



**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

September 17, 2017

9 & 10:30 o'clock

Prelude

Improvisation

For Your Reflection

My secret is that I need God — that I am sick and can no longer make it alone. I need God to help me give, because I no longer seem to be capable of giving; to help me be kind, as I no longer seem capable of kindness; to help me love, as I seem beyond being able to love.

— Life After God by Douglas Coupland

let my words
sing a prayer
not a curse
to the tragic
& sacred mystery
of our beautiful
suffering
eternal worth

— Bud Osborn

The epistle to the Colossians, we are arguing, was an explosive and subversive tract in the context of the Roman empire, and it can and ought to function in an analogous way in the imperial realities of our time. This letter [Colossians] proclaimed an alternative vision of reality, animating a way of life that was subversive to the ethos of the Roman empire. We believe that Paul's letter to the Colossians will only be read with integrity in our time when the radical vision of Christian faith encountered in this text engenders a similarly alternative way of life in our midst.

— Brian Walsh and Sylvia Keesmaat

***Church Bell**

(*The congregation is invited to stand)

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Lord Jesus, you came in the love of God, teaching us how we should love each other.

People: **Take away our fear and shame so that we may find the will to follow you,**

Liturgist: Daring to love as you love and prepared to pay the price,

People: **Until we come with you to the fullness of love**

All: **And share the peace and joy of God forever.**

Prayer of Praise and Invocation

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Preparation and Confession

Awesome and challenging God, hold us close for this moment, so that with your support we might look deep within and let your healing light purify our darkness. Only in your grasp can we face our struggles: our frantic pursuit of busyness in order to cover up our emptiness; the ease with which we tolerate the meanness of human society; the acceptance of bottom-line thinking as the final word in decision making; the fear of differences that keeps us from receiving gifts of others; the hanging on to the lesser when the greater beckons. Holy and disturbing God, keep us close and let us experience your transforming love. Amen.

Choral Response and Words of Assurance

Words of Christian Greeting

Engagement Team Update

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

Greater love hath no man

John Ireland

Chancel Choir

(1879-1962)

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus; ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

—Songs 8:7, 6b, John 15:13, I Pet. 2:24, I Cor. 6-11, I Pet. 2:9

Scripture Lesson

Colossians 1:1-23

(Pew Bible p. 831)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day

you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

Sermon

**“HOLDING THINGS TOGETHER
IN A WORLD THAT’S FALLING APART”**

Part 1 - RESCUED FROM DARKNESS

The Rev. Dr. William H. McNabb

Offertory (9am)

(see Anthem)

Offertory (10:30am)

The darkest hour

—*EmmyLou Harris*

Tina Harrington

(born 1947)

Mitch Polzak, guitar

The sun is slowly sinking, the day is almost gone. Still darkness falls around us, and we must journey on. *The darkest hour is just before dawn, the narrow way leads home. Lay down your soul at Jesus' feet; the darkest hour is just before dawn.*

Like a shepherd out on the mountain, a-watching the sheep down below. He's coming back to claim us; will you be ready to go? *The darkest hour is just before the dawn...*

—*EmmyLou Harris*

***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**

O God, we have heard your call, beckoning us to a life of love and service. Here, in daily, persistent, and sometimes courageous ways, we offer our lives for your service. We ask your blessing upon us and your continued grace to direct our path. Amen.

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

Amazing grace

New Britain

***Commission and Benediction**

Organ Voluntary

Improvisation

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES:

HOLDING THINGS TOGETHER IN A WORLD THAT'S FALLING APART

September 17 - Part 1 – RESCUED FROM DARKNESS

September 24 - Part 2 – CONFRONTING THE POWERS

October 1 - Part 3 – CLOTHING OPTIONAL

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 **Sue Coffin** and **Charly Taylor**.

Please join us after the service for coffee.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the wedding anniversary of **Matt and Julie Hofer**.

Please silence your cell phones.

This morning's greeters are **Bob & Carol Leslie**. The ushers are **Jim & Kim Kellogg, Lynn Nelson, and Steve Senter**. The Board of Deacons greeters are **Jay Foreman and Steve Wuebbens**. 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.

