



FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SAN DIEGO

DECEMBER 22, 2024 – 9:00 AM



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

Words of Inspiration

“The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.”
~Socrates

Prelude Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries and Principal Organist

Prelude on “Still, still, still”
Christopher Tambling (b. 1964)



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

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

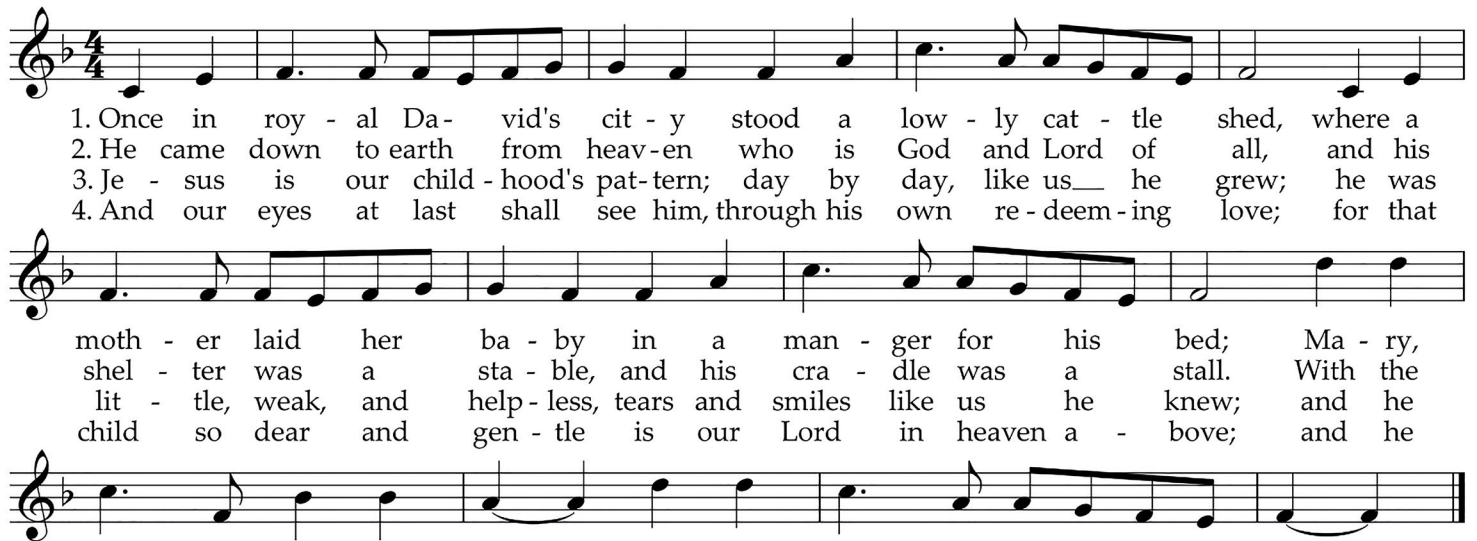
• Call to Worship Lisa Meuser, Liturgist

With deep-rooted peace, come to the story.
Put aside what you know. Lean into the mystery.
Pack for the long journey to new truths.
The story is one of deep-rooted peace.
A peace born in the darkness,
from a seed of hope and the truth of love,
a gift of wisdom for the world.

With deep-rooted peace, come to the story.
Receive love's power. Embrace truth's courage.
Become Christ's wisdom in the world.
With deep-rooted peace, we listen, we see,
we become.
This is our story.

TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

• Hymn of Celebration #250: *Once in Royal David's City*



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, where a
2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all, and his
3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day, like us he grew; he was
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love; for that

moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed; Ma - ry,
shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall. With the
lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles like us he knew; and he
child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he

lov - ing moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
poor, the scorned, the low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.
leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848
Music: Henry J. Quantlett, 1849
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Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace Brandon and Lucas Naidu, Susan Naidu

We light the candle of peace for all those who have forgotten what peace is.

We pray together:

May the light of peace spread from heart to heart until goodwill dwells secure within us.
May the light of peace spread from hand to hand until all people's needs are met.
May the light of peace spread from home to home until all the world sleeps well at night.

Response: *Light the Advent Candle*

Light the Ad - vent can - dle, four: Think of joy for - ev - er - more;
Christ Child in a sta - ble born, gift of love that Christ - mas morn.
Refrain
Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, shin - ing in the cold win - ter night;
can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

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Music: ADVENT CANDLE SONG © 1975 Mary Lu Walker
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Pastoral Prayer Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

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.

