



FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 – 9:00 AM



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

FIFTEENTH 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

“Frankly, Jesus came to show us how to be human much more than how to be spiritual,
and the process still seems to be in its early stages.”
~ Richard Rohr

Prelude Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries

Prelude on “Christ Be Our Light”

Phillip A. Cooke (b. 1980)



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** Amy Moberly, Liturgist

How do we speak of a faith built upon things that cannot be explained?

What words do we use to describe a man, both human and divine?

Jesus Christ walked as we do, died then lives again, is ancient yet relevant.

The life, death, and life after death of Jesus changed the world

through teachings and healings, followers and churches, doctrine and sacrament.

We still seek to know Jesus the Christ.

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 Jesus, the Christ.

TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

- **Hymn of Celebration, UMH #111: *How Can We Name a Love***

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

TO HEAR THE WORD

Anthem Jubilee Singers; Sarah Amos, Director; Jill Herbold, piano

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

John Helgen

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give

The living water, thirsty one;
Stoop down and drink and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul
revived,
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me, I'll show the way."

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
And all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till traveling days are done.

(Horatius Bonar)

- **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: *Mark 9:38-40***

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

Sermon: *What We Really Mean When We Talk About Jesus* Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

- Hymn of Faith, UMH #121: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Reception of New Members, UMH pg. 38. Meghan Claussen, Eva Flores, Garrett Ganucheau,
Alfred “Beau” Hill, Robert and Brenna Hure,
Richard and Dakota Kenney, Erik and Mel Kim-Holmgren,
Nessa Julian, JoAnn Paguyo, Luis Rodriguez,
Robert Woodward, Don Worst

Faith in Action

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



Offertory Anthem Chancel Choir; Brian Woods-Lustig, Director

The Light of Unity
Tom Trenney (b. 1977)

The utterance of God is a lamp,
Whose light is these words:
Ye are the fruits of one tree,
and the leaves of one branch.
Deal Ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony,
With friendliness and fellowship.
So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.
The light of Unity.
(Bahá'u'lláh)

- 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

Christ, the Word Incarnate, whose teachings show us the divine,
and whose life shapes our path,
we give you thanks for your never-ending challenge
and your always extravagant grace.
Grant that through knowing you, we may expand our generosity
beyond ideas to action, beyond friends to foes. Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

- Hymn of Consecration, UMH #120: *Your Love, O God*
- Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on “All for Jesus”
Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

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

2111 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH • SAN DIEGO, CA 92108

REV. TRUDY D. ROBINSON, LEAD PASTOR

REV. DR. HANNAH KA, PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

REV. BRITTANY JULIETTE HANLIN, PASTOR OF CONNECTION AND CARE

619-297-4366 • fumcsd.org • MAIL@FUMCSD.ORG

A RECONCILING CONGREGATION