



FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SAN DIEGO

JANUARY 12, 2025 – 9:00 AM



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

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

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

“The rituals we use for marriage, baptism or inaugurating a president are as elaborate as they are because we associate the ritual with a major life passage, the crossing of a critical threshold, or in other words, with transformation.” ~ Abraham Verghese

Prelude Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries and Principal Organist

Prelude on “Bunessan”

George McPhee (b. 1937)



*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** Richard Harris, Liturgist

Darkness created skepticism and skewed expectations.
Until something unexpected happened. A voice called out with hope.
The light shone in the darkness! The light shines on us!
Those who come before us prepare our way. The baptism of life is ours.
The flow of the Spirit, the river of fire, refines and transforms our minds and souls.
Light illuminates. Shadows are banished.
The Christ is born. Expectations are set. The light changes everything.
Thanks be to God! Thanks be to the Light of the World!

TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

- **Hymn of Celebration #61: *Come, Thou Almighty King***



1. Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise!
2. Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword, our prayer at - tend!
3. Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear in this glad hour.
4. To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be, hence, ev - er - more.

Fa - ther all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days!
Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess; Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend!
Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power!
Thy sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore!

Words: Anon.
Music: Felice de Giardini, 1769
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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.

Sacrament of Baptism: *Sirius and Raphael Law*

The Profession of Faith by Parents

Congregational Pledge

The pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this person now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Baptism of Sirius and Raphael

Congregational Welcome & Affirmation

When the candidates have been baptized, the pastor invites the congregation to welcome them:

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brothers in Christ. Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a members of the family of Christ.

Response #611: *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (vs. 1, 4)*

1. Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized with the Spir - it's sign;
 4. Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.

with this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

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 Music: STUTTGART, Attr. to C. F. Witt, 1715; adapt. by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1861
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A Time with Children Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

TO HEAR THE WORD

Anthem Chancel Choir, Dr. Arian Khaefi, Guest Conductor

Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized

William Bradley Roberts (b. 1947)

Christ, when for us you were baptized,
 God's Spirit on you came,
 as peaceful as a dove and yet
 as urgent as a flame.

Straightway and steadfast until death,
 you then obeyed God's call,
 freely as Son of God to serve
 and give your life for all.

God called you, "My beloved One,"
 declared delight in you,
 anointed you to preach and heal,
 God's holy will to do.

Baptize us with your Spirit, God,
 your cross on us be signed,
 that, likewise in God's service, we
 may perfect freedom find.

(F. Bland Tucker)

• **Prayer for Illumination**

Gracious God, in this season of epiphanies,
let us be find joy and hope in the revelation
of who You are and who You invite us to be.
May we offer our gifts in service, sharing Your peace
with those who are weary and troubled. Amen

• **Gospel Lesson: 3:15-22**

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

Sermon: *“The Baptism of Christ”* Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

• **Hymn of Faith #2248: *Baptized in Water***

1. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the blood of Christ, our
 2. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the tomb with Christ, our
 3. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the sign of Christ, our

King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
 King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 King; born of one Fa - ther, we are his

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 chil - dren, joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

Words: Michael Seward (Rom. 6:3-5)
 Music: Trad. Gaelic melody
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TO RENEW COMMITMENT

[Faith in Action](#)

Offertory

“Rhosymedre” from Three Preludes Founded on Welsh Hymn Tunes

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

• **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 epiphanies,
 let us find joy and hope in the revelation of who You are
 and who You invite us to be. May we offer our gifts in service,
 sharing Your peace with those who are weary and troubled. Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

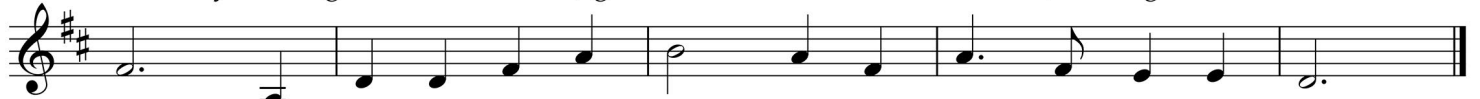
• Hymn of Consecration #252: *When Jesus Came to Jordan*



1. When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John, he did not come for par - don but
2. He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss, for us and our sal - va - tion to
3. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make; this ver - y day in - vade us, and



as the sin - less one. He came to share re - pent - ance with all who mourn their
die up - on the cross. So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of
ev - ery bond - age break. Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et



sins, to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
Man, the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
most: to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

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Music: COMPLAINER, Attr. to William Walker, 1835
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• Benediction Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

Postlude

“Carillon”

Herbert Murrill (1909-1952)

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, we've all been there.

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!



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A RECONCILING CONGREGATION