

**Words to Ponder:** Mathew Fox, an advocate for creation spirituality, has a suggestion for us: “I propose we fall in love several times a day for the rest of our lives. You could fall in love with the galaxies – there are one trillion out there! . . . You could fall in love with fish and plants, animals, and birds, and with people, especially those who are different from us.”

**Gathering Music:** “There Is a Balm in Gilead” arr. By Mark Hayes  
Los Altos United Methodist Church

**Words of Welcome | \*Passing of the Peace**

**Rev. Ann Hayman**

**Call to Worship**

**Deacon Sheila Dozier**

Beloved, when sorrow and hardship abound and events across an ocean and down the block shake our resolve and make us question what good the good news is even doing, God calls to us...

**Open your heart.**

When fear and misinformation infiltrate our relationships, and we don’t know who to trust or how to do the next right thing, God calls to us...

**Open your heart.**

When joy overflows, and we witness the fruit of grace all around us, transforming our lives and our communities into places of connection and flourishing, God calls to us...

**Open your heart.**

May this time of worship be for each of us a time to listen to God’s call to open our hearts and accept the divine invitation to say yes to the work of grace in us, among us, and all around us.

**God, we open our hearts to receive your gift of grace, knowing you hold us securely in the palm of your hands that we might have the courage to live in vulnerable community with you and one another. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

**“Holy, Holy, Holy”**

**PH #138**

**Call to Confession**

**Deacon Sheila Dozier**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, hear our prayer. There is pain and there is sorrow, there are broken relationships and broken hearts. Sometimes we are the cause of those things. We have caused pain. We have broken the relationship. Sometimes we are simply a part**

of them – we are the ones who suffer, we are the ones who are broken. So we ask for your forgiveness, and we ask for your healing. Beyond that, we ask that you would help us turn from our former selves to the persons you have created us to be, full of mercy and grace and love. Through Christ, who is our example, we pray. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

**Children’s Message**

**Rev. David Markwalder**

**Anthem**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Deacon Sheila Dozier**

**Scripture: Mark 5:21-34 (NIV)**

**Deacon Sheila Dozier**

**Sermon**

**“Power of Touch”  
Mark 5:21-34**

**Rev. David Markwalder**

**Words of Faith** (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God’s image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.  
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God’s commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God’s condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.  
Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.  
Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Rev. Ann Hayman**

**The Offering**

**The Call to Giving**

**Deacon Sheila Dozier**

**Offertory**

**“Thank you Lord”**

**Hense Powell**

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here  
below, praise God above all heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Deacon Sheila Dozier**

**Announcements**

**Deacon Sheila Dozier**

**\*Closing Hymn**

**“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”**

**PH #379**

**Benediction**

**Rev. David Markwalder**

**Postlude**

**“Every Praise”**

**Hense Powell**