

*The Good Shepherd*, Henry Ossawa Tanner 1922



*"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

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 21, 2024

## Order of Worship April 21, 2024

**Prelude**

*Sheep May Safely Graze*

Bach

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 23

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.

**People: You make me lie down in green pastures.**

Leader: You lead me beside still waters.

**People: You restore my soul.**

Leader: Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

**People: I fear no evil, for you are with me.**

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

**People: And I shall dwell in the house of God forever.**

**\*Opening Hymn #407 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing***

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I pause along my journey; by thy help thus far I've come;

And I hope, by thy great mercy, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

Came to rescue me from danger, gave his body, shed his blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am called to be!

Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

**Welcome and Announcements**

## **Welcoming New Members**

Lisa Carr, sponsored by Clare Warner

David Hsiao, sponsored by Rob Lenicheck

***The Salem Covenant of 1629:*** *We covenant with the Lord and with one another, and do bind ourselves in the presence of God to walk together in all his ways, according as he is pleased to reveal himself unto us in his blessed word of truth.*

## **Cherub Choir**

*This Little Light*

Directed by Emily Bender

## **Children's Story**

Clarence the Camel and Teacher Todd

## **Musical Response**

Tune: Ode to Joy

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise.  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
He who on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

## **Invitation to Offering**

Stewardship Speakers

Rev. Kevin Omi & Rev. Carol Barriger

## **Choral Offering**

*Lo, My Shepherd's Hand*

Haydn

## **Blessing Our Offerings**

## **Sung Response – The Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman

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

**Our Father (Mother/Parent/Creator/Great Spirit), 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

John 10:11-18

## Sermon

*How About a Mediocre Shepherd?*

Rev. David Howell

## \*Closing Hymn #363

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

*Refrain:*

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your people,  
ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.*

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,  
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? *(refrain)*

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,  
May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again. *(refrain)*

## Benediction & Choral Response

## Postlude

*Toccata Giocosa*

Martin

The flowers on the table are given in memory of Margo Ann Callard by the Terry family. The Memorial Candle is in gratitude for her life. She passed away on Tuesday, and we hold all who loved her in our prayers.

If you are visiting with 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 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.



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

Senior Pastor:	Rev. David Howell
Associate Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman
Dir. of Children's Ministries:	Todd Erickson
Director of Music:	Joe Guthrie
Choral Director:	Jenny Matteucci
Organist:	Daniel Lockert
Liturgist:	Lucinda Lenicheck
Ushers:	Tom & Rachel Kellerman
Welcome Table:	Cammy Sunde
Tech and A/V Support:	Steve Terry, Chris Beer, Ben Roberts, David Morrison, Robert Peng, Greg Evans, Bruce Douglas, Steve Ketchpel

### **Happening at FCCPA**

- **Backyard Sunday School:** Come to the Backyard for songs, a story, and some fun together following the Children's Story!
- The **Cherub Choir** (K-2) rehearses in Room 5 at 11:15 a.m. **Children's Choir** (grades 3-5) and **Youth Choir** (grades 6-12) rehearse at 11:15 am, Room 8.
- **New Members:** We will be welcoming new members today. If you would like to learn more about joining the church, please contact Pastor Dave Howell: [David@fccpa.org](mailto:David@fccpa.org).
- **A Conversation with Donna Norton:** After worship today, join us to hear from church member, Donna Norton, a founder and Executive VP of [MomsRising](http://MomsRising.com). Church member Patti Hanlon will interview her. Learn about how moms are making a difference online, and on the ground, across the nation to advocate for policies like early education, maternal health, and immigrant rights that lift families and mobilize their communities to vote.

