

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

Prelude *Simple Gifts* arr. by organist

Welcome Reverend Burke Owens

Introit *Lenten Introit* Eleanor Daley

Passing of the Peace

Life of the Community Pamela Cutkosky

*Call to Worship Pamela Cutkosky

When we struggle to live as you teach us, and we fail to answer your call...

God, your steadfast loves surrounds us.

When the truth clogs up in our throat, and we fear what will happen if we speak and if we keep silent...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When we open our hearts and let the truth of our sorrows, our sin, our joys, and our doubts flow freely...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When our stubborn hearts encounter the grace that teaches and guides us into a life of trust and joyful obedience...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us today and every day. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Hymn *God of the Ages* UMH 698

1. God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

2. Thy love divine hath led us in the past; in this free land with thee our lot is cast; be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay, thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

3. From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense; thy true religion in our hearts increase; thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

4. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way; lead us from night to never-ending day; fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Children's Moment Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios

Anthem *All Who Dwell in the Shadow of the Lord* Z. Randall Stroepe

Scripture *Philippians 4:1, 4-9* Nancy Glaser

Message *Optimism 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 *Abide With Me* UMH 700

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Invitation to the Offering

Pamela Cutkosky