



FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SAN DIEGO

MARCH 16, 2025 – 9:00 AM



The Stories That Save Us.

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

SECOND 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

Words of Inspiration

“When the world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.”
~ Malala Yousafzai

Prelude Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries

Exultation on “Neander”

Phil Lehenbauer (b. 1960)

• **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** Carol Blessing, Liturgist

The stories of Jesus are stories of life,
witnessing to the power of Jesus
to forgive and make new.

Life for those about whom the stories are told.

Life for the paralyzed man,
whose friends carried him into a crowd,
lowered him before Jesus,
and pleaded for his wellbeing.

The stories of Jesus are stories of life.

Life for those who hear that the stories
are not just about this man and his friends.

They are about us, too.

**So we, too, will accept the invitation
to advocate for faith.**

TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

• **Hymn of Celebration #578: *God of Love and God of Power***

1. God of love and God of power, grant us in this burn - ing hour
 2. We are not the first to be ban - ished by our fears from thee;
 3. All our lives be - long to thee, thou our fi - nal loy - al - ty;
 4. God of love and God of power, make us wor - thy of this hour;

grace to ask these gifts of thee, dar - ing hearts and spir - its free.
 give us cour - age, let us hear heav - en's trum - pets ring - ing clear.
 slaves are we when - e'er we share that de - vo - tion an - y - where.
 of - fering lives if it's thy will, keep - ing free our spir - its still.

Refrain
 God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.

Words: Gerald H. Kennedy, ca. 1939
 Music: Joachim Neander, 1680
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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 Chimes; Dana Zimbric, Director

Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior
 arr. Jacob B. Weber (b. 1988)

A Time with Children Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

TO HEAR THE WORD

Anthem Chancel Choir; Dana Zimbric, Guest Director

O for a Closer Walk with God

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn
And drove Thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb. (W. Cowper)

• 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 2:1-12*

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

Sermon: “*The Stories That Save Us: The Story of Advocates*” Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

• Hymn of Faith #301: *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*

1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross; there a pre - cious foun - tain,
2. Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream, flows from Cal - vary's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross, be my glo - ry ev - er,
till my rap - tured soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1869
Music: William H. Doane, 1869
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TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

Offertory

Fugato on "St. Agnes"

David Schelat (b. 1955)

• 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 healing through advocacy 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 serve to heal
our community and our world. Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

• Hymn of Consecration #561: *Jesus, United by Thy Grace*



1. Je - sus, u - nit - ed by thy grace and each to each en - deared,
2. Help us to help each oth - er, Lord, each oth - er's cross to bear;
3. Up un - to thee, our liv - ing Head, let us in all things grow;
4. Touched by the lode - stone of thy love, let all our hearts a - gree,
5. To thee, in - sep - a - ra - bly joined, let all our spir - its cleave;
6. This is the bond of per - fect - ness, thy spot - less char - i - ty;



with con - fi - dence we seek thy face and know our prayer is heard.
let all their friend - ly aid af - ford, and feel each oth - er's care.
till thou hast made us free in - deed, and spot - less here be - low.
and ev - er toward each oth - er move, and ev - er move toward thee.
O may we all the lov - ing mind that was in thee re - ceive.
O let us, still we pray, pos - sess the mind that was in thee.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1742
Music: John B. Dykes, 1866
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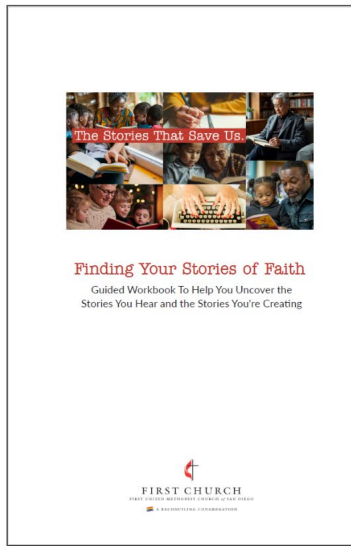
• Benediction Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

Postlude

Carillon

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

Guided Journal: Finding Your Stories of Faith



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

Get Digital Copy:
fumcsd.org/book

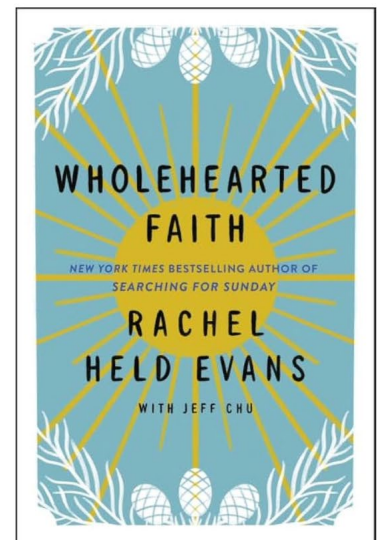


Pastors' Book Study: Wholehearted Faith

Learn from Rachel Held Evans' journey of wrestling with her faith.



Join a Discussion:
fumcsd.org/study



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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of SAN DIEGO

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

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A RECONCILING CONGREGATION