

Invitation to the Offering

Sumith Kalas

Offertory Prayer

Steadfast and sheltering God, you are our refuge in every age, our hope when foolishness abounds and justice seems far off. Even when the world disappoints, you call us to faithfulness, to community, to generosity that reflects your own heart. Receive these offerings as signs of our trust in you and our desire to live differently, to live redemptively, and to live hopefully. Use them—and us—for the good that ripples outward, for the healing of hearts and the strengthening of your people. We give not because all is well but because you are good. Amen.

Offertory *Molto sostenuto e divoto* Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

*Doxology UMH 94

*Hymn *All People That On Earth Do Dwell* UMH 75

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth
tell; come ye before him and rejoice.

3. O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

2. Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

4. For why! the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

*Benediction Brenda Birrell

*Alleluia UMH 186

Postlude *Festival Voluntary* Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of our parents
Roger & Harriet Gleason and Ward & Rita Anderson by Curtis and Carol Gleason.

**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

*Fourteenth Sunday
After Pentecost*

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 2025

10:45 AM SERVICE



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Prelude *Concerto Grosso op.3, no.4 (Andante, Allegro, Lentamente)*
 Fiume di Musica G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Welcome Brenda Birrell

Passing of the Peace

Life of the Community Sumith Kalas

*Call to Worship Sumith Kalas

We come seeking refuge in a world where goodness and good news can feel far away.
God is our hope and our refuge.
 We come searching for safety in a world that often calls foolishness wisdom and wisdom foolishness.
God is our hope and our refuge.
 We come longing for rest in a world that bombards us with all the ways people work against the abundant life and flourishing of their neighbors.
God is our hope and our refuge.
 Come, children of God, to find refuge and hope in God who delivers and restores us.
May God teach us and guide us to find refuge and be refuge with and for our neighbors today and every day.

*Opening Hymn *Help Us Accept Each Other* UMH 560

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.
3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.
4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Children's Moment Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios

Anthem *Be Thou My Vision* John Rutter

*Scripture *John 13: 34-35* Julianne Stafford

Message *They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love* Brenda Birrell

Moment of Silence

Prayers of the People Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer. Lord, for these gifts,
we give you thanks!

*Lord's Prayer Brenda Birrell

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 *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love* FWS 2223

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
 And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus:
 And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
 yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
 And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. [Chorus]

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
 We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
 And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride. [Chorus]

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
 And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
 And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. [Chorus]