

# Order of Worship

February 25, 2018

9 & 10:30 o'clock

## **Prelude**

*Improvisation*

## **For Your Reflection**

If it is true, as I am claiming, that we Christians are often reticent about faith and frequently choose just to keep our mouths closed in public about God, why there is so much evidence to the contrary? Our culture chatters about God incessantly. There is a plenty of God talk out there in the public arena. Politicians talk about God. Televangelists talk about God. Mystics who write best-selling books on spirituality talk about God. People in sports stadiums frantically wave posters with Bible passages. Evangelists pass out “Are You Saved?” tracts door to door. Radio DJs and TV newscasters toss off references to God. Popular movies and supermarket tabloids rattle on about God. Some highway billboards even purport to be messages from God (“Don’t make me come down there— God”). Just turn on the radio, read People magazine, or ride down Main Street— God talk reverberates everywhere.

We sense, though, that amid all the God chatter and religious white noise there is a serious lack of depth, even what could be called a famine of authentic speech about God. People talk and talk and talk about God, but the language often seems empty. The God words strike the ear with the dull clink of counterfeit coins. What is missing in our culture is not God talk but authentic God talk. When the Bible describing a particular moment in Israel’s history, says, “The word of the Lord was rare in those days” (1 Samuel 3:1), it does not mean that people did not talk about God then. No doubt, people in that time spoke about God as much as ever— in houses of worship, in homes, in the marketplace. It was just that all of their God talk lacked the ring of authenticity. In short, there was a lot of God talk but very little God in it.

— Thomas G Long

## **\*Church Bell**

(\*The congregation is invited to stand)

## **\*Call to Worship**

**Liturgist:** God said, “This is my Son, the Beloved.”

**People:** Let us worship you, O beloved God.

**Liturgist:** God said, “Listen!”

**People:** We want to hear your word anew this day.

**Liturgist:** God said, “Do not be afraid.”

**People:** We lay our worries at your feet.

**Liturgist:** And after all this was spoken, God was quiet.

**All:** Holy God, still our souls, quiet our minds, and prepare us to be transformed in this time of worship.

## **\*Hymn 43 (10:30am)**

Praise to the Lord

*Lobe den Herren*

## **Prayer of Praise and Invocation**

## **Silent Prayer**

## **Prayer of Preparation and Confession**

*Patient and persistent God, your love for us is everlasting and gentle. And we need reminders of your uplifting grace, because so often we stumble. We hold on to old*

*patterns even when they weave tension and disagreement. We blindly push our own way and wonder why others lag behind. The short-term good we try to do can create long-term problems. And some days, nothing seems to go right. Merciful God, let your patient and persistent love hold us tenderly so we may learn to wait for your whisper and follow your pathway. Ease our white-knuckled grip on having to be in charge. Take our hand and lead us in the way of peace. In the name of Jesus. Amen.*

## **Words of Assurance**

## **Words of Christian Greeting**

## **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.*

## **Interlude**

*The Lord is my Shepherd*  
Laurie Camphouse, flute  
The Handbell Ensemble

arr. Hart Morris  
(20th century)

## **Scripture Lesson**

Philippians 3:13-14

(Pew Bible p. 832)

*I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.*

## **Sermon**

“SIMPLY CHRISTIAN”

Part 1 - How to be a Christian Without Being Weird  
The Rev. Dr. William H. McNabb

## **Offertory (9am)**

(see Anthem)

## **Offertory (10:30am)**

*Reflections*  
Laurie Camphouse, flute  
Gabriel Sakakeeny, organ  
The Handbell Ensemble

Karen Buckwalter  
(20th century)

## **\*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**

*Gracious God, what a gift we have in Jesus! So, as we give thanks for your many graces, rekindle our faith. Renew our spirits. Vanquish our fear and grant us courage, for where we go, Jesus has gone before. In gratitude, therefore, we dedicate these gifts and our lives to you. Amen.*

**\*Commission and Benediction**

**Organ Voluntary**

*Improvisation*

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**Upcoming Sermon Series:**

**SIMPLY CHRISTIAN**

February 25 - Part 1 – How to be a Christian Without Being Weird

March 4 - Part 2 – How to be Rich and Still be a Christian

March 11 - Part 3 – How to get Ready to Die Without Pretending It's No Problem

March 18 - Part 4 – How to Talk About Prayer Without Making God Look Bad

March 25 - Part 5 – How to Hold Your Family Together

**For Further Reading:**

*Simply Christian* by N.T. Wright

*Following Jesus Without Embarrassing God* by Tony Campolo

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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 **Margaret Lum** and **Shelagh Udovch**.

