



FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SAN DIEGO

JUNE 1, 2025 – 9:00 AM



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

ASCENSION 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

“Adults keep saying: ‘We owe it to the young people to give them hope.’
But I don’t want your hope. I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic.
I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act.
I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is.”
~ Greta Thunberg

Prelude Handbell Choir; Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries

“Spirit of God, Unseen as the Wind”

arr. Sondra Tucker (b. 1957)

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** Laurie St. Gean, Liturgist
 The heavens declare the glory of God with
 silent whispers of sunshine and moonlight.
 The Divine Christ and the human Jesus initiates
 heaven on earth and call us to that work.
Even so, our ambition blocks the stars,
and our busy-ness denies the call.
 Yet, the heavens still shine and the work continues around us.
 The steps we take are small and growing.
 The learning is continual and necessary.
Our God is patient and kind.
Jesus calls and compels. Hope lives in us.

- **Hymn of Celebration:** *Hail Thee, Festival Day; (Ascension vs 1-2, 5-6) ... See screens*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

- **Invitation** Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka
- **Prayer of Confession**
 Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
 We have failed to be an obedient church.
 We have not done your will, we have broken your law,
 we have rebelled against your love,
 we have not loved our neighbors,
 and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
 Forgive us, we pray.
 Free us for joyful obedience,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.
- **Words of Assurance**
 Hear the good news:
 Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us.
 In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.
- **Gloria Patri**
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Sankofa Pilgrimage Commissioning

- A Time with Children** Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

TO HEAR THE WORD

Anthem Combined Choirs; Dana Zimbric, Director

African Psalm

Victor C. Johnson (b. 1978)

Lift your voices to God, all ye people!
Praise the Lord singing alleluia!
Everybody sing together alleluia!
All creation sing together alleluia!

(Adapted from the Psalms)

• 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.

• Scripture Lesson: *Psalm 19:1-4a; Mark 16:19-20*

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

Sermon: “*Creation Care – Life After Death: The Need to Act*” Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Choir Appreciation

[Faith in Action](#)



Offertory Combined Choirs; Brian Woods-Lustig, Director

The Ascension

Daniel Burton (b. 1944)

Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany,
And raising his hands he blessed them.
Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them,
And was carried up to heav'n.
They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem full of joy;
Alleluia!

• 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!

TO GIVE THANKS

• The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts: **we lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God: **it is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's act of salvation and concludes:

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Bless-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Music: 1976 Oxford University Press
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The pastor concludes with:

...in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

Music: 1976 Oxford University Press
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The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

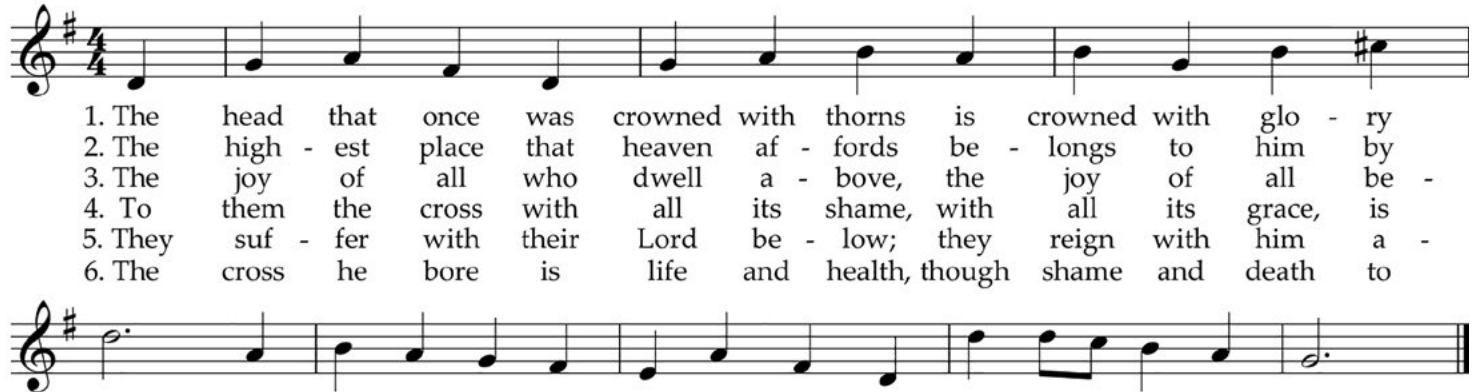
Music: 1976 Oxford University Press
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The Lord's Prayer

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.

