

Offertory	<i>Adeste Fidelis</i>	Daniel Gawthrop (b. 1949)
*Doxology		UMH 94
*Hymn	<i>We've a Story to Tell the Nations</i>	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.

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.

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 186

Postlude *Angels We Have Heard on High* Dale Wood (1934-2003)

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)

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)



FIRST PALO ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First Sunday
after Christmas

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28 2025
10:45 AM SERVICE

If you donated poinsettias, please feel welcome to take them home after service.

**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 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28, 2025

Prelude *Sussex Carol* Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Welcome Reverend Burke Owens

Passing of the Peace

Life of the Community Pamela Cutkosky

*Call to Worship Pamela Cutkosky

Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, "What now?"

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Opening Hymn *Angels from the Realms of Glory* UMH 220

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
[Refrain]

4. Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
(Refrain)

Children's Moment Pamela Cutkosky

Anthem *He Shall Be Great* Douglas E. Wagner

*Scripture *Matthew 2:13-23* Jerry Johnson

Message *God and the Innocents* 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 *Away in a Manger* UMH 217

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Invitation to the Offering Pamela Cutkosky

Offertory Prayer

Steadfast God of refuge and promise, even when the world makes no room, even when fear seems stronger than hope, you are with us. In the flight to Egypt, in the cries of grief, in the fragile beginnings of new life, you make a way. Receive these gifts, O God, as signs of our willingness to make room for your kingdom among us. Use what we bring—not just our treasure, but our time, our voices, our compassion—to heal what is broken, to protect the vulnerable, and to embody your saving love. In the name of Jesus, our Light in the shadows. Amen.