



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5
10:45 AM SERVICE

Prelude

From All That Dwells Below the Skies

Neil Harmon (b. 1967)

Welcome

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Processional Hymn

Come, Thou Almighty King

UMH 61 v. 1, 2, 4

Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing,
help us to praise!
Father all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!

Come, thou incarnate Word,
gird on thy mighty sword,
our prayer attend!
Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend!

Come, holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power!

To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be,
hence, evermore.
Thy sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore!

Life of the Community

Call to Worship

Orlene & Tom Fingar

Amazing God, You do wonderful things—big and small—every day. Open us this day to recognize the miracles of life all around us so that we might stay resilient and ready to create your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

We praise you for your continued good works, holding our lives together each day. Amen.

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

Cry Out and Shout

Knut Nystedt (1915-2014)



Scripture

Psalm 62

Colleen Crangle

Hymn

Be Still, My Soul

UMH 534

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Message

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

HOLY COMMUNION

L: 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:

A: 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.

L: 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.



A: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

L: 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.

A: We are one in Christ in the Cup we share.

L: 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.

A: 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

Orlene & Tom Fingar

God of all good gifts, you have provided all that we need for full lives, and yet we don't stop there – we continue to fill our lives with things in an elusive search for security. As we bring gifts to you this day, remind us that only deeper faith will bring peace, and good works—caring for others through generous giving—will help us know the joy of full lives. We pray this in the name of Christ, who gave all out of love for all your children. Amen.

Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH No. 95

Offertory

Sostenuto

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Closing Hymn

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

UMH 664

Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

Benediction

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray



Alleluia

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in D Major

Jerry Westenkuehler (b. 1966)

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.