

January 26, 2020
3rd Sunday After Epiphany

Good Morning! Malo e lava mai! Nisa bula vinaka!
In this Reconciling Congregation, all people are welcome, safe and cherished.
Presiding in worship: Reverend Dr. Debra Murray
Lay Liturgist: Tim Crockett

*With the sounding of the chimes, we are gathered as a family of faith.
Please stand as you are able where indicated by an asterisk (*).
Children's activity packets are available in the entryway.*

10:45 a.m. Worship Celebration

Prelude *Orchester Trio #10 (Presto, Andante)* Johann Stamitz
Fiume di Musica

Welcome Reverend Dr. Debra Murray
Opening Hymn* *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* UMH 154, v. 1-4
Call to Worship* Tim Crockett

Leader: To those who sit in darkness, light has dawned.
**People: To those who dwell in gloom and despair,
God's glorious presence has appeared.**
Leader: God is indeed our light and our salvation.
**People: We will follow, unafraid,
where God and Jesus lead us.**
Leader: Let us worship our God of light and promise.
All: Let us celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation!

Children's Hymn *Where Children Belong* FWS No. 2233
**This, this is where children belong,
Welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:
This is where children belong.**

Children's Moment Reverend Ann Duncan

Finance Update Lou Bellardo
Life of the Community Tim Crockett
Blessing of Officers Reverend Dr. Debra Murray, Mel Smith
Reception of New Member, Mike McCartney

Pastoral Prayer Reverend Dr. Debra Murray
The Lord's Prayer *adapted* / UMH 895
**Our Creator, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
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.**

The Peace of Christ Be With You*
Please stand and greet your neighbor
Sung Response* *Shalom to You* UMH 666
**Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.**

Anthem *Prayer for Healing* Molly James (1978 -)
Lord of this barren land swept by the flame,
Here in my wilderness I call Your name.
Refuge of wounded hearts bend low to hear.
Binder of broken things, Father, draw near.
Friend of the sorrowing, Knower of grief.
Tenderly hovering, bringing relief.
Be to my weary soul quiet repose,
Be in my desert place, blossoming rose.
Come like a gentle wind bringing the rain;
Come like a healing touch, and soothe my pain.
Fill with Your presence this desolate waste;
Lord of this barren land,
Make of these ashes a beautiful place.

Scripture Reading *1 Corinthians 1:18-20* Alan Cooper
New Testament p. 156; large print p. 202
Hymn* *In the Garden* UMH 314

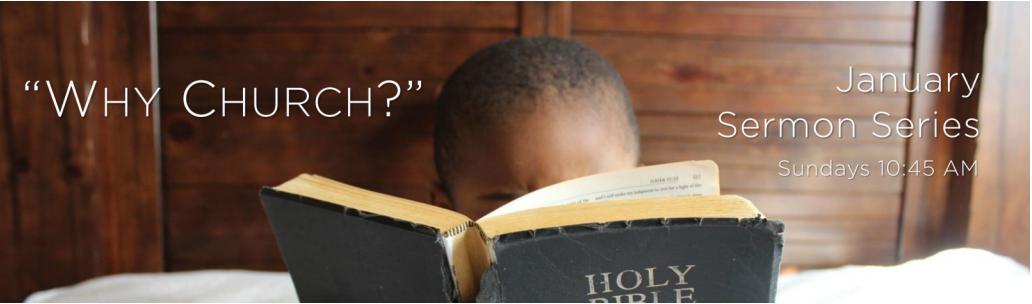
Sermon *Communion and The Absurd Necessity of Faith: A Dispatch
from the Modern-Day Operating Room* Dr. Chris Holsinger
Sung Response *O Christ, the Healer* UMH 265, v. 1 & 5
Invitation to the Offering Tim Crockett
Offertory Anthem *Heal Me, Hands of Christ* Elaine Aune (1949 -)

Heal me, hands of Jesus, and search out all my pain; restore my hope, remove my fear and bring me peace again.	Know me, mind of Jesus, and show me all my sin; dispel the memories of guilt, and bring me peace within.
Cleanse me, blood of Jesus, take bitterness away; let me forgive as one forgiven and bring me peace today.	Fill me, joy of Jesus: anxiety shall cease and heaven's serenity be mine, "for Jesus brings me peace!"

