

\*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.

4. And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide, yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

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.

5. Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

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.

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 *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.

3. Renewing Spirit, hear our praise for your baptismal power that washes us through all our days. Lord, cleanse again this hour.

2. Let water be the sacred sign that we must die each day, to rise again by his design as followers of his way.