

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, August 16
10:45 service



Welcome

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Prelude

I Come With Joy

David Cherwien (b.1957)

Hymn

We Are Called

FWS 2172

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God!

We are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
So all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love!

Life of the Community

Call to Worship

Sing to the Lord a new song!
We sing a song of peace and hope!

Sing to the Lord a song of strength.
Our strength is in the Lord of hosts!

Sing to the Lord a song of joy!
Our song is a song of service and faithfulness.

Children's Moment

Reverend Ann Duncan

Anthem

Al Shlosha D'varim

Allan E. Naplan (b. 1972)

"The world is sustained by three things: by truth, by justice and by peace."

Pastoral Prayer

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Dear Lord, thank you for being our lighthouse in the storms we are facing in our lives today. We are grateful for your ever-shining beams radiating hope, calm, patience, endurance, sophia and love over us. Loving Saviour, we begin this day with gratitude for our lives in you and your life in ours. Thank you for this time to observe Sabbath, a gift of both rest and resistance to overworking, a time of renewal and reconciliation. God of life, when our days melt together in a pandemic, bring our eyes to you and turn us more clearly to lives lived for love and justice.

Loving God, we give thanks for your mercy and grace. We are grateful for the signs of new life around us. We are conscious of how thorns adorn beautiful flowers, and the grief that became peace demonstrates to us how you make all things new. Make our lives anew with a God-awareness—of an unveiling and change to a new reality. Give us patience with others, and grant us sight to see hope in creation. Have mercy upon us God. Transform our thorniness into leaves that heal the nation.

Saving God, teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Bless our church with resources to fill the requests for temporary housing, diapers for infants and toddlers, food for the hungry, toiletries, towels and temporary assistance to the homeless. We ask for your wisdom as we engage in preparing our campus to provide work-spaces for non-profits. Lead us as we prepare a safe space to engage in providing early childhood education in our preschool. We need your guidance as our children prepare for a new school year. Assuage our fears with access to good information to make sound decisions regarding their future. Help us with our anxiety about the future.

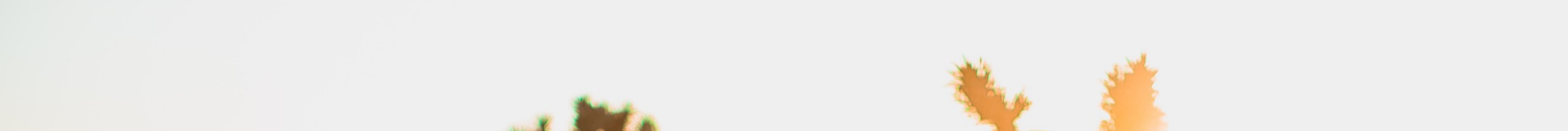
Loving God, you are at work healing us, even when we are unaware of your power and compassion. We pray for those who are ailing, caregiving, and grieving. Today we commend them to you. Grant them your peace and help us to be mindful to extend our call of encouragement, comfort and condolence. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Please, turn these days into your repair and renewal in the power of your love.

Loving God of Mary, the first evangelist to preach your resurrection. We ask that you heal our systems of racism and our hearts of the fear that divides us. We are grateful that young girls around the world can imagine they can be the Vice President of the United States. Lord, we lift to you those struggling with cutbacks or economic disruption. Help those who cannot pay their rent, mortgage or employees. Help all who are anxious and are growing up in the fear of deprivation. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Loving God, give us words when we don't know how to pray, and guidance when we are spinning. Our hearts are full and overflowing with our needs, thoughts, deeds and wants. We ask that you speak peace to our racing hearts, minds and bodies. Teach us how to lay our burdens down and leave them to your reconciling love. Speak to us the things you would have us hear. We are listening. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.



Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Scripture

Mark 12:41

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 wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now, I wait for thee,
ready, my God, they 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!

Message

Overcoming Uncomfortable Conversations: New Rules for a New Reality

Sexism and Economic Violence


Vicki Veenker, Tim Crockett

Invitation to the Offering

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Offertory Prayer

O God,
we are before you as a people of faith,
investing our lives and our treasures



for the glory of your kingdom.
Bless these gifts and those who gave them,
in Jesus' name. Amen.

Offertory *Praise to the Lord* Anna Laurie Page
First Methodist Handbells, Jerry Johnson, Director

Doxology *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH No. 94

Closing Hymn *In Unity We Lift Our Song* FWS 2221

In unity we lift our song
of grateful adoration,
for brothers brave and sisters strong.
What cause for celebration!
For those whose faithfulness
has kept us through distress,
who've shared with us our plight,
who've held us in the night,
the blessed congregation.

For stories told and told again
to every generation,
to give us strength in time of pain,
to give us consolation.
Our spirits to revive
to keep our dreams alive,
when we are far from home
and evil seasons come;
how firm is our foundation.

For sacred scriptures handed down,
a blessed trust and treasure,
which give us hope when hope is gone
and make us weep with pleasure.
And when our eyes grow blind
and death is close behind,
we shall recite them still
whose words our hearts can fill
with hope beyond all measure.

For God our way, our bread, our rest,
of all these gifts the Giver.
Our strength, our guide, our nurturing breast
whose hand will yet deliver.
Who keeps us till the day
when night shall pass away,
when hate and fear are gone
and all our work is done,
and we shall sing forever.

Benediction Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

You have been embraced by the love of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and blessed by Jesus to go into this world to offer healing and hope. Go in peace. Amen.

Alleluia UMH 186

Postlude *Exultate Deo* Robert Hebble (1934-2020)