

*Doxology		UMH 94
*Hymn	<i>What Child Is This?</i>	UMH 219, v. 1 & 2
	1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?	2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)
	Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.	
*Scripture	<i>Luke 1: 26-38</i>	Jeff King
Message	<i>A Christmas Carol, Staves 3 &amp; 4</i>	Reverend Burke Owens
Instrumental	<i>Flourish on Joy to the World</i> Organ, Brass Quintet & Percussion	Robert Hobby
*Closing Hymn	<i>The King Shall Come</i>	insert
*Benediction		Reverend Burke Owens
*Alleluia		
Postlude	<i>Toccata on Veni Emmanuel</i>	Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

*\*Please stand as you are able where indicated by an asterisk.*

Senior Pastor: Burke Owens  
 Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries: Gerardo Garcia Palacios  
 Director of Music: Mark Shaull  
 Organist: Diane Keller  
 Head Usher: Daniel Fifita



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

# Third Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17, 2023

10:45 AM SERVICE

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

Prelude *People Look East* Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Introit *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

Welcome Reverend Burke Owens

Life of the Community Cedric Fellows

Joy of Giving *EPACANDO and Solar Oven Partners* Brenda Birrell

\*Call to Worship Cedric Fellows

Have you noticed? Are you paying attention? God is doing a new thing.

**We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.**

You know the captives? God is bringing freedom. You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.

**We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.**

Beloved, listen. God is calling you. To be freed and to free your neighbors. To be healed and to heal your community. To testify to the Light among us.

**We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.**

So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.

**We come to watch, to wait, and to worship in the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.**

Instrumental *People Look East* arr Sandra K Tucker

Organ, Brass & Percussion

\*Hymn *People Look East* UMH 202

1. People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.

3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.

4. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Lighting the Advent Candle

King Family

Sung to the tune of *Away in a Manger*

Light three Advent candles and know from the start  
That joy can be bursting right out of your heart.

Light three Advent candles and wait for the morn  
When new birth will happen and light will be born.

VirtuAll Voices *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

L. Story, C. Duren; Arr. J. Haschek, D. Galbraith

Children's Moment Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios

Prayers of the People

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord, for these gifts,  
**we give you thanks!**

\*Lord's Prayer Reverend Burke Owens

**Our Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be your Name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Anthem *Hodie Christus Natus Es* Z. Randall Stroope

Movement One from the Hodie  
Organ, Brass Quintet and Percussion

Invitation to the Offering Cedric Fellows

Offertory Prayer

**God of hope and compassion: Just as John the Baptist came long ago in Judea to witness to your light, we remember that light he heralds is the savior of hope. Sometimes it seems our world is determined to extinguish hope and light. We admit that there are times when we feel the darkness is just too prevalent, too strong, and hope is just wishful thinking. May we witness through our giving not scarcity and despair but fierce joy, hope, and compassion. May we also witness through what we say and what we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

Offertory *In Dulci Jublio* David Giardiniere

Brass Quintet and Organ