Sharing the Bread & Cup

Communion Hymn #326: *The Head That Once Was Crowned*



1. The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo - ry
2. The high - est place that heaven af - fords be - longs to him by
3. The joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be -
4. To them the cross with all its shame, with all its grace, is
5. They suf - fer with their Lord be - low; they reign with him a -
6. The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to

now; a roy - al di - a - dem a - dorns the might - y vic - tor's brow.
right; the King of kings and Lord of lords, and heaven's e - ter - nal light.
low, to whom he man - i - fests his love, and grants his name to know.
given; their name an ev - er - last - ing name, their joy the joy of heaven.
bove; their prof - it and their joy to know the my - stery of his love.
him, his peo - ple's hope, his peo - ple's wealth, their ev - er - last - ing theme.

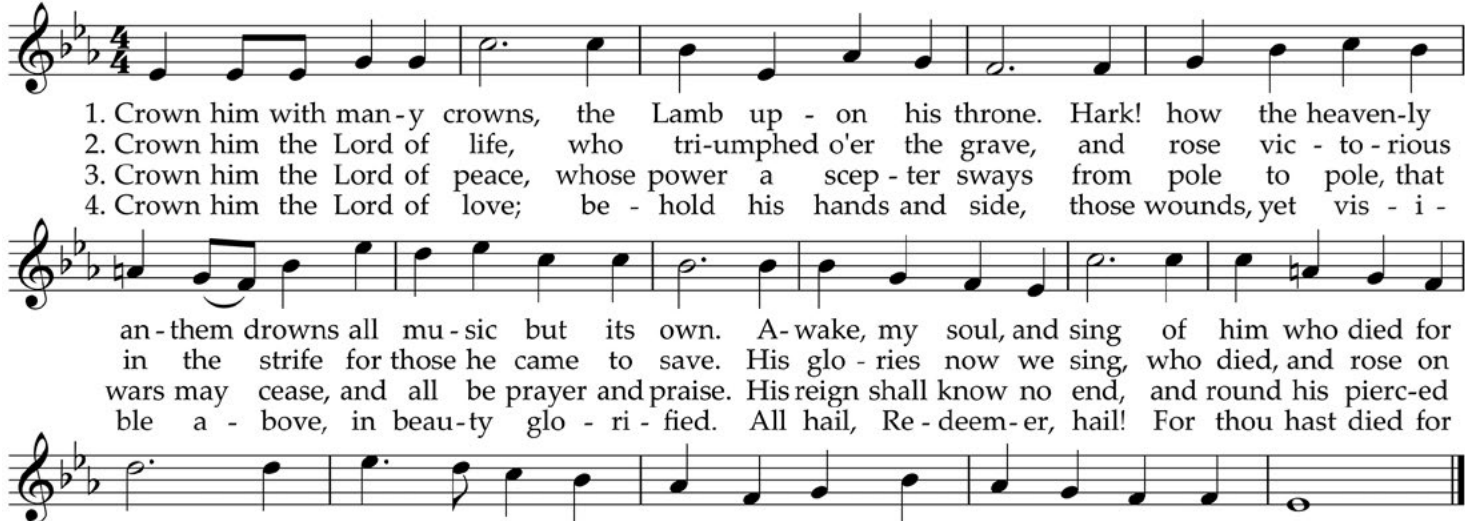
Words: Thomas Kelly, 1820
Music: Attr. to Jeremiah Clark, 1707
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Prayer After Holy Communion

Resurrected Christ, you have set the table before us and feed us with your grace.
Who we have been, what we have done, and how we have failed is no secret to you.
Yet you welcome us with your body, hear our prayers with your love,
and answer our confessions with your grace.
We thank you for your deep and irreplaceable hope.
May we use the gift of this meal and the presence of your love
to make all things new. Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

• Hymn of Consecration #327: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*



1. Crown him with man-y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne. Hark! how the heaven-ly
 2. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave, and rose vic - to - rious
 3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways from pole to pole, that
 4. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side, those wounds, yet vis - i -

an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own. A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for
 in the strife for those he came to save. His glo - ries now we sing, who died, and rose on
 wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise. His reign shall know no end, and round his pierc-ed
 ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied. All hail, Re - deem-er, hail! For thou hast died for

thee, and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 high, who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 feet fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
 me; thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Words: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874
 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868
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• Benediction Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

Postlude

Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Fanfare on "Gopsal"

David Willcocks (1919-2015)



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A RECONCILING CONGREGATION