- **Memorial:** We will have a memorial service for Marge Harris in our sanctuary on Friday, April 26 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Spring Musical Rehearsal** today at 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.
- **Confirmation Group meeting** in the Youth Room at 5:00 p.m.
- **Change the Story:** After worship on April 28, you are invited to meet Kiyoshi Taylor, with whom we are beginning a 6-month partnership as part of the [Change the Story](#) program, which helps young activists partner with like-minded faith communities. Kiyoshi is a co-founder of [Justice Vanguard](#) and a filmmaker focused on educating youth of color, capturing the wisdom of elders, and generating professional quality media that can be used in Justice Vanguard's education programs and beyond. At the forum, we will view together Kiyoshi's film "Midnight Train", the story of his grandfather's escape from being lynched in Georgia. We will also hear about the projects he is currently working on and how our congregation can support him in his work in the months to come.
- **Mental Health Allies meeting:** As members of the Body of Christ, we are all asked to help those in need. If you or a family member face a mental health issue, come to the monthly meeting of the Mental Allies group Sunday, April 21, after worship. We meet in the church library. All who attend agree to confidentiality.
- **Black Wealth Builders:** Home ownership is the greatest single factor in creating generational wealth. Over decades Black families have been systematically denied access to the resources needed to enter the housing market. BWB provides a way to participate in reparations for this longstanding injustice. On Sunday, May 5, we will have a forum following worship presented by UCC colleague Rev. Barry Cammer, describing this important program, how we can educate ourselves and participate.
- **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, April 22..
- **Spring Musical Rehearsal** Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.
- **Church Council** at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Chancel Choir** rehearses Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
- **Congregational Concert Chorale** rehearses Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.
- **Middle School Youth Group** meets on Friday at 6:00 p.m.
- **Spring Musical:** An intergenerational cast of over 50 children, youth, and adults will present the musical comedy *Eras of Esther*, the story of Esther featuring the

music of Taylor Swift. Performances are Saturday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 p.m.

- **Confirmation and Education Celebration:** Join us for worship on May 12 for Confirmation Sunday, when we welcome young people into full membership in the church.
- **Vacation Bible School:** VBS will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon, June 17 – 21. This is always one of the best weeks of the year! To learn more, contact Teacher Todd: [Todd@fccpa.org](mailto:Todd@fccpa.org)

## **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.

Large Print Orders of Worship and Hearing Assistance Devices are available from our ushers. 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+.

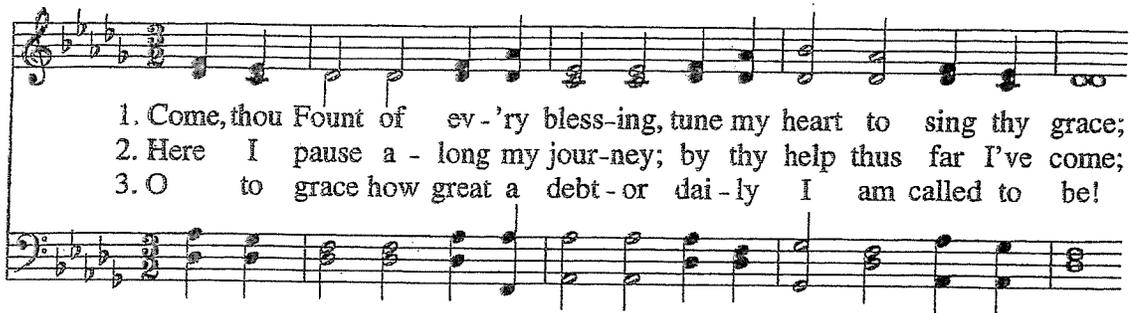
**Looking for Zoom meeting links?** You can find them at [fccpa.org](http://fccpa.org) on the Calendar of Events page.

**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.

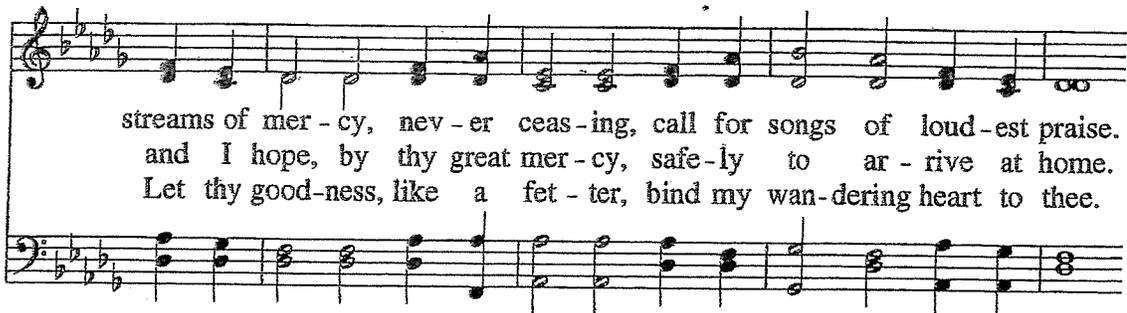
**Get social:** Follow @FCCPA on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and like the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto on [Facebook](#) to interact with and share our content to extend our reach.