Please join us after the service for coffee.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Carl Moore** from **his family**.

Please silence your cell phones.

This morning's greeters include **Marilynn Hodgson**. The ushers are **Chris & Katy Ford** and **Deb & Jim Obendorf**. The Board of Deacons greeters are **Jim Clarkson** and **Lynn Nelson**. 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*

## **LENTEN GATHERINGS**

This March, join Dr. Don Ashburn for 4 weeks of prayer and conversation, based on Adam Hamilton's best-selling book, 24 Hours That Changed the World. Purchase and bring a copy of the book to the first meeting. Thursday evenings; March 1, 8, 15 and 22, from 7 - 8:30 pm in the Christian Education Building Chapel. Contact Dr. Ashburn at [Don@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Don@PiedmontChurch.org)

## **TREASURES SALE DONATIONS NEEDED**

Accepting donations March 3 - 7. Leave your donations at the church Saturday and Sunday, 9 am - 2 pm, or Monday - Wednesday, 9 am - 7 pm. No donations accepted after Wednesday. See [PiedmontChurch.org](http://PiedmontChurch.org) for a list of items needed.

## **IMANI - PIEDMONT CHOIR CONCERT**

Save the date to spend time with our sister church at Imani Community Church, 3300 MacArthur Blvd. 94602, on Sunday, March 4, 4 pm. Both choirs will perform during this hour-long celebration of community.

## **LENTEN FOOD DRIVE**

Kidz Club is sponsoring a Lenten Food Drive for the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) February 14 through April 1. Look for food donation barrels in the Christian Education Building and by Guild Hall. We are also participating in their Virtual Food Drive program. Visit [accfb.org](http://accfb.org), click on "give" go to Virtual Food Drive, click on "find your group." (Piedmont Church). Contact Leslie at [Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org)

## **FAMILY FELLOWSHIP EVENING EVENT**

Don't miss this evening of friendly conversation, food and wine. Friday, March 2 from 5:30 - 8:30 pm at a local home. The event will be a time for parents and children to enjoy each other's company. Bring a dish or drink to share. RSVP to Leslie at [Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org)

## **PROJECT PEACE COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY**

Project Peace brings together local faith-based organizations and nonprofits to serve our community. Volunteer Saturday, February 24, 9 am - 12 noon. Opportunities include Neonatal ICU hat knitting for Children's Hospital, Berkeley Women's Shelter, CityTeam Oakland, Harbor House Oakland, Piedmont Avenue Elementary School and YEAH. Contact Selma Chin at (510) 290-5732 or [selmachin@yahoo.com](mailto:selmachin@yahoo.com). Visit [projectpeaceeastbay.org](http://projectpeaceeastbay.org)

## **FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PIZZA PARTY**

Children's Sunday School will be having pizza after 10:30 am services today in the Christian Education Building. Contact [Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org)

## **SERVICE WITH TINY TIME COMMITMENTS**

Many of our volunteer activities take minimal time and effort and are great ways to get to know folks at the church in small settings.

- Usher or greet at the 10:30 am service (simple training sessions available).  
Check your calendar and sign up after church

- Help to set up for church dinners  
Contact Jay Foreman – jayforeman777@yahoo.com
- Help in the kitchen with our volunteer cooking crew, Loaves and Fishes  
Contact Steve Wuebbens – sawuebbens@gmail.com
- Provide a meal through our Food Angels for a member going through a difficult time.  
Contact Linda Rice – ljrice@sbcglobal.net
- Spend a few hours at a church work day (next one March 24).  
Contact Lynn Nelson – lnelson480@gmail.com

## *Weekly Calendar*

### **Sunday, February 25**

- 9:00 am           Worship service, Sanctuary
- 10:30 am        Sunday School preK - 6, Christian Education Building
- 10:30 am        Worship service, Sanctuary
- 10:30 am        Nursery care, Christian Education Building
- 11:30 am        Family Pizza Party, Christian Education Building

