

Offertory *The Little Shepherd* Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Mimi Carlson, flute

*Doxology UMH 94

*Closing Hymn *Thine Be the Glory* UMH 308

1. Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes
where thy body lay.

Refrain:
Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.

2. Lo! Jesus meets thee,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets thee,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for our Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting. (Refrain)

3. No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. (Refrain)

*Benediction Reverend Burke Owens

*Alleluia UMH 78

Postlude *Lead On, O King Eternal* arr. Timothy Johnson
John Whitecar, euphonium

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in gratitude
for my Church Family by Brenda Birrell.

Cover image: "Earthset" over the Moon photographed
during the Artemis II mission, from NASA's public domain collection

*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

Ascension Sunday



SUNDAY MAY 17, 2026
10:45 AM SERVICE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

ASCENSION SUNDAY

SUNDAY MAY 17, 2026

Prelude *Little Pavane and The Gift of Love* C. Lowmiller
Fiume di Musica

Welcome Reverend Burke Owens

Passing the Peace

Life of the Community Emily King

*Call to Worship Emily King

Easter people, Christ has completed the work of salvation, reconciling us to God so that we may know eternal life.

Through Christ, we are made one with God.

In life, death, and Resurrection, Christ guides us into eternal life with God here and now.

Through Christ, we are made one in God.

Through prayer and teaching, healing and serving, Christ draws us together as the people of God, diverse members of the one body.

Through Christ, we are made one with God and one another.

So, come, let us worship God who saves us into eternal life with God and one another!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Hymn *Jesus Shall Reign Where're the Sun* UMH 157

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom spread from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2. To Jesus endless prayer be made,
and endless praises crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

3. People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
all prisoners leap and loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

5. Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen!

Children's Moment Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios

Anthem *Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing* Gordon Young
Guest accompanist: Nancy Whitecar
Guest conductor: John Whitecar

*Scripture *Luke 24:44-53* Stephanie Zeller

Message *Returning to God* 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 *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* FWS 2241

The spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.

3. We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.

2. We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see

4. Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.

Invitation to the Offering Emily King

Offertory Prayer

Unifying God of Grace, you have entrusted us with the joy of community and the calling of witness. As Jesus prayed that we might be one, we bring these gifts as a sign of our shared commitment to your mission in the world. Let our giving reflect our love, our unity declare your glory, and our generosity embody Christ's presence among us. Use these offerings to strengthen the church, to bless our neighbors, and to glorify your name. In Christ, we belong to you. In Christ, you are glorified in us. Amen.