



FIRST CHURCH  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
of SAN DIEGO

MARCH 30, 2025 – 9:00 AM



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

FOURTH 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

“I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness; I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too. I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more.” ~ Anne Frank

Prelude ..... Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries

*Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

• Silent Processional

Worship Guide Notes: • is an invitation to rise in body or spirit; **bold words** indicate congregational response



*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** ..... Barb Weicksel, Liturgist

The stories of Jesus are stories of life,  
witnessing to the power of Jesus  
to calm a storm and bring peace.

**Life for those about whom the stories are told.**

Life for the disciples, when the fear,  
that was buried just under the surface,  
bubbles up and takes over,  
Jesus takes control and peace descends.

**The stories of Jesus are stories of life.**

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

**They are about us, too.**

**So we, too, will accept the invitation  
to look to Jesus for peace.**

**TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS**

• **Hymn of Celebration #454: *Open My Eyes, That I May See***

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me;  
2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send - est clear;  
3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery-where;

place in my hands the won-der - ful key that shall un - clasp and set me free.  
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will dis - ap - pear.  
o - pen my heart and let me pre-pare love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

*Refrain*

Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y my God, thy will to see.

O - pen my eyes,  
O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
O - pen my heart,

Words: Clara H. Scott, 1895  
Music: Clara H. Scott, 1895  
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**Pastoral Prayer** ..... Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

**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** . . . . . Chamber Choir; Brian Woods-Lustig, Director

*Precious Lord*

arr. Arnold Sevier

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light:  
Take my hand, precious Lord,  
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
At the river I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand:  
Take my hand, precious Lord,  
Lead me home.

(Thomas A. Dorsey)

**A Time with Children** . . . . . Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

**TO HEAR THE WORD**

**Anthem** . . . . . Chancel Choir

*How Can I Keep From Singing?*

Matthew Culloton (b. 1976)

My life goes on in endless song  
Above earth's lamentations,  
I hear the real, though far-off hymn  
That hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear it's music ringing,  
It sounds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?

*Refrain:*  
No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
While to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is lord of heaven and earth  
How can I keep from singing?  
What though the tempest round me roar,  
I hear the truth, it liveth.  
What though the darkness 'round me close,  
Songs in the night it giveth.

*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 8:23-27***

The Word of God for the People of God: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** "*The Stories That Save Us: The Story of Tranquility*". . . . . Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

• Hymn of Faith #476: *Lonely the Boat*

1. Lone - ly the boat, sail - ing at sea, tossed on a cold, storm - y night;  
 2. Strong winds a - rose in all their rage, toss - ing the ti - ny lone boat;  
 3. Trem - bling with fear, deep in de - spair, look - ing for help all a - round,  
 4. "Plead - ing for your mer - cy, O Lord, e - ven a sin - ner like me;  
 5. "Storms in our lives, cru - el and cold, sure - ly will a - rise a - gain,

cru - el the sea which seemed so wide, with waves so high.  
 waves bil - lowing high, toss - ing the boat, lost and a - float.  
 the sail - or saw light from a - bove. "Help can be found;  
 com - mand, O Lord, calm to the sea, as in Gal - i - lee!  
 threat - en - ing lives, threat - en - ing us on life's wild sea.

This sin - gle ship sailed the deep sea, straight in - to the gale;  
 The sail - or stood all a - lone, won - dering what to do;  
 my God is here in my small boat, stand - ing by my side;  
 Please save my life from all dan - ger, grant a peace - ful life;  
 Power - ful and great, God's hand is there, firm - ly in con - trol.

O Lord, great is the per - il, dan - gers to all as - sail.  
 O Lord, so help - less was he, won - der - ing what to do.  
 O I trust in the Sav - ior, now in my life a - bide.  
 O please be mer - ci - ful, Lord, in times of calm and strife.  
 O Lord, calm peace comes from you, peace comes to my lone soul."

Words: Helen Kim; trans. by Hae Jong Kim; poem by Linda and Doug Sugano; revised by Hope Kawatana © 1967, 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House  
 Music: BAL, Dong Hoon Lee © 1967, 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House  
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**TO RENEW COMMITMENT**

Faith in Action

Offertory

*The Quiet Church*

Mark Fax (1911-1974)

• 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 tranquility 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 bring peace  
 to our community and our world. Amen.



## TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

- Hymn of Consecration #451: *Be Thou My Vision*



1. Be thou my vi-sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
2. Be thou my wis-dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
3. Great God of heav-en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach heav-en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres-ence my light.  
thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart, great God of heav - en, my trea-sure thou art.  
Heart of my own heart, what-ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Words: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; revised by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House  
Music: SLANE, Trad. Irish melody  
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- Benediction . . . . . Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

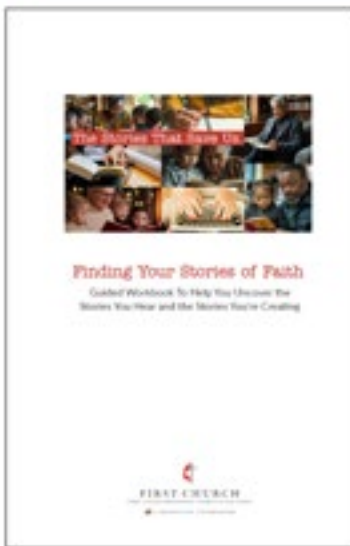
### Postlude

*Fugue sur le thème du Carillon des Heures de la Cathédrale de Soissons*

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

## 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](http://fumcsd.org/book)



## KEEP IN TOUCH

Connect with the First Church community here!

Worship online: each week via [www.fumcsd.org/watch-live](http://www.fumcsd.org/watch-live) or subscribe to our YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/@FirstChurchSanDiego](http://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](http://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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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO • IN MISSION SINCE 1869

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