*Scripture Matthew 3 Sandra Florstedt

Message Baptism and Wilderness Reverend Burke Owens

*Closing Hymn Jesus, Tempted in the Desert FWS 2105

Jesus, tempted in the desert, lonely, hungry, filled with dread: "Use your power," the tempter tells him; "Turn these barren rocks to bread!" "Not alone by bread," he answers, "Can the human heart be filled. Only by the Word that calls us is our deepest hunger stilled!"

- 2. Jesus, tempted at the temple, high above its ancient wall: "Throw yourself from lofty turret; angels wait to break your fall!" Jesus shuns such empty marvels, feats that fickle crowds request: "God, whose grace protects, preserves us we must never vainly test."
- 3. Jesus, tempted on the mountain by the lure of vast domain: "Fall before me! Be my servant! Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!" Jesus sees the dazzling vision, turns his eyes another way: "God alone deserves our homage! God alone I will obey!"
- 4. When we face temptation's power lonely, struggling, filled with dread, Christ, who knew the tempter's hour, come and be our living bread. By your grace, protect, preserve us lest we fall, your trust betray. Yours, above all other voices, be the Word we hear, obey.

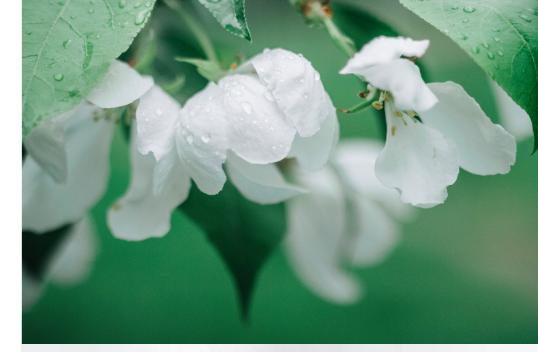
*Benediction Reverend Burke Owens

Postlude Every Time I Feel the Spirit Richard Elliott (b. 1957)

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of our 30th wedding anniversary by Lori Hammar and Ernie Sapigao.

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

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



FIRST PALO ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First Sunday in Lent

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2024 10:45 AM SERVICE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Prelude Kantata No. 6 - Ari

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Fiume di Musica

Welcome Reverend Burke Owens

Introit Behold the Lamb of God Eleanor Dailey

Life of the Community Linda Grossman

*Call to Worship Linda Grossman

Lenten travelers, when you feel the security of God's love, affirmation of God's call, and covered in God's grace...

God comes near.

When you feel deserted and alone, starving and parched for a caring hand or an encouraging word, troubled and uncertain as the ground under you shifts like sand...

God comes near.

When you feel emboldened to act, inspired to speak, energized to live as bearers of the good news that the Kingdom of God is here...

God comes near.

In all seasons of our lives, God comes near to us and does not forsake us. We gather to come near to God whose ever-present love remains near no matter where our journey takes us. Amen.

*Hymn Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

UMH 269

- 1. Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
- 2. As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win, O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.
- 3. As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.
- 4. And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide, yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.
- 5. Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

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

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Michael Larkin

Invitation to the Offering

Linda Grossman

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar, understanding that on the journey in Lent, we can't avoid or detour around the wilderness. It is essential that we hear Jesus call us to repentance! Bless our gifts for your unfinished kingdom work. Remind us, as we worship here, that this redemption of our lives did not come without a price; without our own repentance, we can miss the enormity of the gift Jesus gave. Knowing we cannot earn this redemption and forgiveness, this wiping clean of our ledger, we can only hope to reflect such grace and compassion in our encounters with others. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Offertory

*Doxology

UMH 94

*Hymn

This is the Spirit's Entry Now

UMH 608

- 1. This is the spirit's entry now: the water and the word, the cross of Jesus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
- 2. Let water be the sacred sign that we must die each day, to rise again by his design as followers of his way.
- 3. Renewing Spirit, hear our praise for your baptismal power that washes us through all our days. Lord, cleanse again this hour.

Children's Moment

Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios