



*Holding the Sun* by Kililani Mahi.

**April 27, 2025  
10:00 AM  
2700 L Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816**

# PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**April 27, 2025**

**Second Sunday after 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**

*At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing*

Johann Pachelbel

**The Light of Christ Enters**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Gathering Call**

*You Are Welcome Here*

Gerard DeMan

**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.**

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear...Jesus came and stood among them.*

What if we told you we come to this sanctuary because there is no safety behind locked doors?

**Jesus speaks peace among us. We do not carry this all alone.**

What if we told you we gather together to remember that fear can't keep love from showing up.

**Jesus breathes the spirit among us. We do not carry this all alone.**

What if we told you worship is a place where we touch the wounds this world makes in us.

**Jesus reaches out his hands to us. We do not carry this all alone.**

What if we told you we join our hearts in prayer and praise to practice moving disbelief toward recognition.

**Jesus tells truths among us. We do not carry this all alone.**

What if it was all true?

**My Lord and my God! Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

(+) denotes standing, if you are able.

## + Opening Hymn

*Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!*

JUDAS MACCABEUS

1 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One! End - less is the vic - tory  
 2 See, it is Je - sus, Je - sus has ap - peared; do not doubt at all for  
 3 Am I still fright - ened? One whom I a - dore, Je - sus, lives a - gain, gives

you o'er death have won. An - gels clothed in ra - diance rolled the stone a -  
 noth - ing you will fear. Let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph  
 peace for - ev - er - more. Je - sus is my vic - tory, life and strength and

way; con - quered is the grave in which your bod - y lay.  
 sing; tell it with - out ceas - ing: Death has lost its sting.  
 Head; Je - sus is my glo - ry, noth - ing shall I dread.

*Refrain*

Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One!

A toi la vic - toi - re, pour l'é - ter - ni - té!  
 End - less is the vic - tory you o'er death have won.

## **+ Opening Prayer (Pastor Led)**

Let pray. Amid our overwhelm and fear, tender God, we do not expect to meet you. Yet you are here, among us, holding out your hands to us, breathing Spirit over us, and showing us again and again that nothing can separate us from you. Surround us with your peace in this moment, Jesus; let our fears rest in you. Amen.

## **Introit**

*Hilaritas*

arranged by John Buckner

The Pioneer Bells

## **Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles**

Peter and the Apostles were arrested and brought before the High Council for teaching in Jesus' name and performing miracles. Peter testifies to the Good News of Christ's resurrection.

## **Scripture Lesson**

Acts 5:27-32

Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. <sup>28</sup> "We gave you strict orders never again to teach in this man's name!" he said. "Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!" <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup> Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as Prince and Savior. He did this so the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be forgiven. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey him."

## **Introduction to the New Testament Lesson**

John the Beloved writes to the seven churches in the province of Asia and shares the glory of God in his opening words to them.

## Scripture Lesson

Revelation 1:4-8

This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne; <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. <sup>6</sup> He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen. <sup>7</sup> Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him—even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen! <sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

*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)

