



# FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 – 9:00 AM



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

## THIRTEENTH 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

“God can get tiny, if we’re not careful.”  
~ Gregory Boyle

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

*“Adagio” from Fantaisie in C Major*  
César Franck (1822-1890)



**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** ..... Dione Taylor, Liturgist  
 How do we speak of a faith built upon things  
     that cannot be explained?  
 What words do we use to shine a light  
     on the mystery?  
**God stretches knowledge.**  
**God transcends understanding.**  
 Yet mere humans sense God’s presence,  
     feel God’s power and speak God’s grace.  
**God stretches toward us. God seeks understanding.**  
 So we come: to be curious, not certain,  
     to ask questions without answers,  
     to learn the unknowable.  
**We come humbly to be with the mystery of God.**

- **Hymn of Celebration, UMH #103: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise***

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

- **Invitation** ..... Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin
- **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, UMH #70**

- A Time with Children** ..... Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

TO HEAR THE WORD

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.  
 Old Testament Lesson: *Exodus 3:10-12*  
 The Word of God for the People of God: **Thanks be to God.**

- Sermon: “*God: Not Omnipotent, But Empowering*”** ..... Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

## TO RENEW COMMITMENT

### Faith in Action

Offertory, scan QR code or visit [fumcsd.org/egive](http://fumcsd.org/egive) to give online



Offertory Anthem . . . . . Chancel Choir; Brian Woods-Lustig, Director

### *On Eagles' Wings*

arr. Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)

#### *Refrain:*

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in His shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord, "My Refuge,  
My Rock in Whom I trust."

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear;

Under His Wings your refuge,  
His faithfulness your shield

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
Nor the arrow that flies by day,  
Though thousands fall about you,  
Near you it shall not come.

For to His angels He's given a command,  
To guard you in all of your ways,  
Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone

(Based on Psalm 91)

### • 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, UMH pg. 17: *Musical Setting A*

### 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, UMH #127: *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*

## TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

### • Prayer After Holy Communion

Mysterious, Loving God who expands beyond time and space,  
and who contracts into moments of shared bread and cup,  
we give You thanks for this holy mystery.  
Grant that through experiencing You, we may expand our generosity  
beyond ideas to action, beyond friends to foes.  
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

• Hymn of Consecration, UMH #105: *God of Many Names*

• Benediction ..... Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

Postlude

*Toccata on "To God Be the Glory"*

Joel Raney (b. 1956)

**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**  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SAN DIEGO

Radical Grace, Extravagant Love  
& Divine Justice for All



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

**2111 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH • SAN DIEGO, CA 92108**

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