**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.

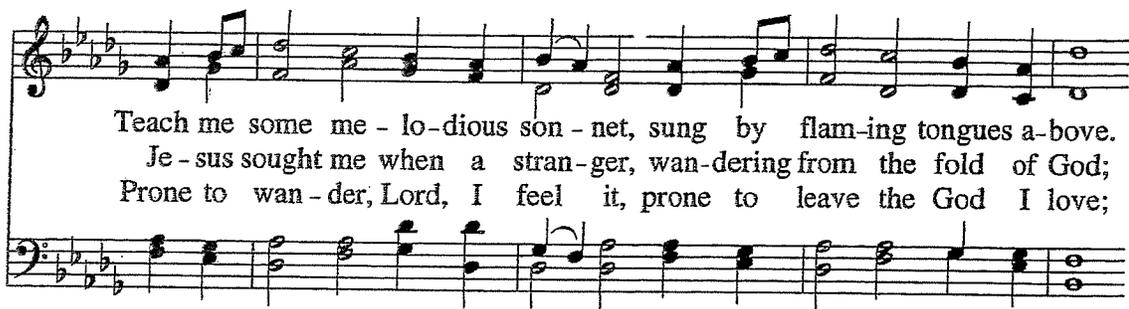
## Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



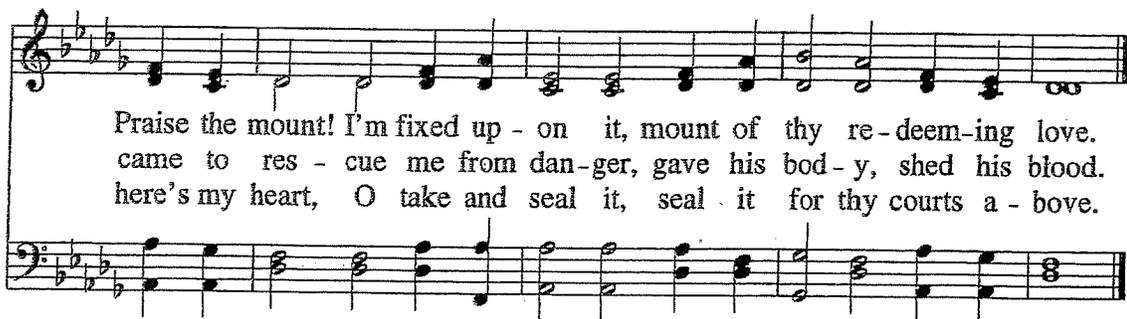
1. Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2. Here I pause a - long my jour-ney; by thy help thus far I've come;  
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am called to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy great mer - cy, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.  
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



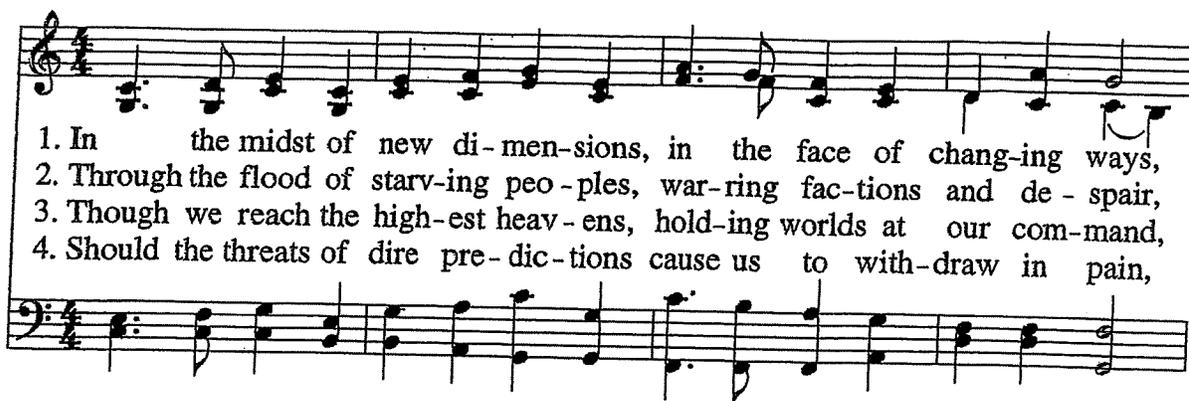
Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deem - ing love.  
 came to res - cue me from dan - ger, gave his bod - y, shed his blood.  
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

