

And when their ways are not our own, Lord, give us understanding:
Our faith cannot be fully grown when we are too unbending.

But open wide our hearts anew and show us, as we're giving,
Your life-long call to serving you in daily, generous living.

Invitation to the Offering

Cedric Fellows

Offertory Prayer

Loving God, our shelter and hope, as we walk through this holy season, we come to you with hearts open to your grace. In our giving, may we reflect the love that sustains us, and may we lift one another up in times of need and vulnerability. Use these offerings to bring comfort to the weary and hope to the brokenhearted, just as you draw near to us in our struggles. Strengthen us to be a source of light and love in this world, reflecting your compassion in all we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen

Offertory

*Doxology

UMH 94

*Hymn

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

UMH 382

1. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter;
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me
after thy will,
while I am waiting,
yielded and still.

2. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Search me and try me,
Savior today!
Wash me just now, Lord,
wash me just now,
as in thy presence
humbly I bow.

3. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary,
help me I pray!
Power, all power,
surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me,
Savior divine!

4. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being
absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit
till all shall see
Christ only, always,
living in me!

*Benediction

Reverend Burke Owens

Postlude

Festal March

Florence B. Price (1887-1953)

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
parents Carl and Helen Volz and husband Craig Laughton by Ruthie Waters.

**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

Second Sunday of Lent

SUNDAY MARCH 16 2025

10:45 AM SERVICE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

Prelude

Welcome

Reverend Burke Owens

Passing of the Peace

Introit

Life of the Community

Cedric Fellows

*Call to Worship

Cedric Fellows

Children of God, when you are surrounded on every side by shadows that frighten and voices that deride and confuse, what do you say?

God is our light and our salvation! Whom shall we fear?

When threats bombard you from every corner, stealing the security and peace you long for, what do you say?

God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

When anxiety and loneliness overwhelm and you do not know who or what to trust any more, what do you say?

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Because God knows our suffering. God makes a home among us, welcoming us to come home to God and one another.

Come! Let us worship God who hides us in the day of trouble and conceals us together under the cover of the tent of Love.

*Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

UMH 428

1. For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords;
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.

2. Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase.

3. All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span,
may we hallow life's brief span.

4. You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find,
earth its destiny may find.

Children's Moment

Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios

Anthem

Prayer for Healing

Molly Ijames

Lord of this barren land swept by the flame,
Here in my wilderness I call your name.
Refuge of wounded hearts, bend low to hear.
Binder of broken things, Father, draw near.

Friend of the sorrowing, Knower of grief,
Tenderly hovering, bringing relief,
Be to my weary soul quiet repose.
Be in my desert place, blossoming rose.

Come like a gentle wind bringing the rain;
Come like a healing touch and soothe my pain.
Fill with Your presence this desolate waste;
Lord of this barren land, make of these ashes
A beautiful place. Amen.

*Scripture

Luke 8:43-48

Debbie Krueger

Message

Empathy and Jesus

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

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.

*Hymn *O God of Life, Your Healing Touch* sung to the tune of UMH 138

O God of life, your healing touch brings wholeness and salvation!
In you, this world you love so much becomes a new creation.

Through Jesus Christ you blessed the poor, unleashed your gifts of healing.
You gave new sight, new strength, new life — to all, your love revealing.

O Christ, the loving healer still, you gather us for mission
To serve your people who are ill, whatever their condition.

You send us to the suffering with medicine and caring;
Now make our lives an offering to those who are despairing.

Lord, by your Spirit, may we hear the truth of others' stories.
May we respect their doubts and fears, their hopes and dreams, their worries.