### **Monday, February 26**

- 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         MAT, Staff Workroom

### **Tuesday, February 27**

- 11:00 am        Staff Meeting, Staff Workroom
- PHS Lunch Break   Rock Pizza Lunch
- 6:30 pm         Handbells, Clara Barton Room
- 7:00 pm         Small Group Bible Study

### **Wednesday, February 28**

- 2:30 pm         LiveWire, Youth Room
- 7:30 pm         Chancel Choir, Lindamood Choir Room
- 7:30 pm         Nominating Committee, Staff Workroom

### **Thursday, March 1**

- 9:45 am         Women's Bible Study, Guild Parlor
- 7:00 pm         Lenten Gatherings, Chapel

### **Friday, March 2**

### **Saturday, March 3**

- 7:30 am         Men's Bible Study, Founders' Room
- 11:00 am        CityTeam Lunch Volunteers
- 2:00 pm         Mexico Adult & Student Leaders Meeting, Youth Room
- 5:00 pm         CityTeam Dinner Volunteers

**Sunday, March 4**

9:00 am	Worship service, Sanctuary
10:30 am	Sunday School preK - 6, Christian Education Building
10:30 am	Worship service, Sanctuary
10:30 am	Nursery care, Christian Education Building
4:00 pm	Mexico Meeting, Sanctuary

**Upcoming Events:**

February 25 - Family Fellowship Pizza

March 1, 8, 15, 22 - Lenten Gatherings

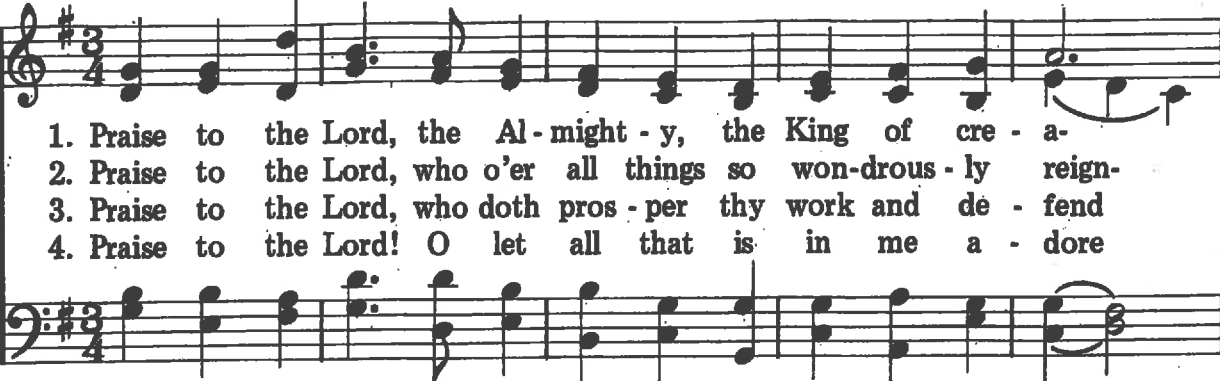
March 4 - Imani - Piedmont Choir Concert, 4pm

# 43 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

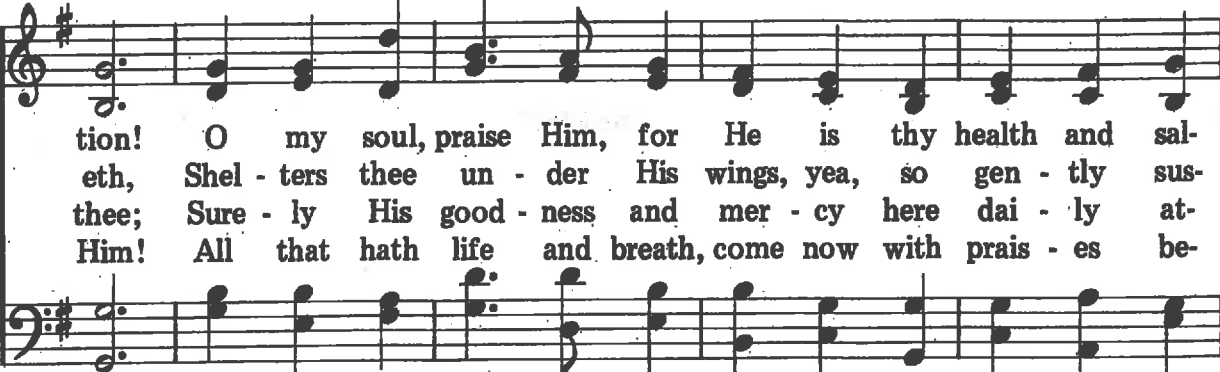
*For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty. Job 22:26*

