

Invitation to the Offering

Pamela Cutkosky

Offertory Prayer

Gracious Lord, whose light guides our steps, we bring these gifts in humble adoration. May they be used to spread your truth and love to all nations. As we journey into this new year, let our hearts remain focused on your presence and our hands open to your service. In the name of Christ, our guiding star, we pray. Amen.

Offertory *Three Kings of Orient* Daniel Gawthrop (b. 1949)

*Doxology UMH 94

HOLY COMMUNION

*Closing Hymn *We've a Story to Tell the Nations* UMH 569

1. We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.

3. We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love. [Refrain]

Refrain:
For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on
earth,
the kingdom of love and light.

4. We've a Savior to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples
might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God. [Refrain]

2. We've a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil
and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword. [Refrain]

*Benediction Reverend Burke Owens

*Alleluia

Postlude *In dir ist Freude* J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**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 PALO ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Epiphany
Sunday

SUNDAY JANUARY 5, 2025

10:45 AM SERVICE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO
EPIPHANY SUNDAY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

Prelude *Prélude sur l'Introît de l'Épiphanie* Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

Welcome Reverend Burke Owens

Passing the Peace

Introit *Epiphany Alleluia* John Weaver (1937-2021)

Life of the Community Pamela Cutkosky

*Call to Worship Pamela Cutkosky

Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last: gathered together for worship!

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past: "Arise, shine; for your light has come."

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of the world.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

So, let us receive the call of Isaiah and follow the example of the magi as we begin this new year turning our faces to God whose glory shows up among us as a vulnerable child, a poor carpenter, and a foot-washing servant who is the salvation of the world.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day. Amen.

*Hymn *We Three Kings* UMH 254

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies [Refrain]

Children's Moment Emily King

Anthem *Arise, Shine, For Thy Light Is Come*
Healley Willan (1880-1968)

*Scripture *Matthew 2:1-15* Diana Gainer

Message *The Wise Men Arrive in Bethlehem!* Reverend Burke Owens

Moment of Silence

Prayers of the People Reverend Burke Owens

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, for these gifts,
we give you thanks!

*Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* UMH 247

1. O Morning Star, how fair and bright
thou beamest forth in truth and light,
O Sovereign meek and lowly!
Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son,
my Lord and Master, thou hast won
my heart to serve thee solely!
Thou art holy,
fair and glorious, all-victorious,
rich in blessing,
rule and might o'er all possessing.

3. What joy to know, when life is past,
the Lord we love is first and last,
the end and the beginning!
He will one day, O glorious grace,
transport us to that happy place
beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness,
we are yearning
for the day of your returning.

2. Thou heavenly Brightness! Light divine!
O deep within my heart now shine,
and make thee there an altar!
Fill me with joy and strength to be
thy member, ever joined to thee
in love that cannot falter;
toward thee longing
doth possess me; turn and bless me;
here in sadness
eye and heart long for thy gladness!