



**Congregational Church
of San Mateo**
Iglesia Congregacional de San Mateo

Sunday, October 26, 2025
20th Sunday After Pentecost

*"Because of who you are, and where you are
on life's journey, you are welcome here."*



New to our church? We're so glad you're here!

To celebrate, we'd love to pledge a \$5 donation on your behalf to a charity of your choice. Supporting other non-profits is something we do every week, and we'd love to include you in that practice. **Simply scan the QR code and fill out the form!**

Prelude

Adoration
Florence B. Price

Don Harper

Welcome

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

↑ Call to Worship

Chona Tendero

Leader: In a world where cruelty is mistaken for strength,

All: We gather to remember the power of compassion.

Leader: In a time when fear stalks our streets and walls are built to divide,

All: We come seeking the God who is our refuge and our strength.

Leader: When the weight of injustice feels too heavy to bear,

All: We look to the One who shelters us in steadfast love.

Leader: Come, beloved community—bring your grief, your courage, your hope.

All: We will worship the Living God, our fortress of love and liberation.

↑ Opening Song

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

#440, vs. 1, 3, 4

A mighty fortress is our God, our strong and sure protection;
Our God, who loves us, has resolved to free us from subjection.
With bold Satanic pride and hatred well supplied,
The deadly force of sin has sworn to do us in.
Mere human strength will perish.

When evil powers rage and swear and threaten mass destruction,
When we are tempted to despair, to yield to their seduction-
Then may we stand assured by God's most holy Word,
The evil one shall fail, God's righteousness prevail:
Then why should we be fearful?

God's everlasting Word abides, our strong and sure salvation.
The Spirit here and now provides rich gifts and consolation.
Let wealth and family go, this body be brought low.
Whatever loss we bear God will at last repair.
God's realm is ours forever.

↑ Sharing the Peace

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

*During the Peace, **children (4th grade and younger)** and **youth (5th-8th grade)** are invited to attend our faith formation programs in the Christian Education Building by exiting out the back door of the Sanctuary with our adult program leaders. Parents/guardians are welcome to accompany kids to help them get settled. Children and youth are most welcome to remain in the service if they would prefer. Activity baskets with goodies for our younger kiddos can be found in the entry hall (Narthex) at the Kids Table. We're glad you're here! After worship, kids can be picked up in their program room or Kloss Hall at Coffee Hour.*

Invitation to Offering

Little Eagle

Kerry Lobel

The small indigenous Lakota/Nakota community of Little Eagle is based on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota. More than 400 people rely on Friends of Little Eagle for a monthly pantry, cold weather items, backpacks and school supplies, holiday gift cards and stockings.

Give to CCSM with ease!

- **Church Center App:** Download the new Church Center App, tap the "Give" icon at the bottom of the homescreen, add your amount, tap next and select "Plate."
- **Scan the QR code** to make a gift to the plate offering or the General Fund.
- **Offering Plate:** Place your cash or check in the offering plate.
For checks, note on the memo line where you'd like the funds directed.
- **Online Giving:** Visit CCSM's ccsm-ucc.org/give/ and click the blue "Give" button.
- **Mail:** Send a check to the church office. (225 Tilton Ave, San Mateo, CA 94401)



In addition to our plate offering, we gratefully accept gifts to our General Fund at any time.

Offertory

How Can I Keep from Singing?

CCSM Chancel Choir

Story & Song

"Something Beautiful for God"

Rev. Keith Elder

The scripture for today's reflection is based on Mark 14:1-7:

It was two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him, for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have me."

Congregational Prayer

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

In Unison (*This beloved prayer, often referred to as the "Lord's Prayer," has been adapted and translated countless times over the centuries. While we've provided two options below, we encourage you to use any version that resonates with you.*)

Our 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre, venga tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria, ahora y por siempre. Amén.

Closing Song

Rainbow Connection
Williams

Rev. Keith Elder

Refrain: Someday we'll find it, the Rainbow Connection, the lovers, the dreamers, and me.

↑ Benediction

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Postlude

Prelude on Classical Style
Gordon Young

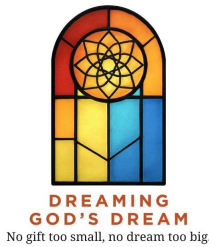
Don Harper

Music in today's bulletin printed with permission, CCLI #11035805. CCSM endeavors to use inclusive language in our worship services. Exceptions occur when we must be compliant with copyright laws.

