

PALO ALTO CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Easter
April 25, 2021



Gathering: God's People Together



PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 24:7-10, NIV

*Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

Who is this King of glory?

*The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.*

**Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is he, this King of glory?

**The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.**

OPENING PRAYER

based on Ephesians 1:3-18

*All glorious God, we give you thanks.
In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you have given us every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly realms.
You chose us, before the world was made,
to be your holy people, without fault in your sight.
You adopted us as your children in Christ.
You have set us free by his blood;
you have forgiven our sins.
You have made known to us your secret purpose,
to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ.
You have given us your Holy Spirit,
the seal and pledge of our inheritance.
All praise and glory be yours, O God,*

**for the richness of your grace,
for the splendor of your gifts,
for the wonder of your love.
Amen.**

HYMN (#542)

All Glory Be to God on High

All glory be to God on high, and peace on earth from heaven,
and God's goodwill unfailingly be to his people given.
Almighty God, you are our King:
we worship you, our thanks we bring, we praise you for your glory.

O Lamb of God, Lord Jesus Christ, whom God the Father gave us,
who for the world was sacrificed upon the cross to save us,
at God's right hand you intercede
for those who for your mercy plead; receive the prayer we offer.

You only are the Holy One who came for our salvation,
and only you are God's true Son who was before creation.
You only, Christ, as Lord we own,
and with the Spirit you alone share in the Father's glory.

Renewal: Washed by God's Grace



CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts:

We confess that we have not been good stewards of the life you have given us.

**You have provided us with sound minds,
but we have been careless about what we put into them
and how we use them.**

We have abused the health and strength of our bodies with harmful habits and poor choices.

We have starved our spirits of daily nourishment from your Word.

*You have equipped us with talents and abilities meant for building your kingdom,
but we have not put these talents and abilities to work for you.*

Many of our strengths go unused or misused:

intellectual and emotional strengths,

financial or physical strengths,

creative abilities, mechanical abilities, leadership abilities.

Forgive us for the misuse of the gifts you give.

Forgive us for being slow to seek your will

and reluctant to follow it when we do.

Empower us with your Holy Spirit,

that we may become the people you have called us to be.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

ASSURANCE AND GRATITUDE

from Psalm 103

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are high above the earth so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us." Know that these words are fulfilled in Jesus Christ, in whom we receive the forgiveness of sins.

GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES

Psalm 37:1-17

Word: God Speaks, We Respond

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

Landon Sterk

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER



HYMN (421)

Up to You I Lift My Eyes

Up to you I lift my eyes,
high enthroned above the skies:
teach me, Lord, to follow you,
see your hand in all I do.

As a servant watches still,
set to know his master's will:
so we fix our eyes on you,
seek your hand in all we do.

As a maid receives command
from her gracious mistress' hand:
so, our God, we look to you,
seek your hand in all we do.

When in arrogance despised,
when rebuffed or victimized—
we seek mercy, Lord from you:
be our guide in all we do.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Heavenly Father,
in our humility, may your glory gleam more brightly,
and in our smallness, may the world be drawn to your greatness.
Likewise we pray for humble hearts and minds
that the light of your Word may transform our spirits
and that in our meekness, you would be magnified.
Amen.*

SERMON

The Beatitudes: Blessed are the Nobodies

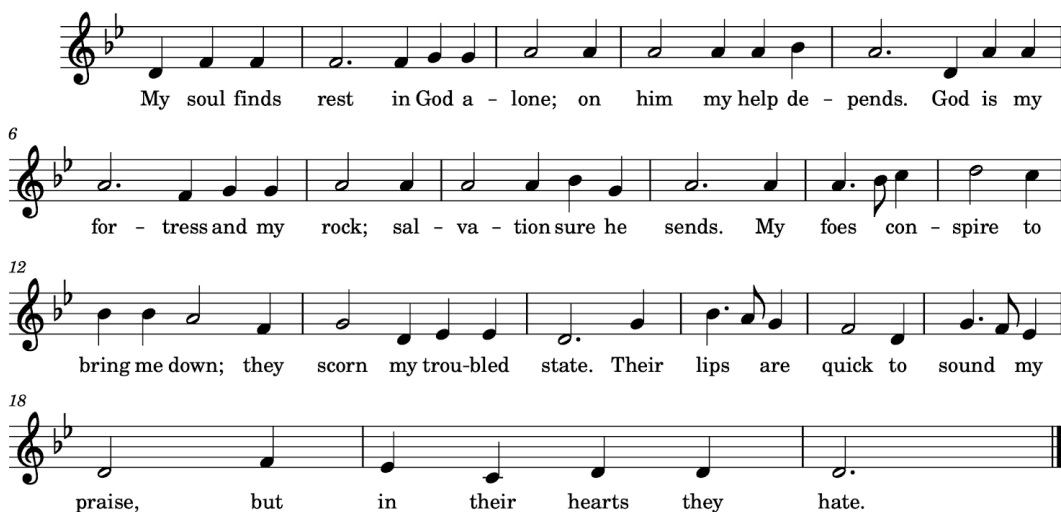
Matthew 5:1-5

HYMN (#435 / 367; see below)

My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone

David Je. Diephouse/The Iona Community

Thomas Tallis



My soul finds rest in God a - lone; on him my help de - pends. God is my

6 for - tress and my rock; sal - va - tion sure he sends. My foes con - spire to

12 bring me down; they scorn my trou-bled state. Their lips are quick to sound my

18 praise, but in their hearts they hate.