Announcements

- **Ministry Fair this morning** - Join us at the PCC Ministry Fair following our worship services. Come to the courtyard and learn more about the various programs and groups and events our church offers – about who we are and what we do. You can sign up to participate, volunteer to help out, or just get more information about our wonderful community.
- **Adult Mexico Missions trip registration time is now!** The trip dates are October 27-30, 2017 and the price is \$500/person all inclusive. There are two documents on the PCC web site that need to be turned in along with your fees. The first meeting is Saturday 10/14. Please feel free to contact Scott Kail with any interest or questions. Scott@pedmontchurch.org.
- **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.
- **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@pedmontchurch.org. For those adults, 18 and older, who sign up by the Sunday service on October 8th, 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.

• **“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.”** There will be 4 upcoming gatherings, of which you need attend only one. The dates for the next gatherings are: **Saturday, September 23 from 9 to 10:30 am; Saturday, September 30 from 9 to 10:30 am; Tuesday, October 3 from 7 to 8:30 pm; or 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.**

• **Berkeley Men’s Shelter - September 23rd, 7 pm** - Experience what it is like to truly love our neighbors. The Berkeley Men’s Shelter is a wonderful organization that houses up to 65 homeless men. PCC cooks and serves meals at the shelter on the fourth Saturday of each month. You can make a dessert, appetizer, or a complete meal, or you can simply help us serve at the shelter. It only takes 1.5 hours to serve these men. The men love the food and company! Please contact Barbara Crawford through the church at 510-547-5700. No long-term commitment is necessary. Just sign up for the days that work best for you. Thank you for supporting the homeless.

• **The Food Truck/Restaurant Shared Interest Group will gather at the Grand Lake Farmers’ Market at 10 a.m. September 30 by the music/food truck area.** A few tiny tables are available as is a grassy area. Beautiful fruits, vegetables, cheeses, chocolate, organic meats and fish might tempt you to shop before or afterwards. The market is open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There are free parking lots nearby. For more information, email ljrice@sbcglobal.net

• **Confirmation Mentors Needed!** It is that time again when we need Adult Mentors for the students in our 2017 Confirmation class. It consists of striking up a friendship with your student and meeting with them 2-3 times during the 9 week class. No need for experts or Bible scholars, just folks willing to share a bit of their journey and come along side the students on theirs. Please contact Rev. Scott Kail if you are interested. scott@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 on October 8, 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 prior to the first meeting. It is available online in hardcover or kindle formats. For more information, please contact Dr. Ashburn at: don@piedmontchurch.org, or 510-547-5700, ext. 105.

• **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.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 17

	Ministry Fair
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
11:45 pm	Confirmation, Youth Room
7:00 pm	Rock, Youth Room

Monday, September 18

10:00 am	Piedmont Gardens Bible Study
4:30 pm	Spiritual Formation Group, Guild Parlor
6:45 pm	Board of Christian Education, Guild Parlor
7:00 pm	Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, Murdock Room
7:00 pm	Refugee Task Force, 781 Highland Ave., Piedmont

Tuesday, September 19

11:00 am Staff Meeting, Staff Workroom

PHS Lunch Break Rock Pizza Lunch

7:00 pm Handbells, Clara Barton Room

7:00 pm Small Group Bible Study

Wednesday, September 20

10:00 am Prayer Circle, Chapel

2:30 pm LiveWire, Youth Room

7:30 pm Chancel Choir, Lindamood Choir Room

Thursday, September 21

9:45 am Women's Bible Study, Guild Parlor

7:00 pm Walking Together, Guild Parlor

Friday, September 22

1:30 pm John Jones memorial, Sanctuary

Saturday, September 23

7:30 am Men's Bible Study, Founders' Room

9:00 am New Member class, Murdoch Room

2:00 pm Mexico Student Leaders Meeting, Youth Room

7:00 pm Berkeley Men's Shelter

Sunday, September 24

9:00 am Worship service, Sanctuary

9:45 am Engagement Team Survey, Guild Hall

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 Engagement Team Survey, Guild Hall