Act of Praise Youth Chime Ensemble; Dana Zimbric, Director

Silent Night, Holy Night
arr. Sandra Eithun (b. 1963)

A Time with Children Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

TO HEAR THE WORD

Anthem Chancel Choir, Brian Woods-Lustig, Director

Three Kings from Persian Lands

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

In Bethlehem, that noble place,
of Virgin Mary, full of grace,
within a stable all forlorn,
the Saviour of the World is born.

Refrain:

Be we merry in this feast,
In quo Salvator natus est
[in which the Savior Christ is born].

Three Kings from Persian lands afar
Following the distant star:
And this the quest of travellers three,
Where the new-born king may be.

Refrain

The star shines out with steadfast ray,
The kings to Bethlehem make their way;
And there in worship they bend the knee,
Unto the child they'd come to see.

Refrain

The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting-place:
Gold, incense, myrrh thou cannot bring
So give thy heart unto the King.

Refrain

• 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 2:1-6*

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

Sermon: “*Who is the Good News For? The Wise and the World*” Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

• Hymn of Faith #245: *The First Noel* (v. 2-5)



2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far; and
3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from coun - try far; to
4. This star drew nigh to the north west, o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest; and
5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full rev - erent - ly up - on the knee, and



to the earth it gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
seek for a king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
there it did both stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
of - fered there, in his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.



Refrain
No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: Trad. English carol
Music: Trad. English carol
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TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

Offertory

“Coventry Carol” from Four Preludes on Well-Known Carols

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

• Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

• Prayer of Thanksgiving

Generous God, in this season of giving,
let us receive the peace You offer
so that we might generously bring peace to others,
through our offerings, actions, and words. Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

• Hymn of Consecration #237: *Sing We Now of Christmas (v. 1, 3-5)*



1. Sing we now of Christ - mas, No - el, sing we here!
3. In Beth - le - hem they found him; Jo - seph and Ma - ry mild,
4. From the east - ern coun - try came the kings a - far,
5. Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of great - est price;



Hear our grate - ful prais - es to the babe so dear.
seat - ed by the man - ger, watch - ing the ho - ly child.
bear - ing gifts to Beth - lehem, guid - ed by a star.
there was never a sta - ble so like par - a - dise.



Sing we No - el, the King is born, No - el! Sing we now of Christ - mas, sing we now No - el!

Words: Trad. French carol
Music: Trad. French carol
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• Benediction Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

Postlude

Carillon on a Ukranian Bell Carol

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

KEEP IN TOUCH

Connect with the First Church community here!

Worship online: each week via www.fumcsd.org/watch-live or subscribe to our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/@FirstChurchSanDiego.

Drop in early or stay online late to catch upcoming events in our pre- and post-worship announcements loop.

Stay up to date with all the happenings via the weekly eNEWS. To subscribe visit www.fumcsd.org/enews or text FUMCSDNEWS to 22828.

FIRST CHURCH WELCOMES YOU IF...

You are single, married, divorced, gay, transgender, filthy rich, dirt poor, o no habla inglés,

You are a crying newborn, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds,

You can sing like Aretha Franklin or cannot carry a tune in a bucket,

You're "just browsing", just woke up, or you just got out of jail,

You've been a Methodist your whole life or haven't been in church except for your little niece's baptism years ago,

You've got an AARP card but have yet to grow up, or you're a teenager growing up, too fast.

We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, tree huggers, latte-sippers, vegans, junk-food eaters,

We welcome those who are in recovery or struggling with addiction,

We welcome you if you're having problems or if you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion," this church is for you,

If you blew all your money in Vegas, you're welcome here,

We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, those who work too hard, those who don't work, can't spell or found us because Grandma wants you to go to church,

We welcome all those who are inked, pierced or both,

We welcome you if your ancestors arrived in chains, below the decks, captained those ships, or have been on this land since the beginning of time,

We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now (all of us could use a prayer right now),

We'd also like to welcome you if you had religion shoved down your throat, or you got lost on YouTube somehow and ended up here by mistake.

We welcome tourists, seekers, doubters, bleeding hearts...and you!

May the Peace of Christ, which passes all understanding be with you this day, and all the days going forward.



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2111 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH • SAN DIEGO, CA 92108

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A RECONCILING CONGREGATION