

Offertory Prayer

**Radiant God, the light of your wisdom and love shines for all who seek you, guiding us not with force, but with grace. Like the magi, we come bearing gifts, not to earn your favor, but in response to the gift of Christ you've given us. Use these offerings to reflect your light into dark places, so that others might be drawn to your love, your justice, and your joy. Keep us faithful in our seeking, generous in our sharing, and willing to be led wherever your star shines next. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Offertory *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 *UMH 78*

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

Cover image: *The Adoration of the Magi* (1894) by Edward Burne Jones

\*Please stand 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 4 2026**

**10:45 AM SERVICE**



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO**  
**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**  
**SUNDAY JANUARY 4, 2026**

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

Welcome Reverend Burke Owens

Passing the Peace

Life of the Community Sumith Kalas

\*Call to Worship Sumith Kalas

We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

**God, help us find your glory.**

We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

**God, help us encounter your glory.**

On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

**God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.**

\*Hymn *Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies* UMH 173

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
 Christ, the true, the only light,  
 Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
 triumph o'er the shades of night;  
 Dayspring from on high, be near;  
 Daystar, in my heart appear.

2. Dark and cheerless is the morn  
 unaccompanied by thee;  
 joyless is the day's return,  
 till thy mercy's beams I see;  
 till they inward light impart,  
 cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

3. Visit then this soul of mine;  
 pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
 fill me, Radiance divine,  
 scatter all my unbelief;  
 more and more thyself display,  
 shining to the perfect day.

Children's Moment Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios

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

\*Scripture *Matthew 2: 1-15* Sandra Wilson

Message *Epiphany in Harmony* 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 *Christ Is the World's Light* UMH 188

1. Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other;  
 born in our darkness, he became our brother.  
 If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:  
 Glory to God on high!

2. Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none other;  
 no one can serve him and despise another.  
 Who else unites us, one in God the Father?  
 Glory to God on high!

3. Christ is the world's life, Christ and none other;  
 sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother;  
 he, who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:  
 Glory to God on high!

4. Give God the glory, God and none other;  
 give God the glory, Spirit, Son, and Father;  
 give God the glory, God with us, my brother:  
 Glory to God on high!

Invitation to the Offering Sumith Kalas