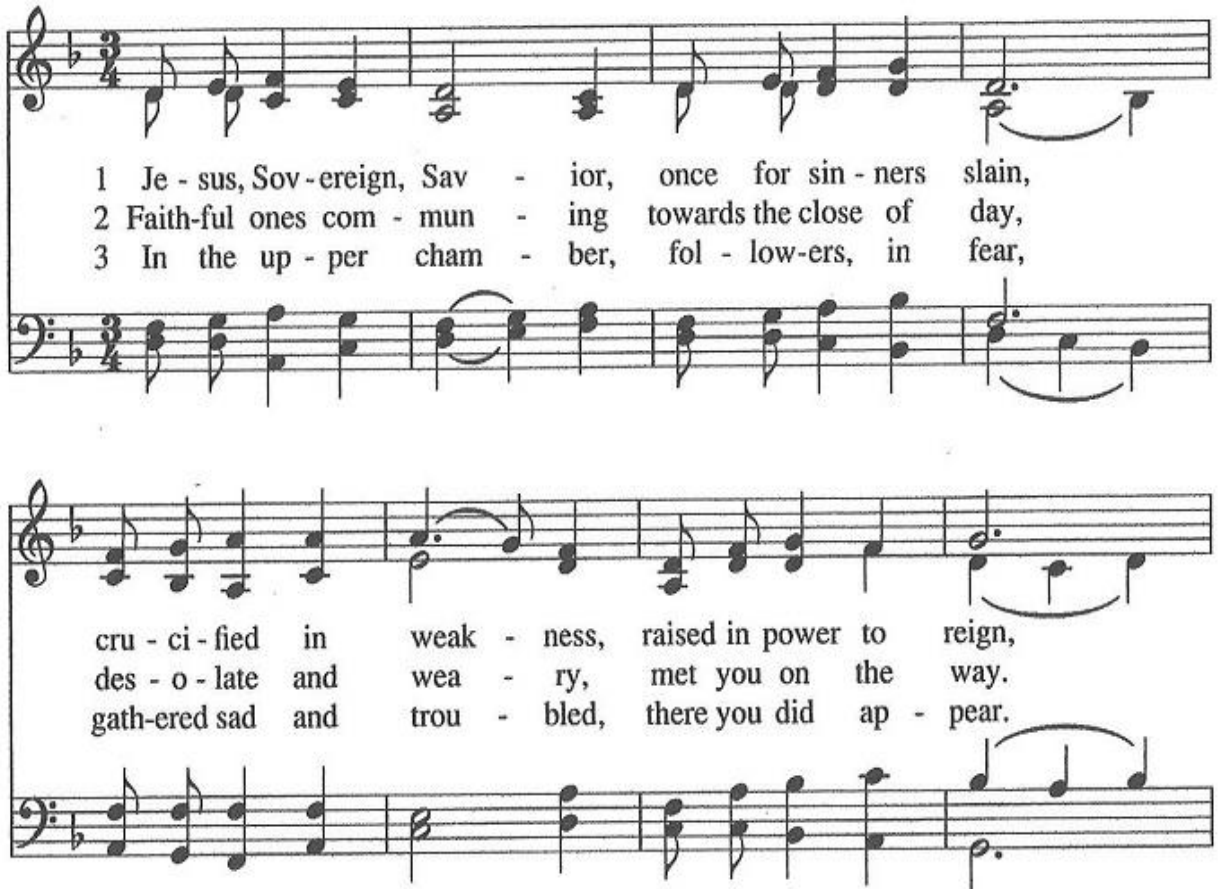
The musical notation is for a unison song in 4/4 time, key of E-flat major (three flats). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path." The music consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and the second staff has a bass clef. The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass line is on the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is in 4/4 time. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody starts on a whole note E-flat, followed by a quarter note G-flat, a quarter note A-flat, and a quarter note B-flat. The bass line starts on a whole note E-flat, followed by a quarter note G-flat, a quarter note A-flat, and a quarter note B-flat. The melody continues with a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, and a quarter note F. The bass line continues with a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, and a quarter note F. The melody ends with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a quarter note C. The bass line ends with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a quarter note C. The music is in 4/4 time. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and the second staff has a bass clef. The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass line is on the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is in 4/4 time. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody starts on a whole note E-flat, followed by a quarter note G-flat, a quarter note A-flat, and a quarter note B-flat. The bass line starts on a whole note E-flat, followed by a quarter note G-flat, a quarter note A-flat, and a quarter note B-flat. The melody continues with a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, and a quarter note F. The bass line continues with a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, and a quarter note F. The melody ends with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a quarter note C. The bass line ends with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a quarter note C.

**Sermon:** “Resurrection Witness”

**Hymn***Jesus, Sovereign Savior*

KING'S WESTON

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.



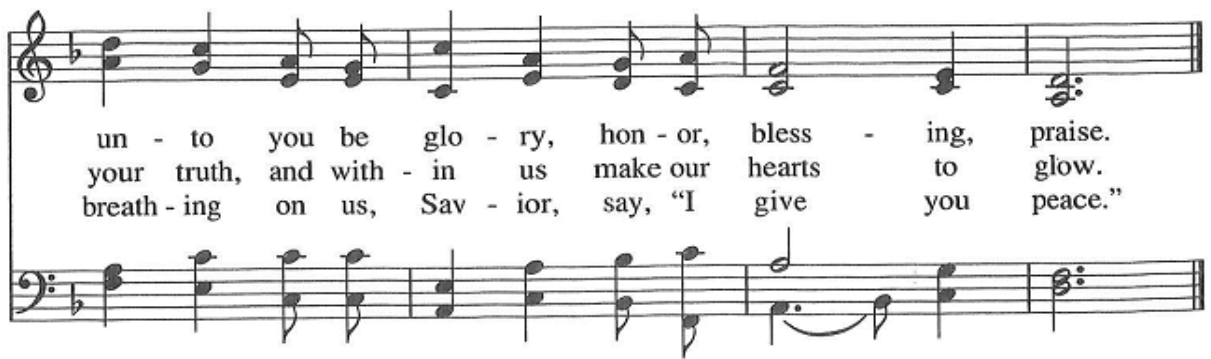
1 Je - sus, Sov - ereign, Sav - ior, once for sin - ners slain,  
2 Faith-ful ones com - mun - ing towards the close of day,  
3 In the up - per cham - ber, fol - low-ers, in fear,

cru - ci - fied in weak - ness, raised in power to reign,  
des - o - late and wea - ry, met you on the way.  
gath-ered sad and trou - bled, there you did ap - pear.





