

The Lord Jesus Christ, by Del Parsons

April 20, 2025

10:00 AM

2700 L Street

Sacramento, CA 95816

PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 20, 2025

Easter

Welcome! We're very glad you've come to this service today and we pray our experience of worship here will renew and inspire you. If you are not familiar with our practices of worship, the following information may be helpful to you:

1. *We are an Open and Affirming congregation. We welcome into full membership, leadership, and participation in our church all persons and their families, of every race, language, age, gender, gender identification and expression, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, economic status, and personal opinion.*
2. *A cross "+" before a heading denotes standing if you are able:*
3. ***Bold*** print indicates that the congregation reads or sings aloud, in unison;
4. *An (*) indicates the selected hymn is a favorite hymn of the congregation.*
5. *All Bible readings are read from the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise indicated.*
6. *Please silence your cell phone ringers;*
7. *If you have a prayer concern, you may fill out the prayer request form located in the back pews and the ushers will collect them later in the service.*
8. *If you are a guest with us, we invite you to fill out the Connection Card located with your Welcome Packet and place it in the offering plate in lieu of an offering. We have a special gift for you.*
9. *You are invited to join us for an informal time of coffee, food, and fellowship during our Fellowship Hour after the service.*
10. *We have a Pioneer Guest wifi signal throughout the church. Our wifi password is **welcome2700**. One way to promote our church is to let your friends on your social media know you're in church right now.*

If you have any questions about life in the Pioneer Church or have needs of a personal nature, please speak to the pastor. We are happy to do what we can to help.

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

Prelude

Fugue in D-Major, BWV 580

J.S. Bach

The Light of Christ Enters

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Call

You Are Welcome Here

Gerard DeMan

$\text{♩} = 100$

You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,

no mat-ter where you are, on life's jour - ney... You are

wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are, come and

join with us, we're u - ni-ted in the church of Christ.

Welcoming One Another *(said in unison)*

Psalm 118:24

Let us begin our worship service today by saying aloud our Opening Scripture:

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

+ The Passing of the Peace

+ Call to Worship *(read responsively)*

One: The grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

At early dawn, when the light was just emerging and the shadows still long and deep, the earth began to sing a tender and persistent hallelujah.

And the resurrection smelled like death and dirt. Christ, the Power of Love, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.

At early dawn, the women began to sing a grieving and faithful hallelujah with the salt of tears still crusting their eyes.

And the empty tomb sounded like weeping and questions. Christ, the Wounded One, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.

At early dawn, when no one could remember the sound of hope or the promise of a new day rising, the world began to sing a fierce and determined hallelujah.

And the rising up tasted like bread and rejoicing. Christ, the Way of Truth and Life, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.

At early dawn, as each day brings forth new agonies and injustices, we gather to sing a grateful and liberating hallelujah.

**And this Easter feels like protest and praise. Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!**

(+) denotes standing, if you are able.

+ Opening Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

+ Opening Prayer (Pastor Led)

Let's pray. Resurrecting God, we meet you in the empty tomb where our griefs and joys, despairs and hopes intermingle. Through our prayers and praise this Easter day, open our hearts to remember that the power of love and life will overcome every death-dealing force, no matter how pervasive or persuasive. In this troubling and joyful time, dazzle us with good news, Holy Rising Up One, in whose path we follow and whose name we pray. Amen.

Introit

This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made

Gerald Near

Food Pantry Dedication

We are called upon throughout the Scriptures to give to those who have less than we do. We're called to love and support them and to provide whatever sustenance we are able. We are also called to offer them hope.

Through our generosity, may we show that we love them, that we're merciful and kind, and more than anything, that the God we believe in loves them too.

Let us now bring our mission offerings up and dedicate them to God, to our church, and to one another.

As you come forward to place your mission donation in the baskets or on the altar, we invite you to say these words, "Receive my offering, O God."

Prayer of Dedication *(responsively)*

Please join me in our Food Pantry dedication.

We offer these gifts to you, O God, to help care for the poor and hungry who need this food and these toiletries. Guide those who have much to care for those who have so little.

We pray that you will bless those who receive these gifts and those who have given that together, we might fulfill Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer of Transformation

How many times have we succumbed to the despair and distraction sown by the chaos machine and forgotten God's prophetic promises, unable to remember the power of steadfast love and persistent justice?

God, have mercy.

How many times have we reacted with disbelief to the truths testified by those we perceive as less powerful, treating the ones who know death-dealing oppression best as untrustworthy, uninformed, and insignificant?

Christ, have mercy.

How many times have we dismissed the visions and wisdom of marginalized voices as idle tales and failed to recognize this witness to a new future of flourishing for all?

God, have mercy.

Assurance of Grace

How many times does God greet our failures with grace and mercy!

Hallelujah. Praise our Resurrecting God!

How many times will God forgive us and call us beloved!

Hallelujah. Praise our Rising Up God!

How many times will God free us in love to begin anew!

Hallelujah. Thanks be to the God who makes all things new.