Doxology* *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 94
Prayer of Dedication of Gifts & Self Tim Crockett
**Light has dawned in our lives and in our world. We are called to
share that light, and to speak words of comfort and calling in a
world shrouded in gloom and darkness. What can we offer in
thanksgiving for the gift of light and love we have received from
you, O God? We offer our all: our resources, our energy, our
time, our very selves to answer your call and to follow without
fear. Accept our gifts, O Lord. Amen.**

Closing Hymn* *Word of God, Come Down on Earth* UMH 182
Benediction* Reverend Dr. Debra Murray
Alleluia* UMH 186
Postlude *Festive Trumpet Tune* David German (b. 1954)

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠
*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God, and in honor of my dear
husband, Scott Thomas, whose birthday is January 30th,
by Lucy Tompkin.*



Join us as local residents from diverse age groups and professions
discuss Christianity and answer the question: How is the Word relevant
in all aspects of our lives for the 21st century?

**TODAY - Communion and The Absurd Necessity of Faith:
A Dispatch from the Modern-Day Operating Room**
Dr. Chris Holsinger, MD, Stanford University Medical Center



Our Vision:
The Children in Our Midst
The Mission at Our Doorstep
A Place of Hospitality and Grace

Rev. Dr. Debra Murray, Senior Pastor
Rev. Ann Duncan, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries
Diane Keller, Organist
Mark Shaull, Director of Music

Peni Savou, Lay Leader, Fijian Language Ministry

The worship service is webcast live every Sunday. To view it, go to
www.firstpaloalto.com/live. DVD's of the 10:45 a.m. worship service are
available to borrow in the library or to purchase by contacting the church office.

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member, or just joined us, you can give with just a few clicks at
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NOTEWORTHY NEWS.....

Sunday Announcement Guidelines: If you have an announcement you want to make on a Sunday or place in the Sunday bulletin, please email Charlotte at charlotte@firstpaloalto.com with your request.

Altar Flower Signups for 2020 are open on the Education Building bulletin board and online at <https://tinyurl.com/fumcpaflowers2020>. We are testing out a new online sign-up this year. Altar flowers cost \$70.

Couples Group meets every 1st & 3rd Sunday. Next meeting: **Feb 2.**

Great Decisions 2020: Please join us for this upcoming foreign policy discussion series Sunday nights **Feb 9 through March 29 at 7 PM.** Contact Tom Fingar at (tom.fingar@gmail.com) with questions. Books are \$25, contact Lou Bellardo (lou@bellardo.com) if you would like one. Additional materials and information are available on the FPA website: <https://tinyurl.com/greatdec2020>



Valentine's Day Guessing Game: The church library's annual Valentine's Day Guessing Game starts **Sunday, Feb 2** and runs throughout February. This year's theme will be "Love the Whole World". You are allowed one guess per week. Winners will be chosen in children, youth and adult categories. A food item will be donated to the Downtown Streets Food Closet for every individual person who enters!

Sierra Service Project: Rev. Ann Duncan is exploring the idea of a group attending a summer mission opportunity with Sierra Service Project in **July**. The week-long trip is open to all congregants over the age of 12. It includes community and building projects in Smith River, CA and does not require any experience. If you are interested in a life-changing opportunity, please see Ann for more information.

Attn Parents of Children and Youth: Come say hello to Rev. Ann Duncan on **Sunday, Feb 9** after service in Kohlstedt Hall! Refreshments will be served and kids will be invited to make valentines.

The Peninsula Peace & Justice Center will present "**How the U.S. destroyed the Marshall Islands; a nuclear disaster**", featuring contributions from members of the First Tongan Church of Palo Alto, on **Saturday, Feb 8** at the First Baptist Church of Palo Alto. The presentation will be led by Susanne Rust, LA Times Investigative Reporter. Please RSVP here: https://peaceandjustice.org/stec_event/marshall_islands/.



