learning and also supplemented our classroom supplies. The teachers were so happy to see everything, as were the students! Just wanted to let you know it all went to very good use and was very much appreciated!

Thank you,  
Jessica & the students and staff at Walton Special Center

## Calendar (5/2-5/9)

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*If you would like further details regarding how to participate in any of the below activities, please email [info@pacrc.org](mailto:info@pacrc.org).*



- 5/2 (Sunday) **Fellowship hour** via Zoom at 11:45am
- 5/2 (Sunday) **Membership Class** via Zoom at 12:15pm
- 5/5 (Wednesday) **Adult Bible Study** via Zoom at 7:00pm
- 5/8 (Saturday) **Wildflower Walk** at 10:00am, Bedwell Bayfront Park
- 5/9 (Sunday) **Adult Sunday School** via Zoom at 9:00am
- 5/9 (Sunday) **Fellowship hour** via Zoom at 11:45am
- 5/9 (Sunday) **Young Adult Bible Study** via Zoom at 1:30pm

## Birthdays

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None this week.

## Anniversaries

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