11:45 pm Confirmation, Youth Room

7:00 pm Rock, Youth Room

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 23 - Berkeley Men's Shelter

September 23 & 30 - New Member Class

September 24 - Engagement Team Survey

October 1 - Engagement Team Survey

October 3 & 10 - New Member Class

October 8 - Adult Studies Series begins

October 12 - Harvest Dinner

GROWING ENGAGEMENT

As you know, Piedmont Community Church is committed to improving our sustainability, vibrancy and communication so it can continue to thrive and continue its mission to welcome, nurture and serve inside and outside the church community in its 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 and more. In other words, when we grow PCC members' engagement with PCC, the effects will help us to thrive and grow.

The first step in the growing engagement process will be a congregation survey so we can understand where engagement stands today. To better connect with you and grow engagement at PCC, we want to understand your thoughts and feelings about the church. The results will be shared in December, and will help to guide church leadership to make good decisions for today and for the future. Your responses will be kept confidential. **We are hoping for 100% participation.**

Links to the survey will be live starting 9/24 in the Bulletin, Messenger, our website and an eblast.

Paper surveys can be completed after church 9/24 and 10/1 in the Guild Hall.

All surveys must be completed by 10/8.

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

550 When Morning Gilds the Skies

My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord. Psa. 5:3

*Katholisches Gesangbuch, Würzburg, 1828
Trans. by Edward Caswall, 1854*

LAUDES DOMINI 6 6 6 6 6 6
Joseph Barnby, 1868

1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart a - wak - ing cries:
2. The night be - comes as day When from the heart we say:
3. Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,
4. Be this while life is mine My can - ti - cle di - vine:

May Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work or prayer
May Je - sus Christ be praised! The pow'rs of dark - ness fear
Sing, Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
May Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this th' e - ter - nal song,

To Je - sus I re - pair: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
When this sweet chant they hear: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
Ring joy - ous with the sound: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
Through all the a - ges long: May Je - sus Christ be praised! A-men.

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

New Britain

1. A - maz - ing — grace! how sweet the sound, that
2. 'Twas grace that — taught my heart to fear, and
3. Through man - y — dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4. When we've been — there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a — wretch like me! — I once — was — lost but
grace my — fears re - lieved; — how pre - cious — did that
have al - rea - dy come; — tis grace — that — brought me
shin - ing — as the sun, — we've no — less — days to

now — am — found, was blind but — now I see.
grace — ap - pear the hour I — first be - lieved!
safe — thus — far, and grace will — lead me home.
sing — God's — praise than when we'd — first be - gun.

THE TARGUM for Colossians 1:1-23

At the dawn of the new millennium, and in the face of a world of terror, may you experience the all-encompassing [peace] and wholeness that is received as a wonderful gift from God.

Your hope is not the cheap buoyant optimism of global capitalism with its cybernetic computer gods and self-confident scientific discovery, all serving the predatory idolatry of economics. Your hope is not the shallow optimism of the “long boom” of increased prosperity. Such optimism is but a cheap imitation of hope. Real hope—the kind of hope that gives you the audacity to resist making your lives a commodity, is not achievement; it is a divine gift. You didn’t get this hope from cable television, and you didn’t find it on the Net. This hope walked into your life, hollering itself hoarse out on the streets, in the classroom, down at the pub and in the public square, when you first heard the good news of whole life restoration in Christ.

This world is the inheritance of those who live in the light—not the dim light of the Enlightenment, nor the glittering lights of computer screens, televisions and gambling terminals, but the light that liberates us from darkness.

Because we are not subservient to the empire but subjects of the kingdom of God’s beloved child, we have the audacity to say to the darkness, “We beg to differ!” We will not be a pawn to the Prince of Darkness. In that very moment our Divine Imagination has been set free!

In this “show me” world, the church is the flesh and blood, here and now, in time and history, with joys and sorrows embodiment of this Christ. As a body politic around a common mean in alternative economic practices, in radical service to the most vulnerable, the church re-imagines the world in the image of the invisible God.-