



FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SAN DIEGO

DECEMBER 29, 2024 – 9:00 AM



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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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

“No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it is not
the same river and he is not the same man.” ~ Heraclitus

Prelude Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries and Principal Organist

Declamation on “Gloria”

Michael Bedford (b. 1949)



*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** Andrea Allmon, Liturgist

Into hopelessness, a baby was born,
 Bringing good news to the shepherds in the field,
A message of joy for all people to hear!
 Through troubled times, the child grew strong and wise,
 A beacon of light, shining through the dark.
Glory to God, and peace for all!
 In the midst of shadows, a light was given,
 A hope to the broken, a path to the lost.
Thanks be to God!

TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

- **Hymn of Celebration #224: *Good Christian Friends Rejoice***



1. give ye heed to what we say:
 2. Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of end-less bliss:
 3. now ye need not fear the grave:



News, news! Je - sus Christ is born to-day! Ox and ass be - fore him bow, and
 News, news! Je - sus Christ was born for this! He hath o - opened heav - en's door, and
 News, news! Je - sus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to



he is in the man-ger now. Christ is born to - day, Christ is born to - day!
 ye are blest for - ev - er - more. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
 gain his ev - er - last - ing hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

Words: 14th cent. Latin; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1855
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German melody
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- Pastoral Prayer** Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

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.**

Hymn #242: *Love Came Down at Christmas*



1. Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, Love di - vine;
2. Wor - ship we the God - head, Love in - car - nate, Love di - vine;
3. Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine;



Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina G. Rossetti, 1885
Music: Trad. Irish melody
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A Time with Children Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

TO HEAR THE WORD

Antem Winter Choir

What Sweeter Music

arr. Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol for to sing
the birth of this our heav'nly King?

We see him come, and know him ours,
Who with his sunshine and his showers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

So we will see him, and bequeath
This holly and this ivy wreath,
to do him honour, who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day
That sees December turn'd to May.

The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is to find a room
to welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here is the heart.

(Robert Herrick)

• **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: *Luke 2:41-52***

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

Sermon: "*The Education of Jesus*" Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

• Hymn of Faith #506: *Wellspring of Wisdom* (vs. 1, 3-4)



1. Well - spring of Wis - dom, hear our cry. The way a - head is parched and dry.
 3. Gar - den of Grace, your gifts a - bound, the sa - cred signs are all a - round,
 4. Call to Com - pas - sion, help us bring our burn - ing need for nur - tur - ing,



We seek a source to sat - is - fy our thirst for sanc - ti -
 the whole of earth is ho - ly ground. We learn, from all of
 the emp - ti - ness of ev - ery - thing to your em - brace, as



fy - ing wa - ters, wis - dom for your faith - filled sons and daugh - ters.
 life ex - press - ing, how to grow in sow - ing seeds of bless - ing.
 we en - deav - or to pro - claim your ho - ly name for - ev - er.

Words: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987
 Music: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987
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TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

Offertory

Prelude on "Greensleeves"
 Richard Purvis (1915-1994)

• 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

Gracious God, in this season of stillness,
 let us be filled with the joy and hope that the Christ child brings to our hearts.
 May we offer our gifts in service, sharing Your peace with those who are weary and troubled.
 Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

• Hymn of Consecration #251: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where; go, tell it on the moun-tain, that

Fine

Je - sus Christ is born.

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo! a - bove the
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was

night, be - hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 earth, rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed the Sav - ior's birth.
 born, and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

D.C.

Words: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by John W. Work, Jr.
 Music: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith
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• **Benediction** Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

Postlude

Postlude on "Mendelssohn"
 David Willcocks (1919-2015)

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

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A RECONCILING CONGREGATION