



Head of Christ, Rembrandt 1640s

**First Congregational Church of Palo Alto
United Church of Christ**

*"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

An Open and Affirming Congregation
www.fccpa.org • 650-856-6662

Second Sunday of Lent
February 28, 2021

Order of Worship for February 28, 2021

Prelude

Adagio from Sonata 5 in C
Joe Guthrie, Organ

J.S. Bach

Psalm of Confession

From Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love.
According to your abundant mercy
cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Opening Hymn

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I am called to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.*

Welcome and Announcements

Children's Story

Teacher Todd and Clarence

Time of Offering

I'm Nobody! by Emily Dickinson

Musical Response

I'm Nobody, Who are You?

E. Dickinson & B. Holmes

Jenny Matteucci, Emily Bender, Debra Lambert, and Lauren Biglow
with Daniel Lockert, Piano

Prayers of the People

Disciples' Prayer (You are invited to use the language that is most meaningful to you.)

Our Father (Mother/Parent/Creator), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Musical Response

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself;
O nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.*

*We must walk this lonesome valley, we have to walk it by ourselves;
O nobody else can walk it for us, we have to walk it by ourselves.*

Reading of the Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

Sermon

Saving Your Life

Rev. David Howell

Youth Choir

Humble and Kind
Directed by Andrea Ward

L. McKenna

Benediction & Choral Response

Postlude

Preludium and Allegro
Emma Tseng, Violin and Ching Shih, Piano

F. Kreisler

Participating in Today's Service:

Senior Pastor:	Rev. David Howell
Associate Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman
Dir. of Children's Ministries:	Todd Erickson
Music Director:	Joe Guthrie
Choral Director:	Jenny Matteucci
Accompanist:	Daniel Lockert
Tech Support:	Howard Look
Flowers:	Kathy Terry

The Memorial Candle on our table is in gratitude for the life of Wesley Gardiner Sr., father of Wes Gardiner. He passed away on February 21, and our prayers are with the Gardiner family and all who loved him.

Senior Pastor David Howell will be on vacation March 1 – March 8.

Happening Online

- **Backyard Sunday School:** Join Teacher Todd after worship today and every Sunday online in the Backyard for songs, a story, and some fun together! Cherub, Children's, and Youth Choir also meet at this time. Find the link in the enews or Backyard update.
- **Fund for the Future Forum (The Present):** Join the Legacy Giving Committee after worship for the second of three forums launching our new legacy giving fund: The Fund for The Future. This session celebrates all that we are grateful for about our church community today. Come to sing along with Dave and Joe, listen to fun stories of why some of our beloved community members are a part of our congregation, and learn about this exciting new legacy giving opportunity. We would love to see you - come join us! Questions? [Email](#) the Legacy Giving Committee.
- **Ed Board Meeting:** today at 11:45 a.m.
- **Lenten Services:** Our Tuesday Evening Lenten services are at 7:30 p.m. February 23 through March 30. These half hour services of reflection will gather in the Memorial Garden and feature piano music from Joe Guthrie, readings and prayers from our ministers, plainsong, and candle lighting. You may join us in person (outdoors only) or on our worship Zoom link.
- **Hotel de Zink:** Each year during March, our church hosts Hotel de Zink, a 15-bed emergency shelter program that alternates locations through congregations in Palo Alto and surrounding neighborhoods. The shelter is hosted at a different church each month. Church volunteers prepare and drop off home-cooked meals or take out from a local eatery for homeless adults who would otherwise be forced to sleep in cars or on the streets. Due to COVID-19, this year we are asking for monetary donations to purchase breakfast, lunch and other items (instead of having volunteers sign up for this). As in previous years, we are looking for volunteers to drop off evening dinners (warm and ready to serve; homemade or take out/delivery) between 6:00-6:30pm for our guests. There will be a table outside the kitchen door (near the back parking lot) where you can leave or have a meal delivered. Meals should serve @10-12 people. Sign up to help or donate—it's easy! [Sign up here to volunteer](#). To make a financial contribution go the [FCCPA Giving Page](#), choose how you wish to give, and be sure to designate Hotel de Zink as the designee for your gift. Questions? Contact [Kim](#), [Noelle](#) or [Michelle](#).
- **Backpack Full of Cash:** After worship on March 7, stay tuned for a short presentation and discussion of charter schools' negative impacts on traditional, neighborhood public schools, including in Santa Clara County. You are separately invited to watch the charter school documentary "[Backpack Full of Cash](#)," narrated by Matt Damon, which will be available to view free from March 5 through March 8, using the "promo code" button and enter PALOALTO. We encourage you to create viewing circles with your friends to watch and discuss the movie and charter school issues. NOTICE: The Backpack Full of Cash movie is for our community screening purpose only and may not be copied, downloaded or shared.
- **Contemplative Prayer:** meets in the Memorial Garden Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m.

- **Emily Dickinson and the Poetry of Lent:** We call these weeks “Lent” because of the “lengthening” days, the growing light that, in time, will coax the buds to swell, the ferns to unfurl, and the flowers to open up in bloom. And so if Lent is about lengthening light, it’s also about broadening our hearts and opening our eyes – and poetry can help. Emily Dickinson was an avid gardener and student of the botanical world, a perfect docent for this season of awakening. Words of scripture and the poetry of Emily Dickinson will provide opportunities for reflection in worship during the Lenten season. [Download the Lenten devotional to supplement your own Lenten prayers at home.](#)
- **Bless This Mess Family Lenten Resource:** Families are invited to [download](#) or pick-up from the Fellowship Room at the church a set of illustrated cards to inspire you on your Lenten journey. Each week leading up to Easter has its own set of illustrated cards: each Sunday outlines a simple candlelight service, including a Lenten confession, words from scripture, a bite-sized meditation, and a little blessing; and each week’s other cards feature simple, engaging daily practices to try as we travel the road to the empty tomb. Forty cards in all (including one for Ash Wednesday -- February 17)!
- **Youth Groups:** Middle School meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and High School meets alternate Sundays. Contact Sam@fccpa.org for information, Zoom links, and to get on the reminder list.
- **Storytime for Families:** Join Teacher Todd and Pastor Dave for Storytime, Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. online. Find the link in the enews or Backyard update.
- **Choir Zooms!** The choir continues practice via Zoom on Thursday nights 7:00-8:10 p.m. “Rehearsal” commences with a 30 minute vocal masterclass, and the choir will “sing” together after that from 7:40-8:10 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, please email Jenny Matteucci at Jenny@fccpa.org.

Contact our Pastors: If you would like to learn more about the church or talk with one of our pastors, please contact us at David@fccpa.org or Eileen@fccpa.org. We would be very glad to talk with you. For Pastoral Emergencies, you may contact Rev. David Howell at 650-906-7284 or Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman at 831-345-3830.

Do you get our weekly “This Week at FCCPA” email newsletter? It’s the best way to stay up-to-date on church events. Contact office@fccpa.org to sign up to receive it.

Open and Affirming Statement, adopted in 2007: As we, the members of the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, seek to embody God’s extravagant welcome to all, we declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, welcoming into the full life and ministry of our church all who are LGBTQ+.

Land Acknowledgement: As we gather for worship today, we remember that for thousands of years this land has been the traditional home of the Puichon tribe of the Ohlone people. It is still home to indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful to work, live, and worship on this land.