Dwell-ing now im - mor - tal, end-less in your days,  
 So, when sun is set - ting, come to us and show  
 Christ, be pres - ent with us, bid our sor - rows cease;



un - to you be glo - ry, hon - or, bless - ing, praise.  
 your truth, and with - in us make our hearts to glow.  
 breath - ing on us, Sav - ior, say, "I give you peace."

## 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.*

## Response

*The Ash Grove*

Welsh folk song

## Introduction to the Offering

These days, there are many reasons to be afraid. Violence and injustice seem to be growing unchecked. Like the disciples, who similarly faced so many reasons to be frightened, we might be drawn to lock our doors and look for safety by separating ourselves from others. But today's scripture reminds us that absolute safety comes with the flourishing of all people. Even amid our fears, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and sent out. So let us unlock our hearts and unclench our fists, offering what we have in this moment as a symbol of our commitment to go out and be the presence of Love in our world. 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

*Psalm 150*

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*)

**In the presence of fear, may these gifts bring hope. Where doors are locked, may these offerings open new possibilities. Where there are wounds, may these gifts honor their truth. In the presence of despair, may these offerings testify to a new world rising up. To this collective liberation, we dedicate ourselves and our offerings. God be with us. Amen.**

## + Closing Hymn

*Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed*

INNOCENTS

1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your  
 2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can  
 3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's  
 4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that

prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the  
 help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing  
 wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble  
 doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - left of

true, raise your work and life a - new.  
 light, strength - en them to do the right,  
 zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.  
 fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

**+ Commissioning Song** (*sung in unison*)**SERVANT SONG***(Please face one another as you sing.)***+ Benediction**

Hear the resurrection blessing Jesus offered his disciples when they were dwelling in fear: "I am here. We are here together. Peace be with you." Amid your fear, when the way ahead seems impossible or unclear, no matter where your journey takes you in the coming days, even behind locked doors, know this resurrection blessing is for you: God is here. We are here together. Peace be with you. Amen.

**Postlude***"Spring" from The Four Seasons*

Antonio Vivaldi

**The Pioneer Bells**

Tim Elhard, Jessica Esposito, Cyndy FitzGerald, Jeremy Gregersen, Helen Hakanson, Elliot Jones, Luby Mitrovich and Don Regester



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

**Volunteers for next Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> are: Reader:** Levi Fuentes **Usher:** Karen Shipman  
**Acolyte:** Garylee Stephenson **Audio Visual Tech:** William Ruygt **Tellers:** TBA  
**Fellowship:** Potluck: Potluck **Flowers:** TBA

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### + 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.

### + 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.

### + 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!

### + Food Pantry Donations

We collect non-perishable food pantry donations and travel-sized toiletries on Sunday, May 18. We will collect and dedicate them during the service 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.

# The Good Place



## BIBLE STUDY

**Beginning again on Wednesday, May 7.**

Join us as we watch an episode from the hit Netflix series, *The Good Place*, Season 2, and then have a Bible study led by our pastor in the Pastor's office. Learn about the Bible and our faith journeys in a judgment-free zone.



WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 PM

**PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



[www.pioneerucc.org](http://www.pioneerucc.org)



2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA



# 2025

Sunday April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Service	10:00am
	Council Meeting	11:30am
Tuesday April 28 <sup>TH</sup>	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm-7:30pm
Thursday May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm-8:00pm
Sunday May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Service	10:00am

## What's Happening this Week

- + **The newest addition of *The Weekly eNewsletter*, will be available online or at the Information Table on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Pastorbo@pioneerucc.org)

[MusicDirector@pioneerucc.org](mailto:MusicDirector@pioneerucc.org)

[connect@pioneerucc.org](mailto:connect@pioneerucc.org)

[pprc@pioneerucc.org](mailto:pprc@pioneerucc.org)

[www.pioneerucc.org](http://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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