

Linda Grossman

Steadfast God, in every season, you hold us, and in every struggle, you knit us together as one body. Receive these gifts as signs that we choose to stand firm, striving side by side, living as citizens of your kingdom. Shape our common life to be worthy of the gospel, until our unity itself proclaims your grace. Amen.

*Doxology UMH 94

*Closing Hymn	<i>The Gift of Love</i>	UMH 408
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1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

2. Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

*Benediction Bill Davidson

*Alleluia UMH 78

Postlude	<i>Finale jubilante</i>	Brenda Portman (b. 1980)
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Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of our daughter Emma Keep's birthday by Chrissie Blair and Miles Keep.

*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
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
Pentecost



SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
10:45 AM SERVICE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Prelude *My Jesus, I Love Thee* arr. Joyce Jones (1933-2022)

Welcome Linda Grossman

Passing the Peace

Life of the Community Linda Grossman

*Call to Worship Linda Grossman

In times of busyness and stress, when we feel surrounded by challenges on all sides...

We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

In times of joy and rest when we feel the goodness of God's provision and abundance deep in our bones...

We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

In times of conflict and distress when we feel just how hard it is to live in unity together...

We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Disciples of Christ, come, let us worship God who empowers us to press on...

As we learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

*Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* UMH 384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Children's Moment Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios

Anthem *Beloved, Let Us Love One Another* Pepper Choplin

Scripture *1 Corinthians 13* Norman Obenshain

Message *Our Hearts' Desire* Bill Davidson

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 Reverend Gerardo Garcia Palacios

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 *Now the Green Blade Riseth* UMH 311

1. Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

2. In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

3. Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.