

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 7
10:45 service



Good morning! Please click [here](#) if you would like to submit a prayer request.

Prelude

Praeludium in C Major

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Processional Hymn

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

UMH 559, v. 1, 2, 4

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone;
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever,
and her confidence alone.

Laud and honor to the Father,
laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one;
one in might and one in glory,
while unending ages run.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today!
With thy faithful loving-kindness
hear thy people as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.
to endless years the same.

Life of the Community

Call to Worship

One: Again and again,

All: We arrive at this time.

One: Again and again,

All: We gather as a community.

One: Again and again,
All: We move closer to God.
One: And again and again,
All: God is here.
One: We are met.
All: We are heard.
One: We are shown the way.
All: So again and again, Let us worship holy God.

Pastoral Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Anthem	<i>God of Comfort, God of Courage</i>	Wilbur Chenoweth (1899-1980)
Scripture	<i>John 2:13-22, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25</i>	Lucy Tompkin
Hymn	<i>Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life</i>	UMH 164

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath,
such a truth as ends all strife,
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast,
such a feast as mends in length,
such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move,
such a love as none can part,
such a heart as joys in love.

Message

Not in My House

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

HOLY COMMUNION

Before we begin our celebration of Holy Communion, I want to pause to invite those of you who have not already prepared elements to do so. I assure you that even an English muffin can become a sacrament, even a Cup of water or tea can become remembrance of God's redeeming love.

Receive this invitation for holy communion. This morning I invite you to lend Christ your home. On the first day of hosanna in their hearts, Jesus asked to borrow a donkey. On the Thursday that followed, Jesus rented or was given John's mother's upper room to celebrate the Passover with the disciples. On the afternoon of the resurrection, Jesus was invited into a house in Emmaus and used the bread of that hospitality to break and bless. Lend Christ your home and your cup and your heart. For as the disciples told the person who loaned the donkey, the Lord hath need of it. Receive the prayer of consecration.

We belong to a worldwide table where we are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church community is spread worldwide, we are one in Christ. In your many kitchens and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we've set aside today to be a sacrament. And let us ask God's blessing upon them:

Gentle Redeemer there is no lock down on your blessing and no quarantine on grace. Send your spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon every table where your child shelters in place, that this bread may be broken and gathered in love, and this cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us that we may live in you. Breathe in us that we may breathe in you.

We remember that Paul the Apostle wrote letters to congregations throughout the places we now call Greece, Turkey and Macedonia. And they were the first remote worship resources. Our online service has a long heritage. The communion words sent to the church at Corinth were these: for I received from the Lord what I also handed onto you, that the Lord Jesus on the night on which he was betrayed took a loaf of bread. And when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, this is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me. And in the same way he took the cup after supper saying, this is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the bread of heaven. Please hold your bread up in front of you, and let's break it together, symbolizing that this is the body of Christ, which is broken for us.

We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Let us in many places receive the gift of God, the cup of blessing. Lift up your Cup and dip your bread in the cup of blessing.

We are one in Christ in the Cup we share.

And let us partake. Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that by the very method of our worship we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made by hand, nor contained in human ceremonies, but blows as free as the spirit in all places.

Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world. And may the drinking of this cup renew our hope, even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Prayer

The wisdom of the world tells us to hoard what we own, O God, while you invite us to share what we have with those in need. Accept these gifts for your purposes, that we may be your servants in the world. Amen.

Offertory

Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH No. 94

Closing Hymn

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

UMH 540

I love thy kingdom, Lord,
the house of thine abode,
the church our blest Redeemer saved
with his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God!
Her walls before thee stand
dear as the apple of thine eye,
and graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
for her my prayers ascend,
to her my cares and toils be given,
till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
her sweet communion, solemn vows,
her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as thy truth shall last,
to Zion shall be given
the brightest glories earth can yield,
and brighter bliss of heaven.

Benediction

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Postlude

Postlude on "Darwall's 148th"

Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

Virtual Coffee & Chat

Join us after the service for a virtual coffee chat! All are welcome.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81124350936>

Please message Paula McKinney or Pastor Ann for the password.