



Entry into the City, 1990, John August Swanson

First Congregational Church of Palo Alto United Church of Christ

*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”*

An Open and Affirming Congregation
www.fccpa.org • 650-856-6662

Palm Sunday
April 5, 2020

Order of Worship for April 5, 2020

Prelude

Call to Worship

Psalm 118

Give thanks to the LORD because he is good,
because his faithful love lasts forever.

Let Israel say it:

“God’s faithful love lasts forever!”

Open the gates of righteousness for me
so I can come in and give thanks to the LORD!

This is the LORD’s gate;
those who are righteous enter through it.

I thank you because you answered me,
because you were my saving help.

The stone rejected by the builders
is now the main foundation stone!

This has happened because of the LORD;
it is astounding in our sight!

This is the day the LORD acted;
we will rejoice and celebrate in it!

LORD, please save us!
LORD, please let us succeed!

The one who enters in the LORD’s name is blessed;
we bless all of you from the LORD’s house.

The LORD is God!
He has shined a light on us!

So lead the festival offering with ropes
all the way to the horns of the altar.

You are my God—I will give thanks to you!
You are my God—I will lift you up high!

Give thanks to the LORD because he is good,
because his faithful love lasts forever.

Opening Hymn

Jesus in Glory Comes

(You are invited to wave your palms and join in singing the chorus. Soloists will sing the verses.)

Chorus: *Jesus in glory comes, the earth now rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.*

Welcome and Announcements

Children's Story

Clarence the Camel and Todd Erickson

Musical Response

"Allegro" from *Concerto in G*
Ching Shih and Emma Tseng

Oscar Rieding

Reading of the Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

Sabbath Poetry of Lent

Slowly, slowly, they return by Wendell Berry
Silent Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Musical Response

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

(You are invited to use the language that is most meaningful to you.)

Our Father (Mother/Creator), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reading of the Gospel

Matthew 26:17-20, 26-30

Sermon

Save Us!

Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman



A Choice, 2018, Lauren Wright Pittman

Musical Response

Ride On, King Jesus

arr. Hall Johnson

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation & Prayer of Consecration
Sharing of Bread and Cup
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction

Postlude

Joe Guthrie

Virtual Coffee Hour

You are invited to join in conversation with others after worship!

Participating in Today's Service:

Senior Pastor:	Rev. David Howell
Associate Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman
Dir. Children's Ministries:	Todd Erickson
Music Director:	Joe Guthrie
Choral Director:	Jenny Matteucci
Accompanist:	Daniel Lockert
Special Music:	Ching Shih and Emma Tseng
Technical Assistance:	Ben Roberts

Giving: Our church activities have moved online, but they are even more important than ever. Your financial support for the church in this time is crucial to maintain our staff and our care for our community. One new way of giving is that you are invited to give by text. To give via text message, text "Give 25" (or any amount) to 650-459-0688. You'll be prompted to complete a quick setup process. To skip this step in the future, create an account when prompted. You may also continue to give online, through automated giving, or through the mail. Please visit the giving page at fccpa.org for more information.

Holy Week Worship

- **Lenten Vespers** on Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. You are invited to join us online for a reflective service, with scripture, prayer, poetry, and musical reflections by Joe Guthrie. Find the link in the enews or use Zoom.us with meeting number 659-440-710.
- **Contemplative Prayer** on Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. After a brief introduction, we will sit in silence for 20 minutes, resting in the presence of God. Find the link in the enews or use Zoom.us with meeting number 228-709-107.
- **Maundy Thursday** worship at 7:30 p.m. Find the link in the enews or use Zoom.us with meeting number 390-989-938.
- **Good Friday** worship at 7:30 p.m. Find the link in the enews or use Zoom.us with meeting number 390-989-938.
- **Easter Sunday** worship at 10:00 a.m. Find the link in the enews or use Zoom.us with meeting number 670-796-753.

