



**Piedmont  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

400 Highland Avenue  
Piedmont, California 94611  
(510) 547-5700  
www.piedmontchurch.org

The Rev. Dr. William H. McNabb, Senior Minister  
The Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn, Associate Minister  
The Rev. Scott Kail, Youth Ministries  
Leslie Quantz, Children's Ministries  
Dr. Stephen T. Main, Music Minister  
Rev. Dottie Hutch, Minister of Visitation

**October 8, 2017**

**9 & 10:30 o'clock**

**Prelude**

*Improvisation*

**For Your Reflection**

From a distance we all have enough,  
And no one is in need,  
And there are no guns, no bombs and no disease,  
No hungry mouths to feed,  
From a distance we are instruments,  
Marching in a common band,  
Playing songs of hope, playing songs of peace,  
They are the songs of every man.  
God is watching us, God is watching us,  
God is watching us, from a distance.

— Julie Gold

God's power is subordinate to his love. The world is subordinate to his love. The world is a place that is beloved of God. Like creation it is good, although terrible things happen in it for it is not perfect, it is not without pain, and the price of our freedom is to learn to cope with a world of ambiguity and danger, pain, joy and opportunity. Through all of that God relates to us out of his love for us. The action of God, the act that counts, is love.

— Peter Gomes

The power of God is now and has always been the power to raise us from the dead. Period. It is not about us. It is about God. — Barbara Brown Taylor

Never put a period where God puts a comma!

— Peter Kuzmic

**\*Church Bell**

(\*The congregation is invited to stand)

**\*Call to Worship**

**Liturgist:** God remembers us and restores us to the community of faith.  
**People:** **In our pain, suffering and loss, we know the assurance of God's presence.**  
**Liturgist:** When we are in hopeless situations, God bears us up on eagles' wings.  
**People:** **God grants healing and transformation.**  
**Liturgist:** When we gather to worship, a merciful and loving God meets us here.

**People:** We assemble with high expectations that God has much good in store for us.

**Liturgist:** The gifts God bestows on us here we use in reaching out to others.

**People:** We want to use our talents in the service of Jesus Christ.

**Liturgist:** And so, as we come together now in this place, let us worship God.

**\*Hymn (10:30am)** Come, thou Fount of every blessing *Nettleton*

## **Prayer of Praise and Invocation**

### **Silent Prayer**

### **Prayer of Preparation and Confession**

*Gracious and loving God, we confess that we have not lived a life conformed to Christ. You offer us the wisdom of your Word, but we neglect our study of Scripture. You are wise in your care for the world, but we think we know better. You call us to take up the cross and follow, but we want to forge our own paths. You offer your peace that is "not as the world gives," but we want security and guarantees. You give us the gift of your commandments, but we look for the loopholes, and make our own rules. Forgive us, Lord. Call us back to the life that you intend for us. We pray in the name of Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen.*

## **Choral Response and Words of Assurance**

### **Words of Christian Greeting**

### **Stewardship Moment**

Zookie Todd

### **Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father 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 for ever. Amen.*

### **Anthem**

*He's got the whole world*

Trad. spiritual

Christa Pfeiffer, soprano

arr. Margaret Bonds

(For text, please see Hymn 331)

### **Scripture Lesson**

Acts 17:16-34

(Pew Bible p. 785)

*While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbling want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the*

resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, "We will hear you again about this." At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

**Sermon**

"GROPING FOR GOD"  
The Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn

**Offertory (9am)**

(see Anthem)

**Offertory (10:30am)**

*The pure in heart*  
Chancel Choir

Patrick Hawes  
(born 1958)

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

—Matthew 5:8

**\*Doxology (10:30am)**

(Hymnal, p. 572)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*In gratitude for the work of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit, we gladly offer ourselves and our gifts to you, O Lord. We pray that you will transform these gifts into signs of welcome for all who are touched by their use. And, transform us into people who bless others throughout each day. Amen.*

**\*Hymn (10:30am)**

Father eternal, Ruler of creation

*Langham*

### **\*Commission and Benediction**

**Organ Voluntary**

*Improvisation*

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We are delighted and grateful that you have come to worship here this morning. We especially welcome those of you who are visitors. If you would like more information about PCC, please visit the Welcome Table after the service and speak with a member of the Welcoming Team. Welcomers can be identified by their special name tags.

Our Welcoming Team includes **Joan Chow**.

Please join us after the service for coffee.

Please silence your cell phones.

This morning's greeters are **Ron & Aija Koch**. The ushers are **Dana Gordon-Colton, Brad & Lynn Olander**, and **Tom Parry**. The Board of Deacons greeters are **Julie McDonald** and **John Quantz**. They will be available during the coffee hour to answer questions you may have about the church.

