



FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 – 9:00 AM



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

FOURTEENTH 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

“We want to go to God for answers, but sometimes what we get is God’s presence.”
~ Nadia Bolz-Weber

Prelude Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries

Prelude on “Forest Green”

Philip Marshall (1921-2005)



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** Todd Vollstedt, Liturgist
 How do we speak of a faith built upon things that cannot be explained?
 What words do we use to catch the wind, the movement, the Spirit?
The Holy Spirit unites us as one and sends us to serve.
 The Holy Spirit blows through chaos with order,
 breezes across sorrow with comfort,
 breathes courage into fear.
The Holy Spirit cannot be controlled, nor contained.
 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 The Holy Spirit.

TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

- **Hymn of Celebration, UMH #544: *Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song***

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 Secondary Voices; Brian Woods-Lustig, Director; Jill Herbold, piano
Every Time I Feel the Spirit
 arr. Greg Gilpin (b. 1964)

<i>Refrain:</i>	
Ev’ry time I feel the Spirit	‘Ol Jordan river, chilly and cold,
moving in my heart, I will pray.	it chills the body, but not the soul.
Yes, ev’ry time I feel the Spirit	There ain’t but one train that’s on this track,
moving in my heart, I will pray.	it runs to heaven and right back.
Upon the mountain when my God spoke,	
out of God’s mouth came fire and smoke.	
All around me looks so fine,	
I asked the Lord if all was mine.	

The Sacrament of Baptism, UMH pg. 33 Beau Hill, Chrissy Masuda

A Time with Children Kenton Reaves Hundley, Executive Director, Dream School of the Arts

TO HEAR THE WORD

Anthem Chancel Choir

<i>Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether</i>		
Harold Friedell (1905-1958)		
Draw us in the Spirit’s tether,	As disciples used to gather	All our meals and all our living
for when humbly in your name,	in the name of Christ to sup,	make as sacraments of you,
two or three are met together,	then with thanks to God the Father	that by caring, helping, giving,
you are in the midst of them;	break the bread and bless the cup,	we may be disciples true.
alleluia, alleluia!	alleluia, alleluia!	Alleluia, alleluia!
Touch we now your garment’s hem.	So now bind our friendship up.	we will serve with faith anew.
		(Percy Dearmer)

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: *Genesis 1:2*

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

Sermon: *What We Really Mean When We Talk About the Holy Spirit*. Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

- Hymn of Faith, TFWS #2117: *Spirit of God*

TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

Offertory, scan QR code or visit fumcsd.org/egive to give online



Offertory

Aire on “Bridegroom”
Marie Beth Bennett (b. 1954)

- 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
Everpresent, Guiding Spirit who breathes life into the void,
and who soothes, renews, and strengthens,
we give You thanks for surrounding us with love.
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.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

- Hymn of Consecration, UMH #539: *O Spirit of the Living God*
- Benediction Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

Postlude

Divertimento on “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”
A.D. Miller (b. 1972)

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!

KEEP IN TOUCH

Connect with the First Church community at fumcsd.org/welcome!

Worship online: Each week at fumcsd.org/watch-live or subscribe to our YouTube channel: fumcsd.org/youtube.

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. Subscribe: fumcsd.org/enews



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

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A RECONCILING CONGREGATION