Happening Online

- **Backyard Sunday School:** Join Teacher Todd after worship today and every Sunday online in the Backyard for songs, a story, and some fun together! Find the link in the enews or Backyard update or use Zoom.us with meeting number 816-382-029.
- **Impressionism:** Join Kathy for an art talk online today at 1:00 as she talks about Impressionism, specifically the transitional years of 1874-1876.. Find the link in the enews or use Zoom.us with meeting number 513-273-903.
- **Climate Conversation:** The Climate Conversation group hosts a 30-minute discussion via Zoom on Monday evenings, ongoing, at 7:30 p.m. All are invited to join us for the event. Find the link in the enews or use Zoom.us with meeting number 969-553-829.
- **Storytime for Families:** Join Teacher Todd and Pastor Dave for Storytime, Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. online. Find the link in the enews or Backyard update or use Zoom.us with meeting number 846-419-541.
- **Choir Zooms!** The choir continues to practice via Zoom on Thursday nights 7-8:10. "Rehearsal" commences with a 30 minute vocal masterclass, and the choir will "sing" together after that from 7:40-8:10. If you are interested in joining us, please email Jenny Matteucci.

Easter Lily Dedications: Every year we invite you to sponsor and dedicate a lily for our Easter service. This year, we may not be able to have all those lilies, and we will most likely be gathering remotely for Easter worship, but we still want you to be able to offer up your prayers and dedications. If you would like to offer a brief dedication to someone, we will list it in our Easter Order of Worship. It can be a word of gratitude, a prayer of hope, or a remembrance of a loved one. Please limit it your dedication to about 10 words maximum and email it to office@fccpa.org.

Hotel de Zink continues: We are continuing to host Hotel de Zink at our church through the month of April. The usual April host, Highway Palo Alto Community in Christ, is now providing meals to our guests. The shelter is now opening at 5:00 p.m. each evening and our guests leave by 7:00 a.m. each morning. A LifeMoves staff person is on-site at all times. Our facility is especially well suited to host our unhoused guests because our showers and washer/dryer are available to the guests and because the size of our Social Hall facilitates social distancing. LifeMoves is exploring a variety of possibilities for how best to operate the shelter during this challenging time and we will update the church periodically.

Share Your Talents/Interests with the Congregation: If you would like to invite the congregation into an online interest group or class you have developed during this shelter-in-place time, contact eileen@fccpa.org. She will include these offerings in next week's enews.

Food Donations Needed: In this time of special need, the Outreach Board has requested that our congregation make special food donations to The Ecumenical Hunger Program

(EHP) of East Palo Alto so they can distribute the items to their clients in need. (The food should be non-perishable, healthy, and snack size.) If you order online, deliver to EHP at 2411 Pulgas Ave. East Palo Alto, Ca 94303. If you buy the items yourself, please bring them to Tom or Debby Martin at 2204 Greer Rd. Palo Alto, 650 857-1339. They will ensure the food gets to EHP.

Wendell Berry and the Sabbath Poetry of Lent: We are continuing to reflect on Wendell Berry's Sabbath poetry during our Lenten journey, using the study guide we distributed at the beginning of Lent and his book *This Day: Collected and New Sabbath Poems*.

Slowly, slowly, they return
To the small woodland let alone:
Great trees, outspreading and upright,
Apostles of the living light.

Patient as stars, they build in air
Tier after tier a timbered choir,
Stout beams upholding weightless grace
Of song, a blessing on this place.

They stand in waiting all around,
Uprisings of their native ground,
Downcomings of the distant light;
They are the advent they await.

Receiving sun and giving shade,
Their life's a benefaction made,
And is a benediction said
Over the living and the dead.

In fall their brightened leaves, released,
Fly down the wind, and we are pleased
To walk on radiance, amazed.
O light come down to earth, be praised!

- Wendell Berry

Welcome!

We are so grateful that you have chosen to worship with us today. Our hope is that you will find a warm welcome here and an experience of God's presence as we worship together. We worship regularly at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning.

Backyard Sunday School classes for children will meet online after worship. You can find the link in our enews or weekly Backyard update, or you can join on Zoom.us with meeting number 816-382-029.

Contact our Pastors: If you would like to learn more about the church or talk with one of our pastors, please contact us at David@fccpa.org or Eileen@fccpa.org. We would be very glad to talk with you. For Pastoral Emergencies, you may contact Rev. David Howell at 650-906-7284 or Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman at 831-345-3830.

Do you get our weekly electronic newsletter? It's the best way to stay up-to-date on church events. Contact office@fccpa.org to sign up to receive it.

Open and Affirming Statement, adopted in 2007: As we, the members of the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, seek to embody God's extravagant welcome to all, we declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, welcoming into the full life and ministry of our church all who are LGBTQ+.