



FIRST CHURCH
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SAN DIEGO

MARCH 9, 2025 – 9:00 AM



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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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

“Think twice before you speak, because your words and influence
will plant the seed of either success or failure in the mind of another.” ~ Napoleon Hill

Prelude Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries

Cantilena on “Seek Ye First”

Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

• Silent Processional



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

• **Call to Worship** Carl Meuser, Liturgist

The stories of Jesus are stories of life,
witnessing to the power of Jesus
to heal and make whole.

Life for those about whom the stories are told.

Life for the hemorrhaging woman
who came near to Jesus,
touched the hem of his garment,
and was made well.

The stories of Jesus are stories of life.

Life for those who hear
that the stories are not just about her.

They are about us, too.

So we, too, will accept the invitation to come near.

TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

• **Hymn of Celebration #384: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling***



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast!
3. Come Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be.



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown!
Let us all in thee in - her - it; let us find that sec - ond rest.
sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
Let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
Take a - way our bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vi - sit us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747
Music: John Zundel, 1870
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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.**

Anthem Jubilee Singers; Brian Woods-Lustig, Director

There is a Balm in Gilead

Thomas Pavlechko (b. 1962)

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Refrain

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."

Refrain

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend.

Refrain

A Time with Children Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

TO HEAR THE WORD

Anthem Chancel Choir; Brian Woods-Lustig, Director

Nearer, My God, to Thee/What a Friend

arr. Gene Grier (1942-2009); Lowell Everson (1935-2018)

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to thee;
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!

There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;
All that thou sendest me, in mercy given;
Angels to beckon me
Nearer, my God, to thee;
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

• **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: Mark 5:25-34**

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

Sermon: "The Stories That Save Us: The Story of Proximity" Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka
with El Zimbric, Michael Zimbric

• Hymn of Faith #405: *Seek Ye First*

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God; and his
 2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
 ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be
 add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Words: Karen Lafferty
 Music: Karen Lafferty
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TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

Offertory

Prelude on "Abridge"

Ashley Grote (b. 1982)

• 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

God of Life,
 Give us Your story of accessible healing and let it be ours.
 Offer us Your invitation to grow and let us embrace a deeper spirituality.
 Stand us on Your foundation and let us be better for ourselves,
 our families and friends.
 Take our gifts and let them help the church be nearer to You
 for the sake of our community and our world. Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

• Hymn of Consecration #555: *Forward Through the Ages*

Words: Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908
 Music: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1871
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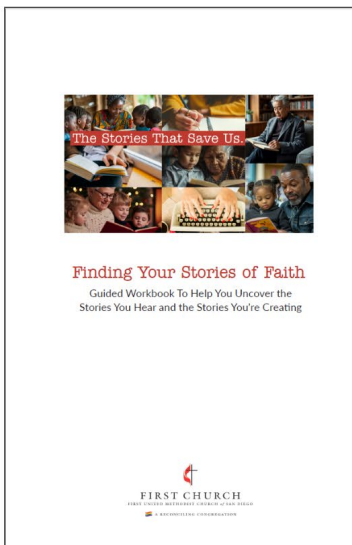
• **Benediction** Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

Postlude

Toccata on "Breslau"
 Brian Solomons (b. 1948)

TO EXPLORE YOUR FAITH

Guided Journal: Finding Your Stories of Faith



*Uncover the stories you hear and create
 this Lent and beyond.*

Get Digital Copy:
fumcsd.org/book



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!



FIRST CHURCH

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of SAN DIEGO

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

2111 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH • SAN DIEGO, CA 92108

REV. TRUDY D. ROBINSON, REV. BRITTANY JULIETTE HANLIN, REV. DR. HANNAH KA

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A RECONCILING CONGREGATION