The Clara Barton Room (outside sanctuary to the right) has closed circuit viewing of the service for parents with infants and young children.

Please ask an usher for assistance if needed.

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## *Announcements*

• **An Invitation to Stewardship:** October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>. Stewardship Season is upon us. The time when members pledge funds that will pay for church operations in the coming year. This year, the PCC Stewardship Team invites you to join them in a journey of reflection on gratitude and generosity. Each week will have a theme to consider, presented on Sundays and in the Messenger. A Stewardship speaker will share thoughts with the congregation and, following the services, members of the Stewardship Team will be present

in the courtyard to continue the discussion. The journey will conclude with the Dedication Sunday Celebration on November 5th. We hope you will enjoy this opportunity to thoughtfully consider what stewardship means in your life as you decide what your 2018 pledge gift will be.

- **Volunteer Opportunity with CityTeam Oakland** - CityTeam Oakland is working towards an empowered, changed and new Oakland. Every day, CityTeam's dining hall serves a hot meal for breakfast, lunch and dinner to the city's poor, hopeless and homeless. Join CityTeam's staff every 2nd Saturday of each month in serving dinner from 5-7pm. Upcoming dates: **October 14, November 11**. For additional information, please contact Selma Chin: 510-290-5732 or [selmachin@yahoo.com](mailto:selmachin@yahoo.com).

- **Sign Up Today: Harvest Dinner - October 12th** - Everyone is invited to the all church Harvest Dinner, which takes place this year on Thursday, October 12th at 6:30 pm in the Guild Hall. Our own *Loaves and Fishes* will provide a sumptuous autumn feast, and **our own Lisa Lindsley and her trio will be performing for our entertainment**. Visitors and new members are especially encouraged to attend. This will be a festive opportunity to make new friends and experience the best of Christian Fellowship at PCC! Please sign up at the Deacons' table before or after church services, or by emailing Jean Leahy at: [jean@piedmontchurch.org](mailto:jean@piedmontchurch.org). For those adults, 18 and older, who sign up by the Sunday service TODAY, the discounted price will be \$15.00. For adults who sign up after that date the cost will be \$20.00. Children 10 to 17 will be charged \$5.00, and those children under the age of 10, are free and will be treated to macaroni and cheese. If you would like to volunteer to help with cooking, please contact Steve Wuebbens at [sawuebbens@gmail.com](mailto:sawuebbens@gmail.com).

- **The Food Truck/Restaurant Shared Interest Group will celebrate Oktoberfest Sunday, October 15**, at the Gaumenkitzel Restaurant, 2121 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, at 12:30. You can choose organic German slow food and beverages that go perfectly with it. Contact Linda Rice [ljrice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ljrice@sbcglobal.net) to give her your reservation so that we can get a large enough table.

- **Adult Fellowship Wine Tasting - OFF THE BEATEN PATH – Great Wine Values from Around the World!** Never tasted a Godello, Marsanne or Limoux? Never heard of Lirac or Monastrell? On Friday, October 27, at 7pm in the Guild Hall, Adult Fellowship will present a wine tasting of delicious, relatively unknown wines from around the world that retail for \$20 or less. We invite you to join the ABC Club (Anything but Chardonnay or Cabernet) and explore some real treasures from France, Spain, Italy and California. The tasting will include varied appetizers (not dinner). Cost is \$30 per person. Your hosts will be Mike Osborn, Founder of Wine.com, Gwendolyn Osborn, a certified wine educator and former staff member of The Wine Spectator and our very own Dr. William McNabb. Please call or email the church office to

register and send in your check to “Piedmont Community Church” marked “Wine Tasting” or sign up following the worship services. Registration closes October 24.

- **“Getting to Know Piedmont Community Church”:** If you are new to PCC and would like to know more about us, or if you would like to become a member of our congregation, you are invited to attend a gathering we call **“Getting to Know PCC.”** The dates for the last gathering is: **Tuesday, October 10 from 7 to 8:30 pm.** The events are held at the church, with refreshments provided and child care available for kids 10 and under. Please RSVP to Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn to let him know which gathering you’ll attend, and if you’ll need childcare a week. If you have already met with him individually to discuss membership, you don’t need to attend one of these sessions — though it’s often nice to get to know some other newer folks here at church as a group. Also, if you can’t make any of these times, Dr. Ashburn can set up an alternative time and date to meet with you individually. **For more information and to RSVP, please contact him at [don@piedmontchurch.org](mailto:don@piedmontchurch.org).**

- **Next Adult Education Series:** Many of you have heard of Rob Bell. He’s the best-selling – and, for some, highly controversial – author of the book *Love Wins*. He has recently published a new book with the intriguing title: *What is the Bible: How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything*. Starting TODAY you are invited to join the Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn for a 5 week series of classes based on Bell’s book. We’ll use it as a guide to reflect on the meaning of another very old, and very Good Book. The classes will meet in the Kettlewell Room, located beneath the Guild Hall, from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm on Sunday October 8, 15 and 22 and November 5 and 12. You don’t need to know anything at all about the Bible to participate. But, please purchase a copy of the book and read pages 9-47 for the second meeting. It is available online in hardcover or kindle formats. For more information, please contact Dr. Ashburn at: [don@piedmontchurch.org](mailto:don@piedmontchurch.org), or 510-547-5700, ext. 105.