Gloria (Sung by the Choir)

John Rutter

Introduction to the Epistle

The Apostle Paul explains the importance of Christ's resurrection to the early Christians.

Scripture Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.²⁰ But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.²¹ So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. ²²Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. ²³But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.²⁴ After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. ²⁵For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. ²⁶And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Introduction to the Gospels

Several women, including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary, the mother of Jesus and James, report to the disciples that the tomb where Jesus was laid is now empty.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 24:1-12

But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ²They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ³So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.⁵ The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? ⁶He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."

⁸ Then they remembered that he had said this. ⁹ So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. ¹¹ But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it. ¹² However, Peter jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty linen wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

This is the Word of the Lord. Let us respond by singing together our Scripture refrain.

Scripture Refrain *Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet* (sung twice)

Unison E \flat B \flat 7 E \flat A \flat B \flat 7 E \flat A \flat E \flat

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

Sermon: “Resurrection Joy”



Hymn

The Day of Resurrection

LANCASHIRE

You may remain seated while singing this hymn. Also, the Ushers will collect your prayer cards to be prayed for during the Prayers of the People.

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
 2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 the Christ who reigns e - ter - nal in res - ur - rec - tion light;
 the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
 We lis - ten for the teach - ings once heard so calm and plain,
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 for we, too, want to fol - low and raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ a - gain has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

Pastoral Prayer

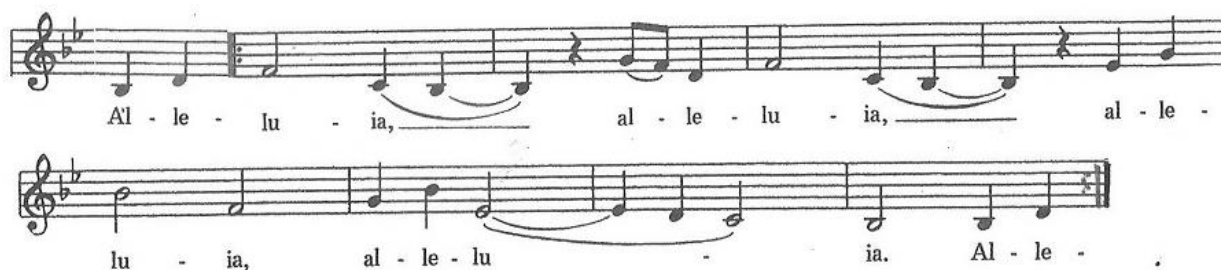
Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*said in unison;" sins;" or any version you choose to say*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sung Response (Sung four times) *A Repeating Alleluia*

Calvin Hampton



Introduction to the Offering

As resurrection people, every moment offers us an opportunity to divest from the power of death and invest in the power of new life. How are you being called to use whatever resources you have to build up a new world of flourishing for all? You are invited to bring your life-affirming, resurrecting intentions to this offering so that together we might roll away every stone of injustice, oppression, and harm until all know the true power of love. The Ushers will now come forward to receive your pledges and offerings. We invite you to give in person, on our website, or mail in your offering today. Thank you.

Offertory Anthem*Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem*

C.V. Stanford

+ The Doxology (*sung in unison*)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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.*

Prayer of Dedication (*said in unison*)

To the witness of new life emerging, God open us; to the work of new world building, God commit us; to the power of love persisting, God dedicate us; for the calling of faith rising up, God equip us. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn*Alleluia! The Strife Is O'er*

VICTORY

Refrain (before st. 1 and after st. 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es
 4 Christ, by your wounds on Cal - va - ry from death's dread

ry of life is won; The song of tri - umph
le - gions has dis - persed: Let shouts of ho - ly
glo - rious from the dead: All glo - ry to our
sting your ser - vants free, That we may live e -

has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia! *to Refrain*

+ Commissioning Song (*sung in unison*)

SERVANT SONG

(Please face one another as you sing.)

We are pil - grims on a jour - ney. We are trav - 'lers on the road

We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load

+ Benediction

This blessing comes at early dawn when the day has not yet emerged, and the night lingers on our skin. Hallelujah. Even now, new life.

This blessing emerges through grief when the sorrows have not yet left us and the hope has not yet found us. Hallelujah. Even now, resurrection.

This blessing calls from emptiness when we have more questions than answers and fear turns to amazement turns to joy. Hallelujah. Even now, rise up.

Christ is risen indeed. Go in peace to rise up in protest and praise until new life is witnessed, known, and enjoyed by all creation. Amen.

Postlude

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

Otmar Faulstich



Volunteers for today are: **Reader:** Garylee Stephenson **Usher:** Mary Kay Rose
Acolyte: Garylee Stephenson **Audio Visual Tech:** Scott Minor **Tellers:** Heidi Munoz & Xuan Guerrero **Fellowship:** Countree & Angel
Flowers: TBA

Volunteers for next Sunday, April 27th are: **Reader:** Kathleen O'Rourke **Usher:** Leslie Robinson **Acolyte:** Garylee Stephenson **Audio Visual Tech:** TBA **Tellers:** TBA
Fellowship: Potluck **Flowers:** Betsy Freye Ruygt: In memory of My Mother Charlotte Freye

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ Food Pantry Donations

Today, we collect non-perishable food pantry donations and travel-sized toiletries. And then take the donated food to the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership's Food Closet and the toiletries to Wind Youth Services during the week.

