



FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

AUGUST 24, 2025 – 9:00 AM



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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 wondered if that was how forgiveness budded; not with the fanfare of epiphany,
but with pain gathering its things, packing up, and slipping away unannounced
in the middle of the night.” ~ Khaled Hosseini

Prelude Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries

Antiphon V: How Fair and How Pleasant Art Thou

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)



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** Fred Hafer, Liturgist

“Come and follow me,” Jesus said.

“What were they expecting?” we might wonder.

Jesus was unlike any other. Jesus did things differently.

Jesus walked a difficult road.

He knew that what was needed was something new,
creative, and costly.

“Come and follow me,” Jesus still says.

We know, now, what to expect,

because we know what happened to Jesus.

He did what we think seems impossible.

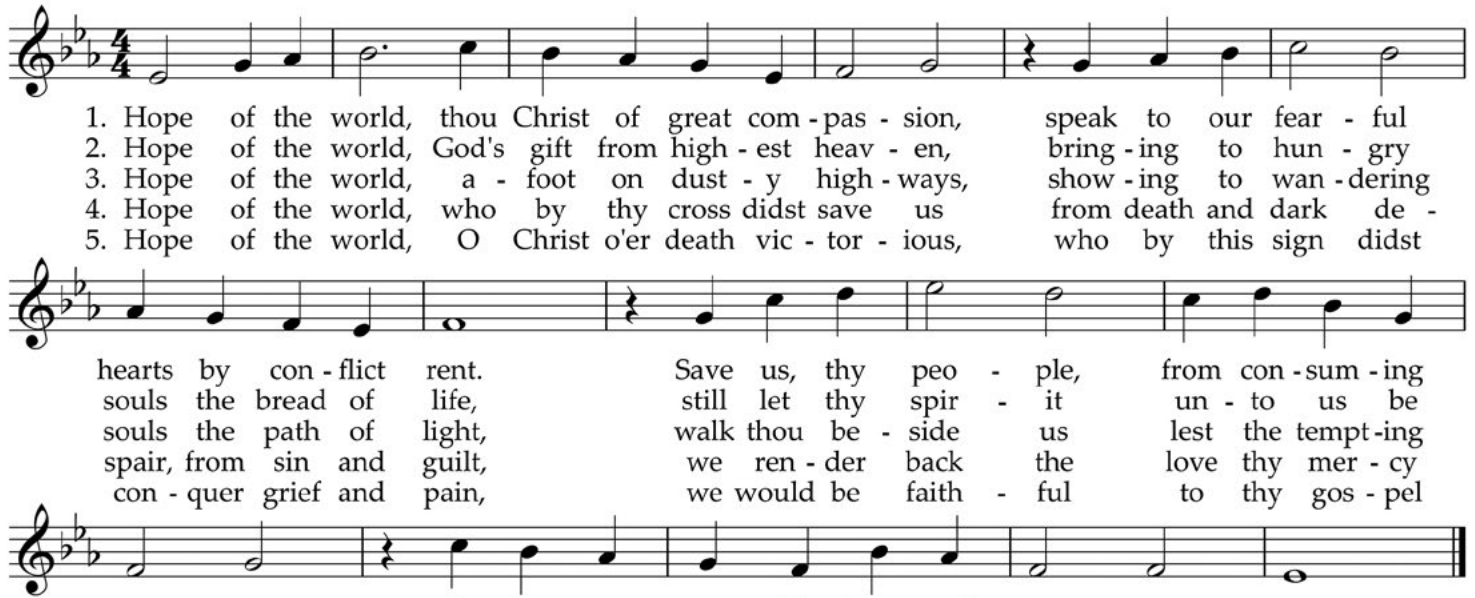
He forgave those who were killing him.

The hardest act to replicate.

Yet the most impactful act for change. Let us try.

TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

• **Hymn of Celebration #178: *Hope of the World***



1. Hope of the world, thou Christ of great com - pas - sion, speak to our fear - ful
 2. Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en, bring - ing to hun - gry
 3. Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways, show - ing to wan - dering
 4. Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us from death and dark de -
 5. Hope of the world, O Christ o'er death vic - tor - ious, who by this sign didst

hearts by con - flict rent. Save us, thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing
 souls the bread of life, still let thy spir - it un - to us be
 souls the path of light, walk thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing
 spair, from sin and guilt, we ren - der back the love thy mer - cy
 con - quer grief and pain, we would be faith - ful to thy gos - pel

pas - sion, who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
 giv - en, to heal earth's wounds and end all bit - ter strife.
 by - ways lure us a - way from thee to end - less night.
 gave us; take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.
 glo - rious; thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er reign.

Words: Georgia Harkness © 1954, renewed 1982 The Hymn Society of America
 Music: VICAR, V. Earle Copes © 1963 Abingdon Press
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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.

A Time with Children Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

TO HEAR THE WORD

Anthem Summer Choir; Brian Woods-Lustig, Director

Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake

Richard Farrant (1525-1580)

Lord, for Thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
But forgive that is past, give us grace to amend our sinful lives,
To decline from sin, and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart. Amen.

