

Invitation to the Offering Sumith Kalas

Offertory Prayer

Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer these gifts, we remember your sustaining presence. In this period of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace. May these offerings be signs of hope and acts of compassion that reflect the love you have shown us in Christ. Empower us to rise together, supporting one another on this journey of faith and transformation. In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

Offertory *Prière (Prayer)* Jean Langlais

*Doxology UMH 94

*Hymn *My Hope Is Built* UMH 368

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.
(Refrain)

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
(Refrain)

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne!
(Refrain)

*Benediction Reverend Burke Owens

Postlude *Finale jubilante* Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Eldon and Ruth Lundberg and Blake Stafford by Julianne Stafford.

**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

First Sunday
of Lent

SUNDAY MARCH 9 2025
10:45 AM SERVICE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

Prelude *The Heart of Peace* Mons Leidvin Takle (b. 1948)

Welcome Reverend Burke Owens

Passing of the Peace

Life of the Community Sumith Kalas

*Call to Worship Sumith Kalas

On this first Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness, a place of wild and dangerous things, of testing and temptation away from the security of home.

God, rescue us in the wilderness!

Once again, we watch and listen as Satan throws out temptation upon temptation, and we find our security in Jesus, who does not waver from the truth.

God, rescue us within the wilderness!

Once again, we face our own frailty and realize that the wilderness is not nearly as dangerous as our choices to prioritize selfish gain and hoarding of power.

God, rescue us through the wilderness!

Once again, we call upon God in the wildernesses of our lives, and we trust God's faithful reply:

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Hymn *Jesus, Tempted in the Desert* FWS 2105

1. 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 will I 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.

Children's Moment

Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios

Anthem *Lord of All Hopefulness* Nancy Grundahl

Scripture *2 Peter 1:5-9* Diane Allen

Message *Self-Awareness 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 *We'll Understand It Better By and By* UMH 525

1. We are tossed and driven
on the restless sea of time;
somber skies and howling tempests
oft succeed a bright sunshine;
in that land of perfect day,
when the mists have rolled away,
we will understand it better by and by.

Refrain:
By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
we'll tell the story how we've overcome,
for we'll understand it better by and by.

2. We are often destitute
of the things that life demands,
want of food and want of shelter,
thirsty hills and barren lands;
we are trusting in the Lord,
and according to God's word,
we will understand it better by and by. [Refrain]

3. Trials dark on every hand,
and we cannot understand
all the ways that God would lead us
to that blessed promised land;
but he guides us with his eye,
and we'll follow till we die
for we'll understand it better by and by.
[Refrain]

4. Temptations, hidden snares
often take us unawares,
and our hearts are made to bleed
for a thoughtless word or deed;
and we wonder why the test
when we try to do our best,
but we'll understand it better by and by.
[Refrain]