

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

Call-to-Worship

Servant: You are our hiding place, O Lord.

You preserve us from trouble; you surround us with deliverance

People: From the mean and malicious

Servant: Hide us!

People: In the presence of the unkind and the uncaring

Servant: Preserve us!

People: From trouble and temptation

Servant: Deliver us!

All: Hide us in your love and grant us peace!

Hymn

Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, sing the song of endless praise.

Alleluia, Alleluia, sing it still through endless days.

Sing the song of joy and gladness, let the mighty anthem sound!

Here the kingdom, now the glory, Love the Source of all around.

Alleluia, Alleluia, great Creator ever near.

Alleluia, Alleluia, slow to anger, quick to hear.

Every blessing freely given, every loving gift be stowed;

May we see Thy goodness flowing, may our hearts be Thine abode.

Alleluia, Alleluia, let all thankful souls rejoice

Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the One with one great voice

Living Spirit, come enfold us, so Thy light in all we see;

'Til all nations stand before Thee and proclaim Thy majesty.

OLYMPIA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH April 25, 2021 • 4th Sunday of Eastertide

Invocation

O God who is Love, when you seem so far away from us, remind us to reach within to the fountains of feelings at the core of ourselves and there, let us find you. When you seem so unconcerned, so massive, so impassive, so distant by your expansiveness, remind us to reach out to the hand of a child, to the face of a friend, and there let us find you. And in times when we have nothing to feel and there is no one to touch, let us never close our hearts or our hands, but always, let us be open to you, and let us be open today; here and now.

Hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #71

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art; Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive. Suddenly return, and never, never-more Thy temples leave Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above, Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

The Written Word

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

God makes me to lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside the still waters. God restores my soul;

Leads me in the paths of righteousness for God's name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

Ministry Moment

Day Retreat/Youth

Special Music His Eye is on the Sparrow



Meggin Turk

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The Written Word

I John 3: 16-24

This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear. My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves. And friends, once that's taken care of and we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold and free before God! We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because we're doing what he said, doing what pleases him. Again, this is God's command: to believe in his personally named Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love each other, in line with the original command. As we keep his commands, we live deeply and surely in him, and he lives in us. And this is how we experience his deep and abiding presence in us: by the Spirit he gave us.

The Spoken Word

A Second-Hand Emotion?

Rev. Mark Rambo

Video/Visual Response

Let Us Love

The Work of the People

Offering

Prayers of the People

Hymn

Love Lifted Me

#317

Weekly Challenge

Postlude

Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

Benediction

Walk Humbly • Love Completely • Live Differently