• Prayer for Illumination

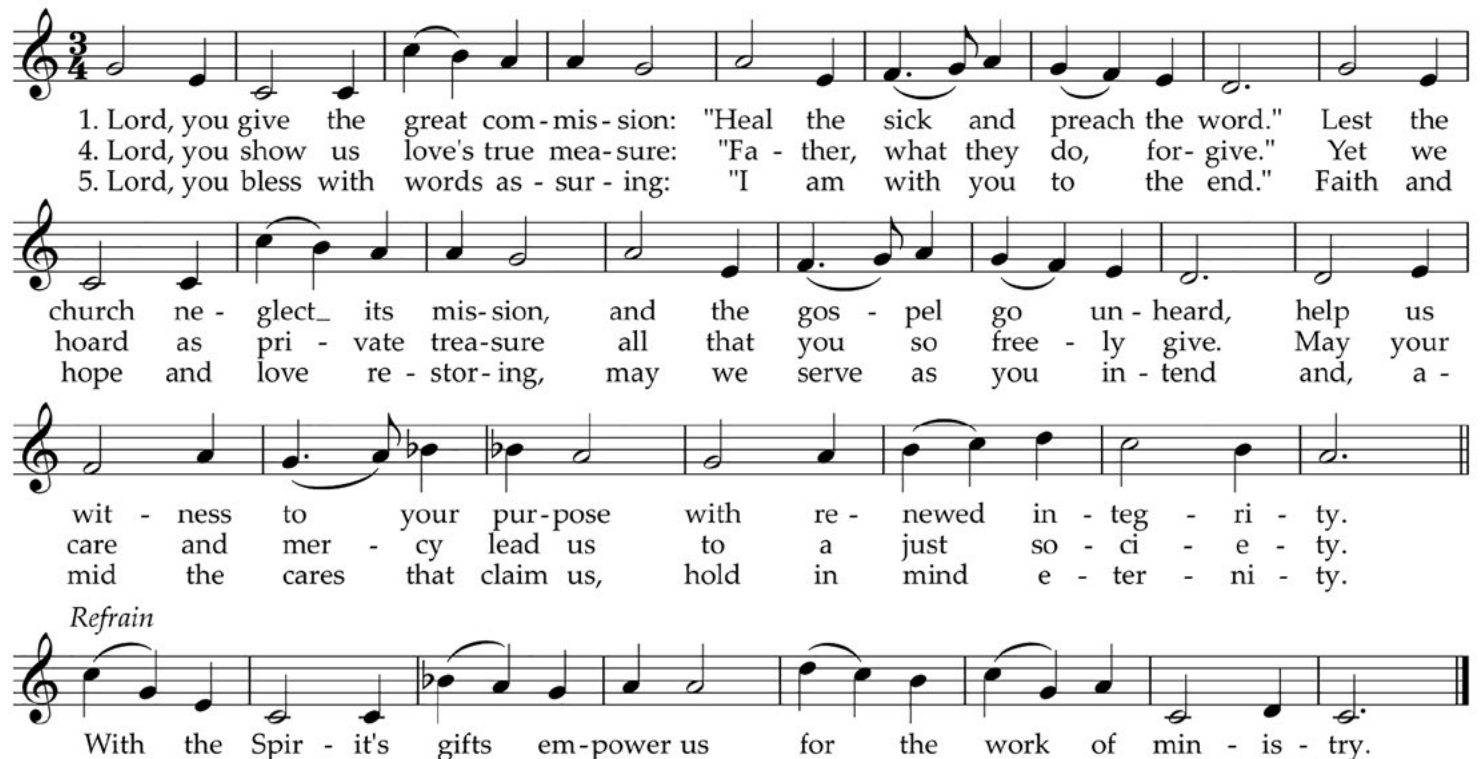
Holy God,
In the reading of the scriptures, may Your Word be heard.
In the meditations of our hearts, may Your Word be known.
In the faithfulness of our lives, may Your Word be shown.
Amen.

• Gospel Lesson: *Luke 23:33-43*

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

Sermon: *"The Christ-Like Journey: Jesus Forgave"* Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

• Hymn of Faith #584: *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* (vs. 1, 4-5)



1. Lord, you give the great com-mis-sion: "Heal the sick and preach the word." Lest the
4. Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa-ther, what they do, for-give." Yet we
5. Lord, you bless with words as-sur-ing: "I am with you to the end." Faith and

church ne-glect its mis-sion, and the gos-pel go un-heard, help us
hoard as pri-vate trea-sure all that you so free-ly give. May your
hope and love re-stor-ing, may we serve as you in-tend and, a-

wit-ness to your pur-pose with re-newed in-teg-ri-ty.
care and mer-cy lead us to a just so-ci-e-ty.
mid the cares that claim us, hold in mind e-ter-ni-ty.

Refrain

With the Spir-it's gifts em-power us for the work of min-is-try.

Words: Jeffery Rowthorn, 1978
Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941
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TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

Offertory

Vater unser im Himmelreich

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)



- **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**
 Constantly Moving God,
 You bring us life. You nudge us on the path of Christ and
 You carry us when we are in need.
 Help us to live the path of Christ,
 in order to serve those in need, in your name. Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

- **Hymn of Consecration #671: *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing***

1. Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
 2. Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for thy gos - pel's joy - ful sound.

let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace.
 May the fruits of thy sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound;

O re - fresh us, O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.

Words: Attr. to John Fawcett, 1773
 Music: *The European Magazine and Review*, 1792
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- **Benediction** Rev. Trudy D. Robinson
- Postlude

Carillon de Westminster
 Louis Vierne (1870-1937)



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