

# ORDER OF SERVICE

March 17, 2024 • 10:00 AM



## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, give us wisdom to perceive you, intellect to understand you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

— *Benedict of Nursia (480–543)*

## WELCOME & GREETING

Neil Trainer

## SONGS OF PRAISE “Blessed Be Your Name” and “God With Us”

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emily Mitchell

**Merciful God,  
you made us in your image,  
with a mind to know you,  
a heart to love you,  
and a will to serve you.  
But our knowledge is imperfect,  
our love inconstant,  
our obedience incomplete.  
Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness.  
In your tender love, forgive us  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
in whose name we continue to pray.**

*(silence for personal prayer)*

## 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 sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

## BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN & DISMISSAL TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

## OFFERING

Benj. Parrilla, *piano*

## SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 19:2–8; 20:1–3; 24:3–8

Polly Terman

## SERMON “Witness God’s Commitment”

Neil Trainer

## SONG OF RESPONSE “No Longer Slaves”

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Emily Mitchell

## SONG OF SENDING “Take My Life”

## BENEDICTION



**Volunteers Needed for Our Easter Egg Hunt**

// Saturday, March 30, at 10 am at Hillwood Park

There are many opportunities to help out for our Easter Egg Hunt coming up on March 30th, the day before Easter. This is a neighborhood outreach event, and a chance to tell the true story of Easter to many.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Otherwise, to volunteer, please call or email [Carol Jean Chandler](mailto:Carol.Jean.Chandler@calvincpc.org).

**Donate for Easter Flowers by Next Sunday**

If you make a donation towards purchasing Easter flowers, your name and the names of those you want to honor or remember will be listed in a special Easter Sunday bulletin insert.

There are printed forms available at the Welcome Desk (or, if you prefer, you may also fill out an electronic form linked in the Friday email).

Place the completed paperwork with your check noting "Easter Flowers" on the memo line in Kirsty Haining's church mailbox or in the lock box behind the Welcome Desk.



*Below is a repeat from the Stories of Faith column from the Friday, December 9, 2022 email.*

**A Challenging but Rewarding Leap of Faith**

// by Benj. Parrilla

This past week the Young Adults group wrapped up our first time running the Alpha program.

Although it was a lot of fun, it was also very challenging. When we first heard about Alpha, what excited us was that it was all about creating an environment where we can ask open-ended questions: guests can share perspectives about some of the big life questions while we eagerly listen without condemning any views. It was appealing to me because most of the friends I have aren't followers of Jesus. It's been a struggle to create spaces where friends can talk about faith.

As the weeks went on, some guests dropped out. We had some of our close friends decide to stop coming. This inconsistency was very challenging. But we learned to overcome some of our social anxiety by trusting that the guests who continued to come were the guests that God had intended for us to serve. We learned to have peace in God's timing with the friends that decided to stop coming.

Over time, it was pleasantly shocking to notice community forming and relationships blossoming so that we were constantly joking around with each other. Our guests felt comfortable sharing more. This also led to a second challenge – guests sharing painful experiences in the church and putting down Christianity. It was difficult to listen without responding argumentatively; instead, we chose to eagerly ask guests to share more.

In retrospect, our guests were able to find a space where they could voice their opinions and ask questions about life and God. Such a space can be difficult to find in day-to-day life: it's easy to get caught up with each day's worries rather than asking and seeking truth. I'm very grateful for the relationships that formed, the prayers and support from our church community, and the feedback from guests that they are more than happy to continue meeting – whether that's Alpha again or something completely different. Doing Alpha was a leap in faith that put us outside of our comfort zone in multiple areas, but God blessed us in many ways through it.



**Happy Birthday!**

- Roryk Juengel.....Mar. 19
- Don Belcher .....Mar. 21
- Lyn Fouch .....Mar. 21
- Rick Miller .....Mar. 24
- Ian Baker.....Mar. 25
- Lee Simpkins.....Mar. 26
- Pietro Parrilla.....Mar. 27
- Chris Jackson.....Mar. 30



**Upcoming Events**

- NO Choir Rehearsal.....Mar. 20
- Palm Sunday, 10 am .....Mar. 24
- Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm .....Mar. 13
- Maundy Thursday, 7 pm at Maplewood PC.....Mar. 28
- Good Friday, 7 pm.....Mar. 29
- Easter Egg Hunt, 10 am...Mar. 30
- Easter Sunrise Service, 6:15 am, Edm. Marina Beach...Mar. 31
- Choir Rehearsal, 8:15 am...Mar. 31
- Easter, 10 am .....Mar. 31
- Easter Monday *office closed*. Apr. 01