Special Thanks to those helping with today's service:

Our Coffee Hour Hosts: Robin Person and Sharon Tobin

Our musicians leading worship: Don Harper, Rev. Keith Elder, CCSM Chancel Choir



Join us in Dreaming God's Dream! Make your Estimate of Giving pledge today and help invest in CCSM's ministry and mission. We have 43 households/individuals who have pledged so far, totaling \$210,440. **Scan the QR code or fill out a pledge card** (found in your pew or at the Welcome Table in the Narthex). *Cards may be returned to an usher or the CCSM office (Attn: Cheryle Matteo)*



Joys and Concerns

Each week, the pastoral care team gives prayerful attention to the congregation's joys and concerns. Many of these come with a request to hold the contents in confidence; therefore they are not published below. The wonderful thing about prayer is one doesn't need a specific reason in order to lift another in the light of love and care. Join us in holding the named and unnamed in God's light and love. Prayers will be listed below for two weeks, unless otherwise requested.

Recent Prayer Requests:

Nadia Hernández requests prayers for her father, **Joaquín**, who is recovering from brain surgery.

Prayers for **Reverend Jorge Bautista** as he recovers from injuries sustained in the protests at Coast Guard Station in Alameda this week.

Ongoing prayer requests:

Continuing prayers for our beloved siblings: **Paul Nieberding; Heather Morgan; Sanjana**, friend of Susan & Warren Long; **Mike and Lee Mullery's nephew, Wally; Lynn and Paul Nieberding; John**, Sharon Tobin's son; **Renato Floresca; Lynne and Peter**, friends of Lynn Nieberding; Chona Tenderso's friend, **Feljohn Rancap; Aprille Espinuevas**, friend of Robert and Johann Leung; **Lani Leydig; Cheryl Granucci**; Allison Rock and Chris Wuthmann's friend, **Karen; Veril Phillips and Bev Knowlton; Mike and Lee Mullery; George Vail; Dottie Scott**; Don and Jonathan's brother, **Chuck Ruthroff; Caroline Reinke**.

Bulletin Board

If you wish to have an announcement added to the "Bulletin Board," please email Chase at cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org

All Saints Day & Dia de los Muertos. Our Latino Ministry will host a special **Día de los Muertos** worship service on Wednesday, October 29, where we come together to create our communal remembrance altar. Please bring photographs, commemorative objects and offerings of bread and fruit. This sacred time remembering will be celebrated in a special **All Saints Day** Sunday morning service on November 2. We also invite you to send in names of your loved ones to be remembered at our All Saints service. Please send those names to kim@ccsm-ucc.org by Tuesday, October 28.

CCSM & YOU: New Member Lunch, Sunday, November 9, 12:00–2:00 pm • Whether you're new to CCSM or have been around a while, come learn more about our church, explore ways to get involved, and explore why membership might be the right step for you. No pressure, just connection and conversation! Contact Alison Schwandt to learn more or RSVP, alisonschwandt@gmail.com —we'd love to welcome you more fully into the life of our church!

Sign up to Co-Host Happy Coffee Hour: Thank you to our Happy Coffee Hour hosts for strengthening our CCSM community! We still need 7 hosts for the 2025 schedule on: November 23 (1), 30 (2) and Dec 21 (2), 28 (2). Please sign up by emailing Melodie Lew (boygie.m2000@yahoo.com).

Support Sunday Youth Faith Formation: Join us to co-lead youth group, participate in exciting children's activities, or lend a hand preparing a light meal on Sunday evening (every Sunday 4 - 6:30pm). If you're interested in volunteering, please email Kibbie Ruth (kibbie@kyros.org) or Rev. Álvaro (alvaro@ccsm-ucc.org).

Seeds of Gratitude Table, Sundays After Church • Kloss Hall • The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to stop by and write a note of gratitude to someone who's made a difference in your life.

