

Invitation to the Offering

Pamela Cutkosky

Offertory Prayer

**Surprising God of Mercy, you meet us in wilderness places and walk beside us through trial and temptation. In this moment of giving, we offer not just our resources, but our trust that you are already at work, shaping us through challenge, strengthening us through sacrifice, and surrounding us with unseen angels. Use these gifts to bring hope where there is hunger, healing where there is pain, and light where there is despair. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Offertory

\*Doxology UMH 94

\*Hymn *Christ for the World We Sing* UMH 568

1. Christ for the world we sing,  
the world to Christ we bring,  
with loving zeal;  
the poor, and them that mourn,  
the faint and overborne,  
sin-sick and sorrow-worn,  
whom Christ doth heal.

3. Christ for the world we sing,  
the world to Christ we bring,  
with one accord;  
with us the work to share,  
with us reproach to dare,  
with us the cross to bear,  
for Christ our Lord.

2. Christ for the world we sing,  
the world to Christ we bring,  
with fervent prayer;  
the wayward and the lost,  
by restless passions tossed,  
redeemed at countless cost,  
from dark despair.

4. Christ for the world we sing,  
the world to Christ we bring,  
with joyful song;  
the newborn souls, whose days,  
reclaimed from error's ways,  
inspired with hope and praise,  
to Christ belong.

\*Benediction Reverend Burke Owens

Postlude *Toccata on "Great Day"* Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in praise for our oldest grandchild Devan Hadsell, who just turned 21, by Janet and Bill Nicholls.

*\*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



**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22 2026  
10:45 AM SERVICE**

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Prelude *Jesus Wept and Lord of the Dance* arr. by Cathie Lowmiller  
Fiume di Musica

Welcome Reverend Burke Owens

Passing of the Peace

Life of the Community Pamela Cutkosky

\*Call to Worship Pamela Cutkosky

Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

**We follow, trusting in God's mercy.**

We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

**We recognize God's mercy at work in the face of temptation.**

We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

**We pay attention to God's merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.**

We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

**We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn *The Church's One Foundation* UMH 545

1. The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.

2. Elect from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth;  
her charter of salvation,  
one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with every grace endued.

3. Though with a scornful wonder  
we see her sore oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.

4. Mid toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore;  
till, with the vision glorious,  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.

5. Yet she on earth hath union  
with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
on high may dwell with thee.

Children's Moment Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios

Anthem *Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee* Edward Bairstow  
Guest Choir Director: Nancy Whitecar

Scripture *Matthew 16: 13-20* Diana Gainer

Message *Who Was 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 *Walk With Me* FWS 2242

Reprise:  
Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.

3. Young Mary Madalene was sure her life  
could be much more,  
and by her faith she dared to let  
God's love unlock the door. [Reprise]

1. When Moses heard the call of God  
he said, "Lord, don't send me."  
But God told Moses, "You're the one  
to set my people free." [Reprise]

4. And when you share your faith with me  
and work for life mad new,  
the witness of your faithfulness  
calls me to walk with you. [Reprise]

2. Now Peter was a most unlikely  
man to lead the flock;  
but Jesus knew his holiness  
and he became the Rock. [Reprise]