

# PALO ALTO CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Sixth Sunday in Easter  
May 9, 2021



# Gathering: God's People Together

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PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 145:1-9, ESV

*I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.*

**Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.*

*One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.*

*On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.*

*They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.*

*They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.*

*The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

**The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.**

OPENING PRAYER

*Lord God,  
truly the marks of your measureless mercy  
meet our eyes at every turn.*

*They meet us where your creation gleams with your glory  
in the rising of the sun and the distant light of the stars.*

*They meet us in Christly acts of compassion and love,  
in healing and in comfort,  
in forgiveness and reconciliation,*

*providence and provision,  
the birth of new life and the maturing of godly wisdom.  
For this unmerited mercy we thank you, O God.  
May you transform our hearts and minds  
to be more like you as we worship you today.  
In Christ's name we pray,  
**Amen.***

HYMN (#575)

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters draw near;  
praise him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning,  
shelt'ring you under his wings, oh, so gently sustaining:  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
as with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

## **Renewal: Washed by God's Grace**

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CALL TO CONFESSION



## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Heavenly Father, being a child of parents and being a parent of children is a tough job. As we come before you, we confess that we have not always loved our parents as they deserved.*

**Sometimes we rebelled against them.**

**Sometimes we fought with them.**

**Sometimes we dishonored them with our behavior.**

*We also confess that as parents we have not always given our children what they deserved.*

**Sometimes we were not there for them when they needed us.**

**Sometimes we didn't spend enough time helping them or guiding them.**

**Sometimes we didn't take their words and feelings very seriously.**

*We confess before you, heavenly Father, our failures as children and as parents.*

**Please forgive our sins**

**and fill us with your Holy Spirit and your wisdom**

**so that we can do better at being parents and children.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus.**

**Amen.**

## HYMN (254 in Psalter Hymnal)

*Remember Not, O God*

Remember not, O God, the sins of long ago;  
in tender mercy visit us, distressed and humbled low.

O Lord, our Savior, help, and glorify your name;  
deliver us from all our sins and take away our shame.

Then, safe within your fold, we will exalt your name;  
our thankful hearts with songs of joy your goodness will proclaim.

## ASSURANCE AND GRATITUDE

from Psalm 103

*Our assurance of pardon comes to us from the prophet Isaiah who wrote: "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? ... As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you, says the Lord." This comfort finds its deepest*

*fulfillment in the forgiveness of sins Jesus provides. Know that in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven and you are given life in his name.*

**Praise be to him!**

GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES

Ephesians 5:1-2

## **Word: God Speaks, We Respond**

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OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

Landon Sterk

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

HYMN (757)



*O Word of God Incarnate*

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the Scripture's page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The church from you, dear Master, received this gift divine;  
and still the light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass that all life's voyage through,  
mid mists and rocks and quicksands, still guides, O Christ to you.

O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold  
to bear before the nations your true light as of old  
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace  
till, clouds and darkness ended, we see you face to face.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*O gracious God and most merciful Father,  
true understanding of your holy Word helps us to grow*

*into the fulness of the salvation you so freely offer in Christ.  
Grant to all of us that our hearts, being freed from worldly affairs,  
may hear and grasp your holy Word with all diligence and faith,  
that we may rightly understand your gracious will,  
cherish it, and live by it with all earnestness, to your praise and honor.  
Through Christ our Lord,  
**Amen.***

SERMON

**The Beatitudes: Blessed are the Merciful**  
Matthew 5:1-7

HYMN (#689)

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind;  
and the heart of the eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful, let us take you at your word,  
and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

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

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SENDING PRAYER

based on Jude 20-23

*Father in Heaven,  
may we now follow your exhortation to us  
to build ourselves up in the most holy faith,  
praying in the Holy Spirit,  
and keeping ourselves in the love of God.  
May we wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life,  
showing mercy to our neighbors with godly fear.*



In Christ's name we pray,  
Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN (#934)

*God of Mercy, God of Grace*

God of mercy, God of grace, show the brightness of your face.  
Shine upon us, Savior, shine; fill your world with light divine;  
all your saving health extend unto earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise you, Lord; be by all that live adored.  
Let the nations shout and sing glory to their gracious King;  
at your feet their tribute pay, and your holy will obey.

Let the people praise you, Lord; earth shall then its fruits afford.  
Unto us your blessing give; we to you devoted live,  
all below and all above, one in joy and light and love.

POSTLUDE

## Participants, Music, Art & Liturgy

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| <i>Cover</i>    | Paramentics, <i>The Good Samaritan</i>  |
| <i>Prelude</i>  | Valerie Sterk, Organ: <i>Organ Voluntary in C Major</i> (Adagio—<br>Vivace), by John Stanley      |
| <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>   | Betsy Lindemulder   |
| <i>Hymns</i>    | The Hull family   |
| <i>Postlude</i> | Valerie Sterk, organ: <i>Prelude and Fugue in B-flat major</i> , by J.S. Bach                     |