Calendar

visit [CCSM-UCC.ORG/EVENTS](https://ccsm-ucc.org/events) for the full calendar of events and meetings

Below is a snapshot of this week's events, meetings, and activities. For more information—or to add something to the calendar—please reach out to the event host or contact Chase Montara at cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org

Sunday, October 26

9:45 - 10:15 AM
10:30 - 11:30 AM
10:30 - 11:30 AM
10:45 - 11:30 AM
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM
12:00 - 2:15 PM
4:00 - 6:30 PM

Joyful Noise Children's Choir, Fireplace Room; contact Julie Berk, teacherjulie7@gmail.com
Worship Service in person and online (FB and YouTube)
60 minutes High School discussion group, Fireplace Room
Children and Youth Faith Formation, CE Building
Coffee Hour, Kloss Hall
Open Cathedral Sandwich Making, Kloss Kitchen
Innovation Lab Team Meeting, CE Building
Sunday Evenings Together: Children & Youth Gatherings, Kloss Hall & CE Building

Monday, October 27

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
4:00 - 6:00 PM
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Women at the Well Group, Fireplace Room
Samaritan House Meal Service, Kloss Hall
Council of Ministries Meeting, Buckham Room; contact Kay Harris, communi_ks@me.com

Tuesday, October 28

10:00 - 11:00 AM
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Men's Coffee Group, Fireplace Room; contact Peter Held, paheld1417@gmail.com
Samaritan House Meal Service, Kloss Hall

Wednesday, October 29

4:00 - 6:00 PM
7:00 - 8:30 PM
6:00 - 7:00 PM
7:15 - 8:45 PM

Samaritan House Meal Service, Kloss Hall
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Día de los Muertos Altar-making, Narthex
Día de los Muertos Bilingual Worship Service, Sanctuary and Kloss Hall

Thursday, October 30

9:00 - 11:00 AM
10:15 - 11:30 AM
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Casual Bike Riders, CCSM Parking Lot; contact John Ebnetter, jebnetter@aol.com
Women's Coffee Group, Fireplace Room; contact linda.skromme@gmail.com
Samaritan House Meal Service, Kloss Hall

Friday, October 31

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Samaritan House Meal Service, Kloss Hall

Saturday, November 1

8:30 - 10:30 AM

CC Riders Weekly Bike Ride; contact Peter Held, paheld1417@gmail.com

Sunday, November 2

9:45 - 10:15 AM

10:30 - 11:30 AM

10:45 - 11:30 AM

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

4:00 - 6:30 PM

Joyful Noise Children's Choir, Fireplace Room; contact Julie Berk, teacherjulie7@gmail.com

All Saints Worship Service in person and online (FB and YouTube)

Youth & Children's Programs, CE Building

Coffee Hour, Kloss Hall

Sunday Evenings Together: Children & Youth Program, Kloss Hall & CE Building



For Staff, CCSM Board, and Ministries leads, go to ccsm-ucc.org/welcome/#staff or scan the QR code. To contact your CCSM Board, email Board@ccsm-ucc.org. To contact anyone in the Council of Ministries, email COM@ccsm-ucc.org. To contact the church office, email cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org

Learn More!



@ccsmucc



ccsm.ucc



ccsmMediaChannel



ccsm-ucc.org

Our Guiding Principles:

We are a Spiritual Community

We are Christian

We are God's Hands, Feet and Face

We are Inclusive

We are Open Minded

We are Evolving



We are a certified
Cool Congregation
of
Interfaith
Power & Light



DREAMING GOD'S DREAM

No gift too small, no dream too big.

Why Pledge

WHY DO WE MAKE A COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT TO CHURCH?

We can give to our congregation without turning in a commitment card. So, why write down our intention for the coming year? Of course, telling the church about our intention helps leaders plan. But we ask you to write down your intentions for another reason.

Jesus told us to love God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

A commitment card can engage us in all those ways as we express our love of God and neighbor.

Heart: we feel the love and support of people in the congregation. This is the place where we belong.

Mind: we think about our resources, both our income and our accumulated assets when deciding on what commitment to make in the coming year.

Soul: we experience the hope that comes from making a commitment to the future. A commitment card symbolizes our confidence in God's future and makes us part of helping that future come about.

Strength: we do what we can to help support our community.

We ask you to return a commitment card because it connects you to the mission and ministry of our congregation to our neighbors, near and far. Returning your commitment card affirms with all of your being that you are part of our response to God's dream.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity.
Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



DREAMING GOD'S DREAM

No gift too small, no dream too big.