- **The Theatre Shared Interest group is sponsoring an adaptation of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Crimes of the Heart*, to be performed in the Guild Hall at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 19th.** This lively, script-in-hand version will be presented by local actors who have studied extensively at Oakland’s respected STAGEBRIDGE. Admission is free. You may reserve a seat at [suzlatham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suzlatham@sbcglobal.net).

- **Giving Tree -** Burckhalter Elementary School PCC is hosting the annual Giving Tree benefiting Burckhalter Elementary School in Oakland the first three weeks of October. Items most needed are **hand sanitizer wipes, band-aids, liquid sanitizer and paper towels** (no need paper, pencils and other supplies, please). The Giving Tree will be by the Deacon's Table on Sundays during church; the collection bin will be outside the sanctuary. Please help Burckhalter

Elementary School students get started with all the necessary supplies. Just select a school supply tag from the tree and return the supplies to the church. For more information contact Jim Clarkson at [jcpiedmont@pacbell.net](mailto:jcpiedmont@pacbell.net).

## *Weekly Calendar*

### **Sunday, October 8**

9:00 am           Worship service, Sanctuary  
10:30 am           Sunday School preK - 12, Christian Education Building  
10:30 am           Worship service, Sanctuary  
10:30 am           Nursery care, Christian Education Building  
11:30 am           Adult Education, Kettlewell Room  
11:45 pm           Confirmation, Youth Room  
7:00 pm           Rock, Youth Room

### **Monday, October 9**

Office closed  
10:00 am           Piedmont Gardens Bible Study  
2:00 pm           Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, Guild Parlor  
4:30 pm           Spiritual Formation Group, Guild Parlor  
7:00 pm           Board of Trustees, Guild Parlor

### **Tuesday, October 10**

11:00 am           Staff Meeting, Staff Workroom  
PHS Lunch Break   Rock Pizza Lunch  
7:00 pm           Handbells will not meet  
7:00 pm           Small Group Bible Study  
7:00 pm           New Member class, Murdoch Room

### **Wednesday, October 11**

2:30 pm           LiveWire, Youth Room  
7:30 pm           Chancel Choir, Lindamood Choir Room

### **Thursday, October 12**

9:45 am           Women's Bible Study, Guild Parlor  
6:30 pm           Harvest Dinner, Guild Hall  
7:00 pm           Walking Together will not meet

### **Friday, October 13**

### **Saturday, October 14**

7:30 am           Men's Bible Study, Founders' Room  
2:00 pm           Mexico Adult Meeting, Youth Room

## **Sunday, October 15**

9:00 am           Worship service, Sanctuary  
10:30 am           Sunday School preK - 12, Christian Education Building  
10:30 am           Worship service, Sanctuary  
10:30 am           Nursery care, Christian Education Building  
11:30 am           Adult Education, Kettlewell Room  
11:45 pm           Confirmation, Youth Room  
12:30 pm           Shared Interest Group Food Truck/Restaurant  
7:00 pm            Rock, Youth Room

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

October 8 - Adult Studies Series begins  
October 10 - New Member Class  
October 12 - Harvest Dinner  
October 14 - CityTeam Dinner  
October 15 - Food Truck/Restaurant Shared Interest Group Octoberfest  
October 16 - Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group  
October 19 - Theatre Shared Interest Group  
October 27 - Adult Fellowship Wine Tasting  
October 28 - Berkeley Men's Shelter Volunteers  
November 4 - Go Forth Project Peace  
November 13 - Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group  
December 1 & 3 - Christmas Concert and Reception



## **The Engagement Survey is Extended 1 Week to 10/15!**

### **Thank You!**

Many of you have completed the survey! We have about 100 surveys in, which is about 1/3 of our goal of 100% participation. So, we have extended the deadline to complete the survey to 10/15.

### **Everyone's Opinions Matter and Are Welcome!**

We want to hear from **ALL** of you – even if you don't attend much/at all anymore. We want to hear from new members, young families, friends of PCC who may not have joined, but who are committed to PCC...everyone!!

### **It's Quick!**

It takes an average of **9 minutes and 58 seconds** to complete the survey!

