



*God Created Man, 1930*  
Marc Chagall



*"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](http://www.fccpa.org) • 650-856-6662

Ash Wednesday  
February 14, 2024

## Order of Worship February 14, 2024

*\*An asterisk invites you to rise as you are able.*

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

from Joel 2

Leader: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people.

People: **We come in true repentance, humble and proud, tentative and resolved, joyful and sorrow-filled.**

Leader: Return to God with all your hearts.

People: **We turn to God, repenting the wrong we have done and the good we have left undone.**

Leader: Rend your hearts and not your garments.

People: **God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

### Solo

*Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful*  
Lauren Biglow, Mezzo Soprano

Haugen

### Welcome

### Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Psalm 51:1-17

### Prayer of Confession

Rev. David Howell

### Hymn #198

***Jesus, Remember Me***

*soloist sings first time, followed by all singing together five times*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

### Imposition of Ashes

### Assurance of Pardon

**Musical Response**

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*  
Lauren Biglow, Mezzo Soprano

Arr. Larson

**Reading of the Gospel**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Lenten Reflection**

Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman

**Hymn #311*****Let Us Break Bread Together***

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
Let us break bread together on our knees,  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,  
Let us praise God together on our knees,  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O, Lord, have mercy on me.

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Invitation & Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Music            *soloist sings first time,*  
   *followed by all singing together until all are served*

Ubi caritas et amor, Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Closing Hymn*****The Glory of These Forty Days***

The glory of these forty days  
we celebrate with songs of praise;  
For Christ, by whom all things were made,  
Himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw  
the loving God who gave the law;  
And to Elijah, fasting, came  
the steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight,  
delivered from the lions' might;  
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became  
the herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant that we like them be true,  
consumed in fast and prayer with you;  
our spirits strengthen with your grace,  
and give us joy to see your face.

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

### **Participating in Today's Service:**

Senior Pastor:	Rev. David Howell
Associate Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman
Director of Music:	Joe Guthrie
Tech and A/V Support:	Steve Terry, Chris Beer, Ben Roberts, David Morrison, Robert Peng, Greg Evans, Bruce Douglas, Steve Ketchpel

If you are visiting us today, welcome! You can visit our **Welcome Table** in the narthex after worship to pick up a gift bag with information about our church, some fair trade chocolate, and a coupon for a specialty coffee in Sacred Grounds, our café in the Social Hall.

**Ways to Give:** You can contribute financially to the church by: dropping a gift in the red box at the welcome table, mailing a check to the church address, giving online at [www.fccpa.org](http://www.fccpa.org), texting "Give 25" (or any amount you choose) to 650-459-0688, or scanning the QR code to give via PayPal.



## Happening at FCCPA

- **Chancel Choir** rehearses Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
- **Congregational Concert Chorale** rehearses Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.
- **Eryl Aynsley Memorial:** Saturday February 17 at 2:00 p.m. in our sanctuary.
- **Guest Preacher:** On Sunday, February 18, we will welcome David Vasquez-Levy, President of the Pacific School of Religion, as our guest preacher.
- **Caregivers' Group:** Those who are caregivers are invited to a support group gathering every other Monday, 11:00-12:30 p.m., in the Casaday Library. Upcoming meeting is Monday, Feb. 19.
- **Greeter Sign-Up:** Welcome others to worship by signing up at <https://bit.ly/FCCPA-Greeter>.
- **Hotel de Zink:** Each year during March, our church hosts [Hotel de Zink](#), an emergency shelter program. As in previous years, we are looking for volunteers to drop off evening dinners. We also seek monetary donations to purchase breakfast, lunch, and other items for Hotel de Zink guests. [Sign up to deliver a meal](#)—it's easy! Monetary donations can be made through the [FCCPA website](#). Please indicate your donation should go to Hotel de Zink.

## Coming in Lent:

- **Lenten Bible Study:** Join Eileen Altman on Tuesday evenings, February 20 and 27 at 7:30 for a Bible study based on our Lenten Devotional, *Climate + Faith: How We Can Help Meet the Greatest Challenge in Human History*.
- **Chagall and the Spirit of Lent:** Join Dave Howell for a visual tour through the art of Chagall on Tuesday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. as part of our Lenten journey.
- **Lenten Services:** Our beloved tradition of Lenten Services featuring plainsong, piano reflections, scripture, Communion and candlelight will return for three Tuesdays, March 12, 19 at 26 at 7:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary.
- **Maundy Thursday:** Worship in our Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. on March 28, featuring art and music of Holy Week.
- **Good Friday:** Worship in our Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. on March 29, featuring our choir and a reading of the passion.
- **Easter:** Worship at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. on March 31 featuring brass, timpani, our choirs, and the Hallelujah Chorus.

## 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 here in our sanctuary.



Our sanctuary also features an inductive loop system that works with hearing aids with a T-coil switch.

**Land Acknowledgement:** As a community dedicated in covenant to welcome and include all, we respectfully acknowledge the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula where we, in faith, now gratefully gather and worship. We lament the centuries of injustices committed against and endured by Indigenous peoples and recognize that injustices continue in the present. We invite all peoples to come together in full relationship with one another as we learn and adapt in our efforts to care for this land. We seek a deeper understanding of our relationship to the land and with the Bay Area Native peoples, one that promotes healing and justice within our faith community and the world beyond.

**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+.

**Looking for Zoom meeting links?** You can find them at [fccpa.org](https://fccpa.org) on the Calendar of Events page.

**Do you get our weekly "This Week at FCCPA" email newsletter?** It's the best way to stay up-to-date on church events. Contact [office@fccpa.org](mailto:office@fccpa.org) to sign up to receive it.

