

# First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto

Sunday, March 22  
*Forth Sunday in Lent*



## LENT

Forty Days of Preparation

10:45 Service

Prelude	Prière à Notre-Dame Diane Keller, Organist	Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)
Welcome		Rev. Dr. Debra Murray
Opening Hymn	O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing	UMH 57, v. 1, 2 & 3
	O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise! The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.	
	My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.	
	Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinners ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace!	
Welcome		Rev. Dr. Debra Murray
Call to Worship		Pam Cutkosky, Lay Leader
	When the world is dark and full of fear, <b>we will turn to the light.</b> When we cannot find our way to love and peace, <b>we will turn to the light.</b> When our vision dims due to despair within, <b>we will turn to the light.</b> Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight. <b>The light of the world is Jesus Christ.</b> Come and worship the one who brings sight to the blind. <b>Praise God, the light of the world!</b>	
Children's Moment		Reverend Ann Duncan
Pastoral Prayer		Reverend Ann Duncan
Lord's Prayer		
	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	

Special Music	A Simple Song <i>from Mass:</i> Mark Shaull, Baritone	Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
Scripture	John 9:1-7	Pam Cutkosky
Homily		Rev. Dr. Debra Murray
Offertory	How Can I Keep From Singing Diane Keller, Organist	arr. Benjamin Culli (1975 - )
Doxology		UMH 95
	Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen	
Closing Hymn	Open My Eyes, That I May See	UMH 454
	Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!	
	Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear; and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!	
	Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!	
Benediction		Rev. Dr. Debra Murray
Sung Response	On Eagle's Wings	UMH 143
	And God will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.	
Postlude	Toccata Diane Keller, Organist	Gaston Béliet (1863–1938)

## Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Ann Duncan

God of love, we come this morning seeking your light. We have become so accustomed to the darkness, that we sometimes fail to see your good ways. Open our eyes to the light of this new day, that our souls may be renewed with love and joy. Open our hearts to receive your message of comfort and peace and security, that we may find rest in your loving, protective presence.

God of light, we often live in the darkness of despair: worried about our lives, concerned for our health, fearful that we are lost from you. The yoke of our burdens lies heavy upon us: our unwillingness to forgive, our fears of one another, our reluctance to share what we have, our divisions and quarrels. We long to turn from the dark and live in the light. We yearn to leave the dark and follow the paths of righteousness. Shine the light of your love upon us and transform us with your love, that your promised realm may draw near.

God, we offer you prayers, knowing that your light of love shines in the dark places in our lives. Hear now in the silence of our own minds our confessions and needs:

O God, let your light heal our brokenness and bring hope to our places of despair. Open our spirits to follow the path you put before us, that we may lead lives committed to you. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who taught us to pray aloud together:

## Lord's Prayer

**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**