Find rest, my soul, in God alone; on him my hope depends.
God is my fortress and my rock; salvation sure he sends.
My aid and honor come from God, my refuge strong and sure.
Let all God's servants trust the LORD; in him we are secure.

Your faithful love surpasses life, evoking all my praise.
Through every day, to bless your name, my hands in joy I'll raise.
My deepest needs you satisfy as with a sumptuous feast.
So, on my lips and in my heart, your praise has never ceased.

Throughout the night I lie in bed and call you, Lord, to mind;
in darkest hours I meditate how God, my strength, is kind.
Beneath the shadow of your wing, I live and feel secure;
and daily, as I follow close, your right hand keeps me sure.

Sending: God Goes with Us



SENDING PRAYER

*Mighty God and Redeemer of the broken,
Lord Sabaoth and friend of sinners,
be our strength in the days that lie before us.
May we not grasp desperately at worldly power or human clout
for fulfillment or gain,
but humbly trust with confidence in you, our solid Rock,
in whom there is no variation or shadow of turning,
to be our joy and our salvation.*
In Christ's name we pray, amen.

BLESSING

HYMN (#776)

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly powers no thanks to them abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

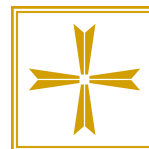
POSTLUDE

Participants, Music, Art & Liturgy



Cover	Paramentics, <i>Sermon on the Mount</i>
Prelude	Barbara Hull, trumpet; Gretchen Hull, piano: <i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i> , arr. Daniel J. Fortune
Liturgy	Parts of our liturgies are selected or adapted from <i>The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition</i>
Pastor	Rev. Rich Loerop
Reader	Sharon Traeger
Hymns	The Hull and Sterk families
Postlude	Barbara Hull, trumpet; Gretchen Hull, organ: <i>Trumpet Tune</i> in D Major by David N. Johnson

Offering



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.

Bread for the World – The Benevolent Fund of our congregation provides financial help, when needed, to members of our church family. In addition, the fund helps deacons arrange for material assistance for those in our community who request the church's aid.

Offerings for upcoming weeks:

- 5/2 GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior)
- 5/9 World Renew
- 5/16 New Creation Home Ministries
- 5/23 PACRC Benevolent Fund

Announcements



Reminder:

Votes on the reopening proposal are **due today**.

Notes from meeting of the **PACRC Council on April 13, 2021**

1. **Pastoral search:** The search committee had its first meeting on March 25 and met again on April 16. Don Sterk will serve as chair, Elliot Fiske as secretary, and Jan Seerveld and Jennifer Baham as prayer coordinators. The group's next task will be to decide on the process and timeframe for engaging the congregation in discerning where we are now, where God is calling us to go, and how that calling shapes our vision of our next pastor.
2. **In-person worship:** Council reviewed recommendations from the Reopening Task Force for resuming in-person worship and discussed service schedules for the other congregations sharing our worship center. A proposal has been sent under separate cover for congregational approval. Please submit your vote on the proposal no later than Sunday, April 25.
3. **Congregational meeting:** The annual congregational meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 7. The agenda, council candidates, and suggested budget will be circulated after the May council meeting.
4. **Operation Vibrancy:** Please see the announcement in this week's bulletin for an update on numerous OpVib activities. Council is grateful for the congregation's support and involvement!
5. **Facilities:** A new refrigerator has been purchased for the parsonage; the previous unit would have required an expensive new compressor to repair. Painting and refurbishment of the cabinets in the Sunday School rooms is complete. The leak in the church roof has been repaired. The bathroom renovation project will soon begin, starting with the modification to the maintenance closet for storage of the folding tables.

Save the date: Details will follow regarding a wildflower walk at 10am on Saturday May 8th.

Calendar (April)

If you would like further details regarding how to participate in any of the below activities, please email info@pacrc.org.



4/25 (Sunday) **Adult Sunday School** via Zoom at 9:00am

4/25 (Sunday) **Fellowship hour** via Zoom at 11:45am

4/25 (Sunday) **Young Adult Bible Study** via Zoom at 1:30pm

4/28 (Wednesday) **Care Group** via Zoom at 7:30pm

5/2 (Sunday) **Communion** this week.

5/2 (Sunday) **Adult Sunday School** via Zoom at 9:00am

5/2 (Sunday) **Fellowship hour** via Zoom at 11:45am

Birthdays

4/26 John Wynbeek
5/1 Yosua Kristanto
5/1 Keith Olthof

Anniversaries