Joachim Neander, 1680  
Trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863

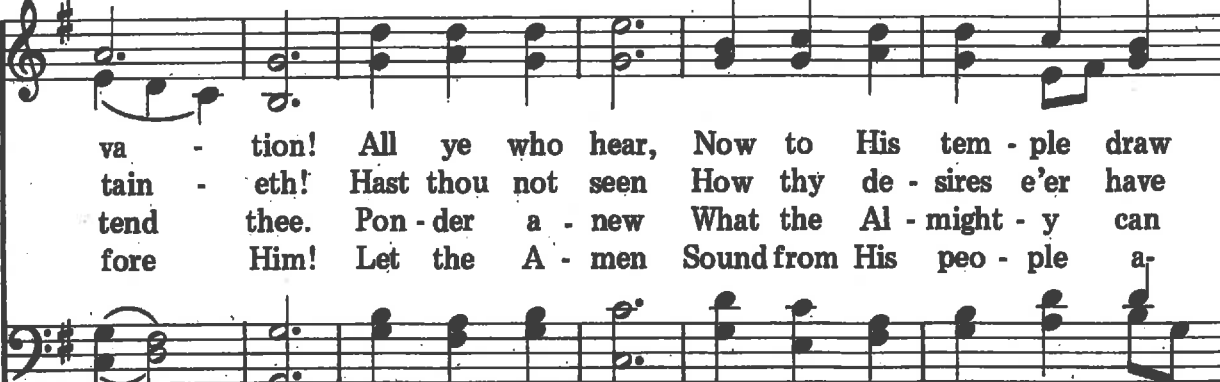
LOBE DEN HERREN 14 14 4 7 8  
*Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665*



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-  
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-  
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend  
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore



tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal-  
eth, Shel-ters thee un-der His wings, yea, so gen-tly sus-  
thee; Sure-ly His good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-  
Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be-



va-tion! All ye who hear, Now to His tem-ple draw  
tain-eth! Hast thou not seen How thy de-sires e'er have  
tend thee. Pon-der a-new What the Al-might-y can  
fore Him! Let the A-men Sound from His peo-ple a-



near; Join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!  
been Grant-ed in what He or-dain-eth?  
do, If with His love He be-friend thee.  
gain: Glad-ly for aye we a-dore Him. A-men.

# 385 Take My Life and Let It Be

*Ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body . . . I Cor. 6:20*

Frances R. Havergal, 1874

HENDON 77777

Henri A. César Malan, 1827

1. Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat-ed, Lord, to Thee; Take my hands and  
2. Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau-ti - ful for Thee; Take my voice and  
3. Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes-sa - ges for Thee; Take my sil - ver  
4. Take my love, my God, I pour At Thy feet its treas-ure store; Take my-self and

let them move At the im-pulse of Thy love, At the im - pulse of Thy love.  
let me sing Al-ways, on - ly, for my King, Al-ways, on - ly, for my King.  
and my gold, Not a mite would I with-hold, Not a mite would I with-hold.  
I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee, Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are placed between the staves, with line numbers 1-4 corresponding to the first system and the remaining lines to the second system. The score ends with a double bar line.

