

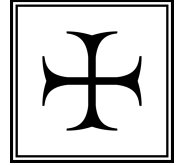
PALO ALTO CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER

April 11, 2021



Gathering: God's People Together



PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

*This is the good news—
the grave is empty;
Christ is risen.*

Hallelujah!

*This is the good news—
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.*

Hallelujah!

*This is the good news—
once we were no people;
now we are God's people.*

Hallelujah!

*This is the good news—
Christ reigns as King,
and we are his children.*

Hallelujah!

OPENING PRAYER

*Glorious Lord of life,
by the mighty resurrection of your Son
you overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new.*

Rejoice, heavenly powers!

Sing, choirs of angels!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

*Radiant Shepherd of our souls,
Having humbled yourself even to the point of death,
you in your holiness and power
could not be restrained by the grave.*

Rejoice, heavenly powers!

Sing, choirs of angels!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

*Holy Spirit, who guides us into truth,
fill our hearts with joy and thanks,
that we may humbly follow Christ
and joyfully sing your praise this day.*

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

HYMN (#206)

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Renewal: Washed by God's Grace

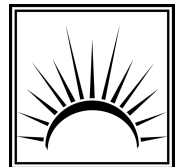
CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death.

We hear this good news

but don't always embrace this freedom you give.



Doubt and fear continue to plague us.

We are more concerned about ourselves than the poor and hungry.

We pass by those who mourn.

We are numb to the cries of the oppressed.

We are indifferent to calls for peace.

Forgive us God of mercy.

Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new,

that we may know the joy of being new creations in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

ASSURANCE AND GRATITUDE

The good news of Jesus Christ is, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Know that in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and we are given life with him.

GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES

Galatians 5:16-26

Word: God Speaks, We Respond



OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

HYMN (763)

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Blessed Jesus, at your word we are gathered all to hear you.

Let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear you.

By your gospel pure and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night with your beams of truth unclouded.

You alone to God can win us; you must work all good within us.

Glorious Lord, yourself impart; Light of Light, from God proceeding,
 open lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit's leading.
 Hear the cry your church now raises; Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*God of life,
 your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of Scripture,
 your Spirit raised Jesus from the dead,
 and your Spirit draws us to Christ,
 helping us to acknowledge him as Lord.
 By the power of that same Holy Spirit,
 may you now grant us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope,
 that God may be glorified in our lives
 and his light lifted up in this world.
 Amen.*

SERMON

The Beatitudes: Blessed Are the Spiritual Zeros

Matthew 5:3

HYMN

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y weak and wound ed,
 Refrain: I will a - rise and go to Je - sus, he will em - brace me

sick and sore; Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y,
 in his arms. In the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten

love, and power.
 thou - sand charms!

Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
true belief and true repentance,
every grace that brings you nigh. *{Refrain}*

Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth
is to feel your need of him. *{Refrain}*

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all. *{Refrain}*

Here we see the bread of life,
waters flowing from above.
To the feast come, ready, knowing:
Earth's no sorrows heaven can't remove. *{Refrain}*

I will rise and go to Jesus!
He will save me from my sin.
By the riches of his merit,
there is joy and life in him. *{Refrain}*

Sending: God Goes with Us

SENDING PRAYER

based on Ephesians 4:1-3, NRSV

*O Lord, though you were rich,
for our sakes you became poor.
Grant therefore that as you have given yourself to us,
we may now give ourselves for others.
By your good grace, transform us,*



*that we might lead a life worthy of the calling
to which we have been called,
with all humility and gentleness,
with patience, bearing with one another in love,
making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.*

In Christ's name,

Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN (#207)

Come to Us, Beloved Stranger

Come to us, beloved Stranger, as you came that Easter day.
Walk with us to our Emmaus, for we need you still today.
Come to us when we are broken, when our dearest hopes are lost,
speak to us the prophets' message you fulfilled upon the cross.

Stay with us and give us blessing, that our hopes again may rise.
Offer us your broken body; open our unseeing eyes.
Come to us, God's love embodied; touch our hearts with burning flame.
Risen Christ, once dead, now living, come to us through joy, through pain.

We would never fail to see you as you walk with us each day.
As a friend and not a stranger you would join us on our way.
Help us trust that through your mercy we can doubt and fear transcend,
and to others be a blessing. Keep us faithful till life's end.

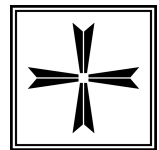
POSTLUDE

Participants, Music, Art & Liturgy



<i>Cover</i>	Paramentics, <i>The Sermon on the Mount</i>
<i>Prelude</i>	Barbara Hull, trumpet; Gretchen Hull, organ: "I Know that my Redeemer Liveth" by Georg Friedrich Händel, arr. Stephen DeCesare
<i>Liturgy</i>	Parts of our liturgies are selected or adapted from <i>The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition</i>
<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Rich Loerop
<i>Reader</i>	Ed Hull
<i>Hymns</i>	The Hull family
<i>Postlude</i>	Valerie Sterk, organ; <i>Festival Alleluia</i> , by Dan Miller

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.

CRCNA Resonate Global Mission – Two of our missionaries live and work in West Africa among a Muslim people group numbering about 20 million scattered throughout the mountainous countryside, often in very remote villages. As they share Christ with these rural people, they ask that you "devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we can proclaim the mystery of Christ." (Colossians 4:2-3a)

Offerings for upcoming weeks:

- 4/18 Climate Witness Project
- 4/25 Bread for the World
- 5/2 GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior)
- 5/9 World Renew

Announcements



Council will meet on Tuesday and will consider **nominees for elder and deacon**. If people would like to propose a nominee, they should provide the name to a council member.

Calendar

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



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

4/11 (Sunday) **Young Adult Bible Study** at 1:30pm via Zoom

4/13 (Tuesday) Council meeting considering **nominees for elder and deacon**

4/21 (Wednesday) **Adult Bible Study** at 7:00pm via Zoom

4/18 (Sunday) **Adult Sunday school** at 9:00 via Zoom

4/18 (Sunday) **Fellowship hour** via Zoom at 11:45am

Birthdays

4/11 Bill Snow

4/16 Greta Stam

Anniversaries

