



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

## Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

SUNDAY AUGUST 29  
10:45 AM SERVICE

Prelude *Praeludium BWV 998* J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Processional Hymn *Saranam, Saranam* UMH 523

Jesus, Savior, Lord, lo, to thee I fly;  
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;  
thou the Rock, my refuge that's higher than I:  
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.

In the midst of foes I cry to thee,  
from the ends of earth wherever I may be;  
my strength in helplessness, O answer me:  
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam. (Refrain)

In thy tent give me a dwelling place,  
and beneath thy wings may I find sheltering grace;  
O lift on me the sunshine of thy face:  
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam. (Refrain)

O that I my vows to thee may pay,  
and that by thy faithfulness to me each day  
may live, and on thy love my burdens lay:  
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam. (Refrain)

Yesterday, today, fore'er the same,  
lo, the heritage of all who bear thy name;  
to ransom them from sin the Savior came:  
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.

### Life of the Community

#### Call to Worship

Ellery Price

We gather today hungering to be real with genuine smiles and actions that match our hallelujahs. We are not content to just master the power handshake of strength. We want also to master the partner handshake of mutual respect and mutual support.

**No more lip service; we want to be real!**

We yearn to rise above culture and prejudice to a mindset where foreigners and strangers are not held in contempt and all are invited to God's table.

**No more lip service; we want to be real!**

#### Pastoral Prayer

It's Prayer time, a time when we lift our prayers and concerns to the Lord. I invite you to ask those in your household to join us in prayer. If you are watching by yourself, please remember that you are not alone. I am here with you, and so is Christ.

During our series on the psalms, I ask you to pray with me in the following manner. I will offer a category of concern and we will allow a brief pause, then we will respond as indicated. As a prayer posture for this worship series, I invite you to cup your hands, ready to receive God's love and peace, and in preparation to be God's love and peace in the world.

Let us pray for the leaders of this world and this church community...  
Repeat after me: **God of Justice, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who live in conflict around the world...  
Repeat after me: **Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic...  
Repeat after me: **Comforting Healer, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who are homeless, hungry and alone...  
Repeat after me: **Emmanuel, God-With-Us, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who live in comfort, for Christ-like hospitality and generosity...  
Repeat after me:  
**Transforming Spirit, hear our prayer.**

Lord, I thank you for these intercessors who bring their talents, tithes, and time to transform the world with the love of Jesus Christ. Bless them according to their purpose and your riches in glory. Amen.

### 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 *Who Dwell in the Shadow of the Lord* Z. Randall Stroope

Scripture *Psalm 91* Sumith Kalas

Hymn *On Eagles's Wings* UMH 143

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
who abide in his shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you  
on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear:  
under his wings your refuge,  
his faithfulness your shield. (Refrain)

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you,  
near you it shall not come. (Refrain)

For to his angels he's given a command  
to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone. (Refrain)

VirtuAll Voices *Shelter*  
Andi Rozier, Jason Ingram, Jonathan Smith

Message *God is our refuge and help in time of trouble.* Reverend Dr. Debra Murray  
*God knows us and sees us.*

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Prayer

Ellery Price

Holy God, above us, among us, within us: we rejoice this day that while you might have chosen to be unknown to us, you have revealed yourself in many ways. Each encounter with you calls us to return blessings with worship, compassion, and service. So, when we give this day, we do so in gratitude for all your parental care for us through your creation. When we give this day, we give because, in love, you gave us Christ, that through him we might find eternal life. When we give this day, your Spirit leads your church to reach out in compassion, mercy, and grace to all your children everywhere. In gratitude, we celebrate you. Amen.

Doxology

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH No. 95

Offertory

*We're Marching to Zion*

Joyce Jones (b. 1933)

Closing Hymn

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

UMH 110

A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
our helper he amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
doth seek to work us woe;  
his craft and power are great,  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not the right man on our side,  
the man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth, his name,  
from age to age the same,  
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God hath willed  
his truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure,  
for lo, his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,  
no thanks to them, abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours,  
thru him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill;  
God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever.

Benediction

Alleluia

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Postlude

*Prelude in Classic Style*

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

### 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 for the password.