

*Scripture *Psalms 8* Janet Nicholls
Message *Jesus' Blessings in 2024* Reverend Burke Owens
*Closing Hymn *The First Noel* UMH 245

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

3. And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

*Benediction Reverend Burke Owens

*Alleluia

Postlude *Toccatina on Angels We Have Heard on High*
Richard Elliott (b. 1957)

**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

First Sunday After Christmas

SUNDAY DECEMBER 31, 2023

10:45 AM SERVICE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

Prelude *Angels We Have Heard on High* Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Welcome Reverend Burke Owens

Life of the Community Linda Grossman

*Call to Worship Linda Grossman

We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God's salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.

We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

We prepare to welcome a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past year and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

Come, let us worship God, whose love endures from generation to generation, guiding us from one year to the next.

Come, let us worship as we live in anticipation of God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*Hymn *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* UMH 240

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

VirtuAll Voices *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* arr. Ed Johnson

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 From *The Messiah: And the Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed*

Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Invitation to the Offering Linda Grossman

Offertory Prayer

God of hope and joy, the gifts we offer to you pale when our minds try to grasp all we have been given in this season: wholeness in our woundedness, hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, forgiveness in our rebellion. Like Simeon, we have listened with our ears that we might not miss you, and our eyes have seen your salvation! You gave us light in our darkness and hope in our discouragement. Help us embrace your extravagant generosity as we give ourselves to others. In our Savior's holy name, we pray. Amen.

Offertory

*Doxology UMH 94

*Hymn *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* UMH 244

1. 'Twas in the moon of wintertime
when all the birds had fled,
that Mighty Gitchi Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:

3. The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on
the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. [Refrain]

Refrain:
Jesus your king is born!
Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria!

4. O children of the forest free,
O seed of Manitou,
the holy child of earth and heav'n
is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.
[Refrain]

2. Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high: [Refrain]