+ Signup Sheets

Have you been interested in volunteering at the church? One way to do that is to volunteer to be a Sunday reader, an usher, a teller, or to bring treats and food for Fellowship Hour. You are invited to see where you'd like to help out and sign up. Look for the signup sheets in Fellowship Hall on Sundays after church. Your help and contribution makes Pioneer shine!

+ Women's Breakfast

Calling all women of the church: Join us for breakfast at our monthly Women's Breakfast on May 10 at 9:00 AM. We are meeting at Aviator's Restaurant at the Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd, Sacramento, CA.

+ Bible Study

Currently, the Bible Study is on break until after Easter. In May, you are invited to join us every Wednesday at 6:30 PM for Bible Study. Our new Bible study *The Good Place*, watches an episode from the first season of the Netflix series and then follows a Bible study in conversation with it. If you are interested in this, please get in touch with Pastor Bo at pastorbo@pioneerucc.org and let him know of your interest. Thanks!

+ Tour of the Sanctuary

Dr. Elliot Jones, our music director, leads a tour of the sanctuary that includes the architecture, explaining the history of the various stained-glass windows, and offers a history of our organ and plays on it to show its capabilities. The next Tour happens on Saturday, May 10 at 12:00 Noon. Invite your friends to this lovely tour as it is a great way to introduce them to our historic building and church.



Pioneer
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



COWORKING

& OFFICE RENTAL

We have office space, co-working space and a stainless-steel commercial kitchen for rent. Our beautiful stained-glass sanctuary is perfect for weddings. The large fellowship Hall has a full theatrical stage with lighting. A 100" screen is available for visual presentations, perfect for business meetings. Underground parking is available for rent.



Conference Room
& Lounge

FREE COFFEE | FAST WI-FI



Outdoor Area



Individual
offices

Contact Us:
916-443-3727
www.pioneerworking.com
connect@pioneerucc.org
2700 L Street, midtown
Sacramento, CA 95816




We are looking for persons who would like to work out of one of our offices or use our many common rooms as a place to work. Mainly geared for those who work from home, our coworking space sharing is a great way at an affordable price to work in a peaceful atmosphere. Spread the news and tell your friends. For more information, visit <http://www.pioneerworking.com> or call the church office.



Andy Balog	In Memory of Albert & Lillie Balog
Andy Balog	In Memory of Mike Apperson
Andy Balog	In Memory of Jeannine Zahradnicek
Yvette Cuny	In Honor of Diane Cuny
Elliot Jones & Mark Benko	In Memory of Larry Elliot Jones
Sue Bryant-Still	In Memory of Louisa Bowen
Sue Bryant-Still	In Memory of Lem & Elizabeth Bowen
Vi McNally	In Memory of Tom McNally
Vi McNally	In Memory of My Brothers & Sister



Siggie T Halldorson

In Memory of Jan Halldorson

Siggie T Halldorson

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Halldorson

John Busschaert & Xuan Guerrero

In Memory of Andrew & Margaret Busschaert

Mel & Mary Kay Rose

In Memory of Bob Hosmann Bud & Marlene Rose

Mel & Mary Kay Rose

In Memory of Jiggs & Phyllis Halldorson

Mel & Mary Kay Rose

In Memory of Buds & Madeline Rose

Kelton R Jackson

In Honor of The New Beginning Church Family

Pat Houge & Marge Watson

In Loving Memory Mildred Houge & Etta Watson



2025

Sunday April 20 th	Easter Service	10:00am
Tuesday April 22 nd	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm-7:30pm
Thursday April 24 th	Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm-8:00pm
Sunday April 27 th	Morning Service	10:00am
	Council Meeting	11:30am

What's Happening this Week

- + The newest addition of *The Weekly eNewsletter*, will be available online or at the Information Table on Thursday 24th April 2025.
- + Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM.

****Any changes/updates to future events please make notation on this Bulletin and place it in Kelton's box in the main office.*

Many other activities take place in the building regularly.

Please check the calendar in the church office regarding space and time availability before scheduling any event.



www.pioneerucc.org + (916) 443-3727 + connect@pioneerucc.org
 2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!"

CONNECTING. SHARING. SERVING!

Pastor: Rev. Dr. David "Bo" Bocock

Music Director: Dr. Elliot Jones

Church Administrator: Rev. Kelton Jackson

PPRC – Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Website:

Pastorbo@pioneerucc.org

MusicDirector@pioneerucc.org

connect@pioneerucc.org

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www.pioneerucc.org

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

For an appointment outside of these hours please call 916-443-3727 the church office.

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