We lift the names of those asking for prayer, with thanksgiving for the healing already being received: Artemas, Don and Jennifer (Janet Nicholls' friends), Emilie Sweet, Danielle Martell, Keith Perry, Joanne Perry Mehri Namdarian, Robin Snyder, Orin & Jo Zimmerman, Kitty Baggott, Diane Mazuera's father, Tom Cousar (Patty & Lou Bellardo's nephew), Major Ross (Pastor Debra's brother), Marilyn Davis (Michele Conway's aunt), Merribeth May Munyon, Janni Yuen, Jean Cole, Frankie Campos, Kathy Kemp, Lou Ecroll
We lift the names of those who have passed away: Dawn Arkema (Marcia Sterling's niece), B.J. Coleman

To add your name to the prayer list, fill out a Prayer Request Card and place in the offering plate. Our "on-going prayer list" (for persons who are homebound, battling long-term illness, or serving overseas) may be found on our website.

Food Collection: Please bring a non-perishable food item each week for the Downtown Streets Team Food Closet. Place your food item in one of the baskets in the Narthex. The food is delivered to the Food Closet. Items of particular need include: Vienna sausages, corn beef, microwaveable popcorn, instant coffee, apple cider and hot chocolate packets, baby food and formula, and any "open and eat" packages.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Check our online calendar at www.FirstPaloAlto.com for the latest schedule information. Church Office Hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed weekends.

Sunday January 26
11:45 AM **Snack-n-Chat**, Patio

Monday January 27
7:00 PM **Fiume di Musica Rehearsal**, Wesley Room

Tuesday January 28
1:30 PM **Mary/Martha Circle**, Patio Room
7:30 PM **Church Council**, Millennium Room

Wednesday January 29
10:00 AM **Bible Study**, Channing House
6:00 PM **Community Soup Supper**, Patio Room
7:00 PM **Contemporary Service**, Patio Room

Thursday January 30
6:30 PM **Handbell Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
7:30 PM **Choir Rehearsal**, Kohlstedt Hall

Sunday February 2
9:15 AM **Childcare**, Noah's Ark Nursery
9:30 AM **Adult Bible Study: You, The Bible, and Current Events**, Wesley Room
9:45 AM **Children's Sunday School**
Preschool-K, Butterfly Room (1st floor)
1st-5th Grade, Rainbow Room (2nd floor)
10:45 AM **Sanctuary Worship Celebration**

For questions regarding Children & Youth Ministries contact Reverend Ann Duncan, ann@firstpaloalto.com.

Childcare for young children is available every Sunday from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Noah's Ark Nursery, located next to the Library on the 1st floor.

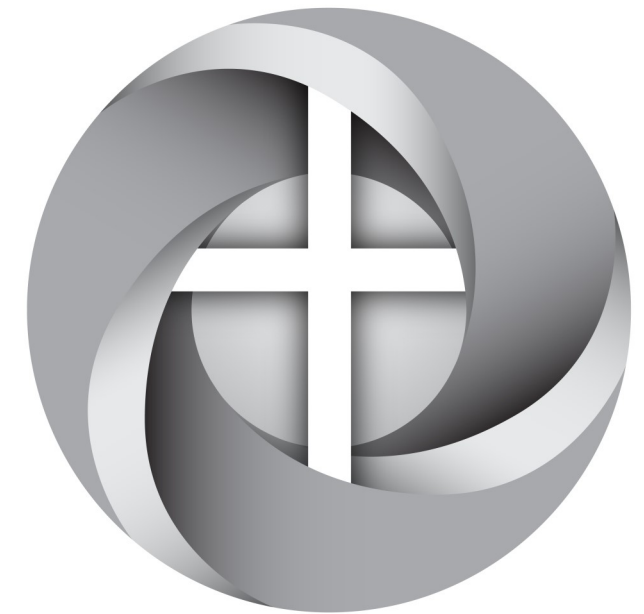
Children's Sunday School for kids age 3 through 5th grade: Sunday School is from 9:45 to 10:40 a.m. in the First School room (ages 3 through Kinder) and the Rainbow Room (grades 1 through 5).

YOFPA (Youth of First Palo Alto) for 6th-12th graders: Contact Rev. Ann Duncan for meeting details.

WELCOME

January 26, 2020

Third Sunday After Epiphany



FIRST PALO ALTO

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS:

SUNDAY 10:45 AM

WEDNESDAY 6:00 PM

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