The survey has 3 parts:

1. **34 quick**, mark-an-answer-on-a-rating-scale questions
2. **7 short** write-in questions
3. **5 simple** demographics questions

### **It's Confidential!**

Your individual responses will be kept confidential and the overall results will be shared in December.

### **Help Us to Understand!**

We need to learn your thoughts and feelings about the church before we know how to grow engagement and work toward a stronger PCC today and tomorrow.

### **Please complete the survey by 10/15:**

- **Electronically:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCC-Engagement>
- **Paper Surveys:** Available on the table in the courtyard after the services. There will be an envelope there to insert any completed surveys as well.
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### **What is the Growing Engagement Survey About?**

Piedmont Community Church is committed to improving our sustainability, vibrancy and communication so we can continue to thrive and further our mission to welcome, nurture and serve inside and outside the church community in our next 100 years.

A very important means of achieving those goals is by increasing our members' "engagement".

**Engagement is one's emotional connection and sense of belonging to the church, not just involvement.** When a congregation has a high percentage of highly engaged members, great things happen, such as serving others more, inviting others more, giving more, having a greater sense of life satisfaction, feeling cared for and appreciated, developing deep friendships, and more.

### **Thank you!**

**The Community Engagement Team** - Robin Asbury, Eric Behrens, Anne Conneely, Debi Fitzgerrell, Kristine McCabe, Joe Scherer, Mary Margaret Sinnema, Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn and Rev. Dr. Bill McNabb

# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

1. Come, Thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace:  
2. Hith - er - to thy love has blest me; thou hast brought me to this place;  
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I know thy hand will bring me safe - ly home by thy good grace.  
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 His name, I'm fixed up - on it, name of God's re - deem - ing love.  
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, bought me with his pre - cious blood.  
here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

# Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation

*Langham*



1. Fa - ther e - ter - nal, Ru - ler of cre - a - tion, Spi - rit of  
2. Rac - es and peo - ples, lo, we stand di - vid - ed, and, shar - ing  
3. En - vious of heart, blind - eyed, with tongues con - found - ed, na - tion by  
4. How shall we love thee, ho - ly hid - den Be - ing, if we love



life, which moved ere form was made, through the thick dark - ness  
not our griefs, no joy can share; by wars and tu - mults  
na - tion still goes un - for - given, in wrath and fear, by  
not the world which thou hast made? O give us pur - er



cov - ering ev - ery na - tion, light to our blind - ness, O be thou our aid:  
love is mocked, de - rid - ed; his sav - ing cross no king - dom wills to bear:  
jea - lous - ies sur - round - ed, build - ing proud towers which shall not reach to heaven:  
love for bet - ter see - ing thy Word made flesh, and in a man - ger laid:



thy king - dom come, O Lord, thy will be done.



From Zookie Todd - My journey at PCC began 23 years ago as a baby in the nursery of the CE building. It continued on to see me be baptized out at the fountain when I was five, help build the Ark of the Covenant in Sunday School, play the innkeeper in the Christmas pageant, go through confirmation and declare my faith, serve alongside my classmates building houses in Mexico during years filled with fun and fellowship in Rock, and over a year ago, this church embraced me when I came back after graduating from college. Most importantly, PCC held onto me during times of apathy regarding my beliefs and ultimately helped me to plant the seeds of my faith and better understand and embrace the love of Jesus in my life.

When I came back from college, I was welcomed once again into the community that had shown me so much love growing up. In addition to reuniting with various friends and mentors in the church, I have had the pleasure of getting to know many more of this congregation's incredible members. During that first summer back, I was also approached to serve on the Altar Guild and to volunteer with the youth ministries at the church, both of which I was eager to do so that I could engage with the life of the church.

I serve our church because of everyone who sits in our pews on Sunday mornings and because of many who don't sit there with us anymore. I serve our church because I want to see the young people in our youth programs value their faith and want to pursue it. I grew up seeing all these wonderful servant hearts pouring into this church, and it meant everything to me. From knowing Cheryl Vaughn in the nursery and as my confirmation mentor, Lonnie and Paul Simonson as my Sunday School teachers, Sue Coffin and the Wrights through their commitment to the Mexico trips, and countless others, and seeing how much their friendship and guidance meant to me, I pray my service here will matter to even one person at this church.

I support PCC because it is my home and because it supports me. I am invested in this church and its mission, and because of that, it is on my heart always, expressing itself with joy when I speak of my faith, these people, and this place. I give my time and my money because we live in a world that needs more of God, and we as Christians must help spread His love here and make Him known. Because Jesus gave all of Himself that we might live here unashamed and free of guilt, I give joyfully, knowing my contributions go to something much greater than myself. I give so that we as a church may further God's kingdom here in the Bay Area and everywhere else our congregation serves and continue the work that Jesus began.