



# FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 – 9:00 AM



First Church is a community growing  
in grace and reaching out with love.

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

*With joy we welcome your presence today, wherever you are.  
Please join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship together.*

**Register Your Attendance**

**Welcome**

**Words of Inspiration**

“We release our hearts to God. First, we remove the pressure, for release requires the freedom to be moved. Then we allow our hearts to return to their original resting position—in sync with God, with the rhythm of summer cicadas and this whole wild creation. So like the mockingbird releases her song, we release our hearts to God.” ~ Rev. Sarah Are

**Prelude** ..... Glenn Ward, Interim Organist

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

arr. Janet Linker



*Assistive listening and transcription available in First Church Sanctuary.  
See pew card or usher to connect to Listen EVERYWHERE or Epiphany LiveScript.*

# THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

## • Call to Worship . . . . . Todd Vollstedt, Liturgist

Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free, dropping our nets, giving to others, and following. So in this hour of worship, may we release that which binds us.

May we worship with open, untamed, and porous hearts, so that we can be freely with God. Let it be so. Amen.

# TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

## • Hymn of Celebration #87: *What Gift Can We Bring*

1. What gift can we bring, what pres - ent, what to - ken? What words can con - vey it, the  
 2. Give thanks for the past, for those who had vi - sion, who plant - ed and wa - tered so  
 3. Give thanks for to - mor - row, full of sur - pris - es, for know - ing what - ev - er to -  
 4. The gift we now bring, this pres - ent, this to - ken, these words can con - vey it, the

joy of this day? When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re -  
 dreams could come true. Give thanks for the now, for stud - y, for  
 mor - row may bring, the Word is our prom - ise al - ways, for -  
 joy of this day! When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re -

joic - ing, what song can we of - fer in hon - or and praise?  
 wor - ship, for mis - sion that bids - us turn prayer in - to deed.  
 ev - er; we rest in God's keep - ing and live in God's love.  
 joic - ing, this song we now of - fer in hon - or and praise!

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## Pastoral Prayer . . . . . Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Anthem . . . . . Section Leaders

### *There came a man* J. Jerome Williams

There came a man of wealth and position;  
 There came a man to ask of the Christ.  
 "What must I do to inherit Thy kingdom?  
 What deed so good for eternal life?"  
 "Why ask thou me the things that are good?  
 Keep the commandments of thy God.  
 If you would enter life eternal,  
 Keep the commandments of thy God.  
 Thou shalt not kill, nor bear false witness.

Thou shalt not steal nor adult'ry commit.  
 Honor thy father and thy mother,  
 And love thy neighbor as thy self."  
 "All these I've kept, what still am I lacking?"  
 "Go sell thy good and give to the poor."  
 He went away, his heart filled with sorrow.  
 Many great riches did he possess.  
 (Matthew 19:16-22)

TO HEAR THE WORD

Anthem ..... Chancel Choir; Brian Lustig, Director

Treasures in Heaven

Joseph Clokey (1890-1960)

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth,
Where moth and rust doth corrupt,
And where thieves break through and steal,
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heav'n,
For where your treasure is,
There will your heart be also.

Ask, and it shall be given you;
Seek, and ye shall find;
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you,
For ev'ry one that asketh receiveth,
And he that seeketh findeth,
And to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

(Matthew 6:19-21, 7:7-8)

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God,
In the reading of the scriptures, may Your Word be heard.
In the meditations of our hearts, may Your Word be known.
In the faithfulness of our lives, may Your Word be shown. Amen.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 19:16-22

The word of God for the People of God: thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Our Money Story: Release." ..... Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

Hymn of Faith: More Precious than Silver

Musical notation for the hymn 'More Precious than Silver' with lyrics: Lord, you are more precious than silver. Lord, you are more costly than gold. Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds, and nothing I desire compares with you.

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Music: Lynn DeShazo
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TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Reception of New Members: Karl & Brenda Martin

Faith in Action

Offertory

Finale from Sonata No. 6

Felix Mendelssohn

• **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
 Praise Christ, all people here below;  
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
 Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

• **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Holy God,  
 It is not always easy to give what we have.  
 It can take work for us to practice release.  
 And yet, we can trust that You can take these gifts,  
 however freely or reluctantly given,

And use them to build a more beautiful world.  
 For that is who You are.  
 You are forever building new life  
 out of cautious gifts.  
 Amen.

**TO DISPERSE IN MISSION**

• **Hymn of Consecration #399: *Take my life and let it be***



1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - cra-ted, Lord, to thee. Take my mo-ments and my days;  
 2. Take my voice, and let me sing al-ways, on - ly, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be  
 3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long-er mine. Take my heart, it is thine own;



let them flow in cease - less praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse  
 filled with mes-sag - es from thee. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would  
 it shall be thy roy - al throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its



of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 I with-hold. Take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.  
 trea - sure-store. Take my-self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

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• **Benediction** ..... Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

**Postlude**

*Chromatic Fugue*

Johann Pachelbel



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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO • IN MISSION SINCE 1869

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