

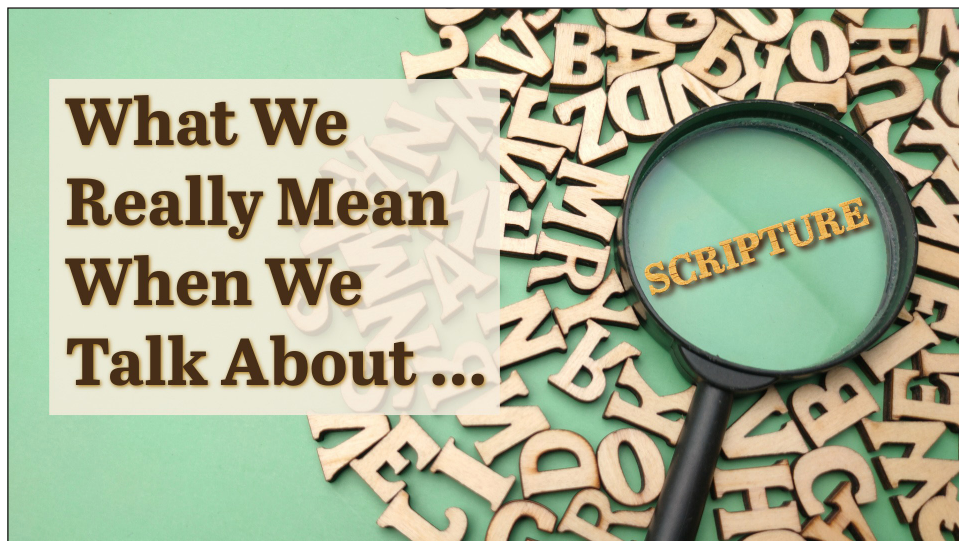


FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

OCTOBER 5, 2025 – 9:00 AM



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

WORLD COMMUNION 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

"I have come to regard with some suspicion those who claim that the Bible never troubles them.
I can only assume this means they haven't actually read it."
~Rachel Held Evans

Prelude Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries

Sweet Sixteenths: A Concert Rag for Organ

William Albright (1944-1998)



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** Harper Gamache, Liturgist
How do we read the stories of faith from a completely different age?
How can we use inadequate words to shine a light on the mystery?
Context is cultural, not divine. Perspective is human, not sacred.
Yet we feel the truth, we understand the experience,
We seek to speak of it.
The mystery is glimpsed in words. The experience is powerful in sharing.
So we come: to be curious, not certain,
to ask questions without answers,
to learn the unknowable.
We come to humbly be in the mystery of the truth.

- **Hymn of Celebration, UMH #548: *In Christ There Is No East or West***

INVITATION TO CONFESS

- **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, UMH #70**

- A Time with Children** Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

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: *Job 11:7-9*

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

- Sermon: *What Do We Really Mean When We Talk About Scripture*** Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

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



Offertory Anthem Chancel Choir; Brian Woods-Lustig, Director; Rayna Shafter, solo

Sorida: A Zimbabwe Greeting

Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

'Sorida' is a term of greeting in the Shona language, similar in use to jambo in Swahili, or perhaps shalom in Hebrew.

Greetings my brothers.
Greetings my sisters.
O magnify Jehova.
Let's worship Him together.

Sing praise unto the Lord God.
Let's magnify Jehova.
Greet everybody.
Love one another.

• 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 #601: *Thy Word Is a Lamp*

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

• Prayer After Holy Communion

Intangible God, whose presence is remembered in tangible, ordinary things.
whose assurance comes in relationship not knowledge,
whose faithfulness is known in brothers and sisters all over the world,
we give You thanks for all Your holy mysteries.
Grant that through experiencing You, we may expand our generosity
beyond ideas to action, beyond friends to foes. Amen.

• Hymn of Consecration, UMH #600: *Wonderful Words of Life*

Postlude

Toccata and Fugue in F Major, BuxWV 157
Deitrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

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
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