**Get social:** Follow [@FCCPA](#) on [Instagram](#) and [Threads](#) and like the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto on [Facebook](#) to interact with and share our content to extend our reach.

**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](mailto:David@fccpa.org) or [Eileen@fccpa.org](mailto:Eileen@fccpa.org). For pastoral emergencies, you may contact Rev. David Howell at 650-906-7284 or Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman at 831-345-3830.

## Let Us Break Bread Together

1. Let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)  
 2. Let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees;  
 3. Let us praise God to- geth-er on our knees;

Let us break bread to- geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)  
 Let us drink wine to- geth-er on our knees;  
 Let us praise God to- geth-er on our knees;

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris- ing sun,

O Lord, have mer- cy on me. (on me)

WORDS: African-American spiritual

MUSIC: African-American spiritual, arr. Carlton R. Young, 1964, adapt.

LET US BREAK BREAD

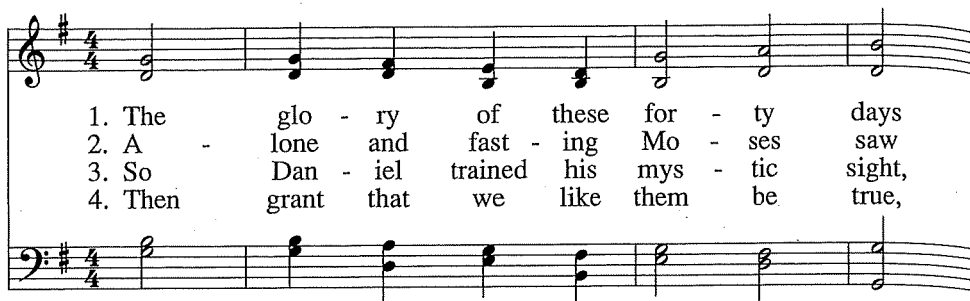
10 10 w. refrain

The earliest version of this spiritual consisted of stanza three, used to call slaves in Virginia to secret, unlawful meetings. The communion stanzas were added after the Civil War.

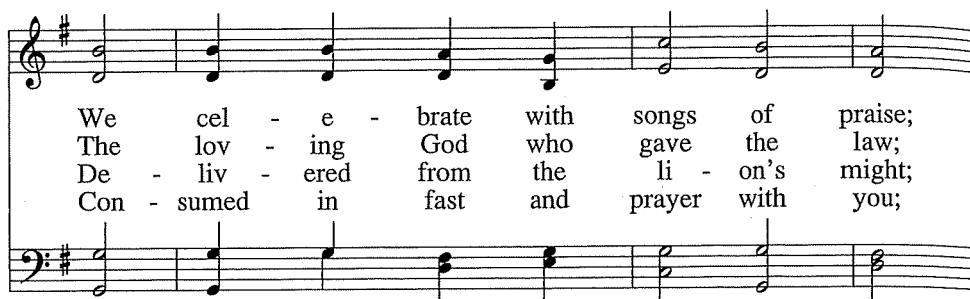
Arr. © 1965 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Co.

COMMUNION

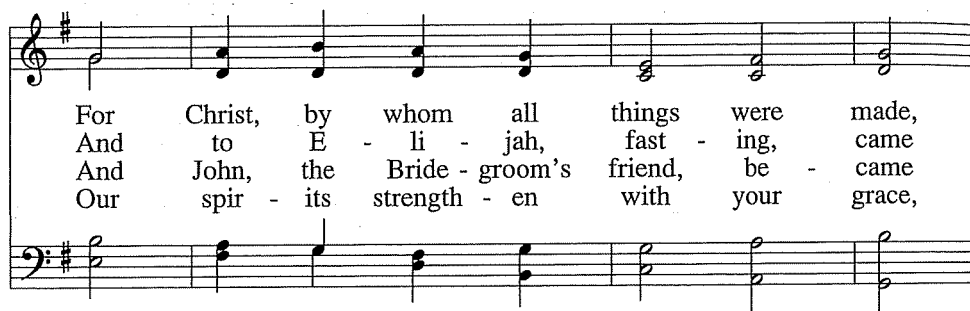
## 397 The Glory of These Forty Days



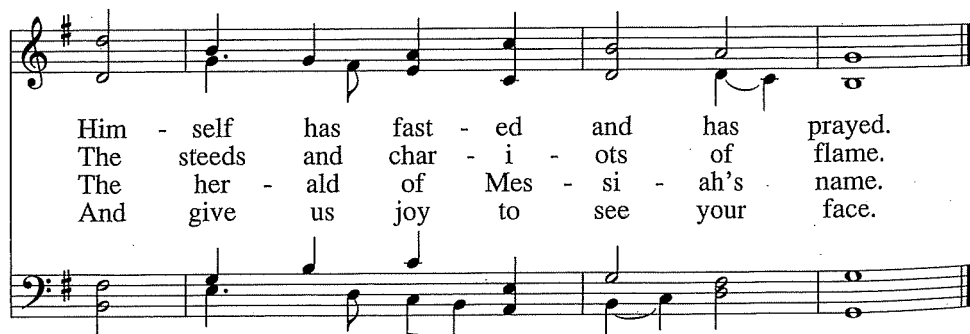
1. The glo - ry of these for - ty days  
 2. A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw  
 3. So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight,  
 4. Then grant that we like them be true,



We cel - e - brate with songs of praise;  
 The lov - ing God who gave the law;  
 De - liv - ered from the li - on's might;  
 Con - sumed in fast and prayer with you;



For Christ, by whom all things were made,  
 And to E - li - jah, fast - ing, came  
 And John, the Bride - groom's friend, be - came  
 Our spir - its strength - en with your grace,



Him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
 The steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
 The her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
 And give us joy to see your face.