LIFE IN CHRIST: OBEDIENCE AND CONSECRATION





YOUTH MEXICO SERVICE TRIP  
**TREASURES SALE**  
**DONATIONS NEEDED!**

March 3 - 7

**DONATION INFO:**

**WHAT: *Must be Clean, Gently Used, & Working***

Antiques, Artwork, Belts, Bikes, Books, China, Crystal, CDs, Collectibles, Dishes, DVDs, Furniture, Games, Garden Supplies, Hats, Holiday Items, Housewares, Jewelry, Lamps, Linens, LPs, Luggage, Musical Instruments, New Items, Pet Supplies, Purses, Puzzles, Rugs, Scarves, Silver, Small Appliances, Sports Equipment, Stereo Equipment, Throw Pillows, Tools, Toys, Flat Screen TVs only

**WHAT NOT:** Clothing, Computers & Equipment, Ski Equipment, Mattresses, Bed Pillows, Large Appliances, Extra Large Furniture, Harlequin Novels/Condensed Books, Magazines, VHS Tapes, Car Seats, Cribs, Large Exercise Equipment

**WHERE:** Piedmont Community Church Guild Hall, 400 Highland Ave.

**WHEN to DONATE:** March 3-7 Sat. & Sun. 9-2, Mon-Wed. 9-7  
**NO DONATIONS AFTER WEDNESDAY!!**

**HOW:** Limited Pick Ups by Appointment ONLY. Call 547-5700 and leave a message for Scott Kail's interns.

**Treasures Sale March 10, 9-3 and March 11, 9-2**



**PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH  
HUGE, ANNUAL  
TREASURES SALE**

**BENEFITS YOUTH HOUSE-BUILDING TRIP TO MEXICO**

**OVER 300 FAMILIES, THOUSANDS OF ITEMS**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10 9AM-3PM  
SUNDAY, MARCH 11 9AM-2PM**

**MULTIPLE ROOMS  
400 HIGHLAND AVE  
PIEDMONT**

**VINTAGE, FURNITURE, BOOKS, LINENS,  
HOUSEWARES, TOYS, JEWELRY, CHINA, SILVER,  
CRAFTS, HOLIDAY, SPORTS, PURSES, BIKES, ART,  
GARDEN & MUCH MORE!**

**NO STROLLERS OR PETS. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BAGS  
CASH AND CHECKS ONLY**

### Let's Talk

#### *Engagement Team takes next steps*

■ BY MARY MARGARET SINNEMA AND ELIZABETH BECKER

Piedmont Community Church is committed to growing engagement (one's emotional connection and sense of belonging to the church, not just involvement) as a vital way of achieving our strategic plan to improve our sustainability, vibrancy and communication to thrive in coming years.

When a congregation has a high percentage of highly engaged members, great things happen, like serving others more, inviting others more, having a greater sense of life satisfaction, growing spiritually, giving more, feeling cared for and appreciated and developing deep friendships. These elements make a strong community for us now while creating an inviting, thriving community for new people to join.

Dedicated to guiding the engagement growth process this year, our committee needs to learn your thoughts and feelings about the church before we know how to grow engagement. We are learning in two phases. Phase 1 was the Congregational Survey that was completed last fall. Phase 2 is a series of Congregational Conversations that will take place in March.

#### **The Survey**

We heard from over half of our active members, which is exceptional for survey participation. Your voices really matter. However, we found that several important voices to the future of our congregation were under-represented in the survey - new members, parents of teens, parents of children under 13 and inactive members.

#### **The Conversations**

In March, we will host focused, 90-minute, facilitated conversations to gather insights from those who did not participate in the congregational survey and from the rest of the church community, for example - new members within 3-5 years, parents of teens, parents of children, seniors, recent empty nesters (parents with youngest child 19-26 years), inactive members, past leaders, friends of Piedmont Community Church who are committed non-members and membership at large (everyone).

We will email and host courtyard sign ups after worship to invite your interest in participating. Please only say "yes" if you are interested and available on the date specified. While many could fit in more than one group, there is only the opportunity to attend one conversation per person. We'll invite you to the one in which we feel we need your input the most and after making sure we have a diverse, balanced group.

With the most productive group size of 12-15, we thank you for understanding if not everyone can participate.

Please sign up after worship in early March or contact Liz Becker at (510) 388-6169 or [ebecker@beckercompany.com](mailto:ebecker@beckercompany.com)

Thank you for participating and encouraging others to do the same. With everyone's support, we can grow together in so many ways.

*The Engagement Team is Robin Asbury, Liz Becker, Eric Behrens, Anne Conneely, Debi Fitzgerald, Kristine McCabe, Joe Scherer, Mary Margaret Sinnema, Dr. Don Ashburn and Dr. Bill McNabb*