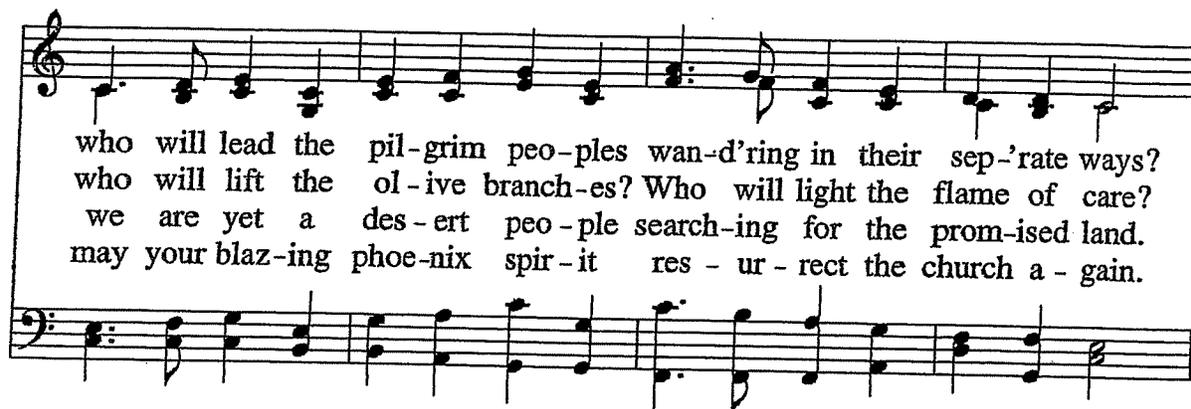
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

NETTLETON  
87.87D

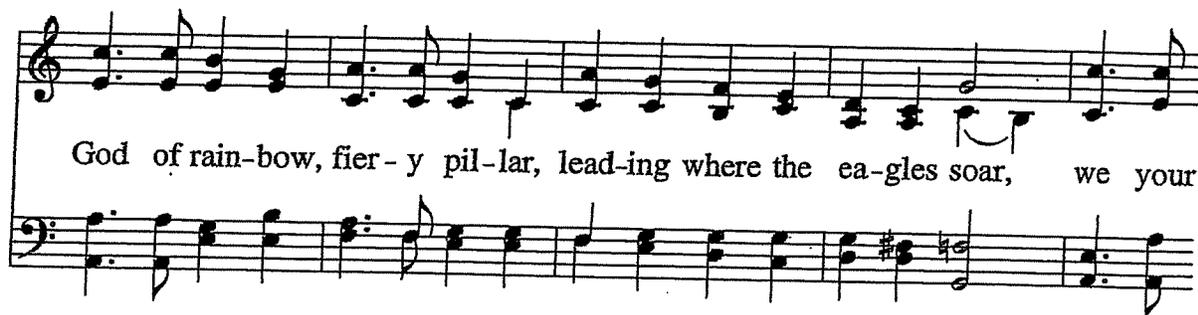
Robinson, an English barber, became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and, later, a Baptist minister. His text has been sung to this American folk tune since 1813.



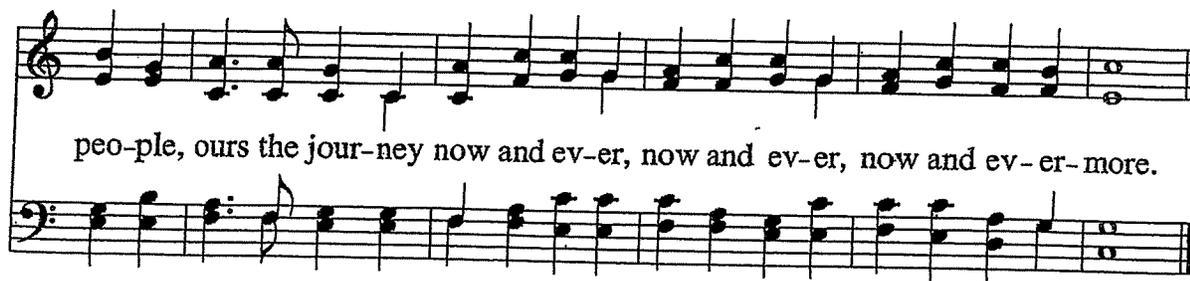
1. In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,  
 2. Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ples, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,  
 3. Though we reach the high-est heav-ens, hold-ing worlds at our com-mand,  
 4. Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,



who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-d'ring in their sep-'rate ways?  
 who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?  
 we are yet a des-ert peo-ple search-ing for the prom-ised land.  
 may your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.



God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, we your



peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er-more.

WORDS: Julian B. Rush, 1985, alt.

MUSIC: Julian B. Rush, 1985; arr. *The New Century Hymnal*, 1995, alt.

This hymn on diversity was written for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference of United Methodists. Rush is director of the Colorado AIDS Project.

NEW DIMENSIONS  
 87.87 w. refrain

Words, music © 1985 Julian B. Rush