



# FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

OCTOBER 12, 2025 – 9:00 AM



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

## EIGHTEENTH 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 is not a Christian, God is not a Jew, or a Muslim, or a Hindu, or a Buddhist.  
All of those are human systems which human beings have created to try to help us walk into the mystery of God.  
I honor my tradition, I walk through my tradition, but I don’t think my tradition defines God,  
I think it only points me to God.”  
~ John Shelby Spong

Prelude . . . . . Youth Chime Ensemble; Dana Zimbric, Director  
“Wonderful, Merciful Savior” and “How He Loves”  
arr. Peggy Betcher (b. 1961)

**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** . . . . . Lisa Meuser, Liturgist
 

How is it that the Church is spread all across the world?  
 The same ideas, stories, and rituals, in different  
 languages, styles, and cultures?  
**Church is the beauty of belonging,  
 and the evidence of unity.**  
 Could it be that the mystery that is God be found  
 beyond our ideas, our stories, our rituals?

**The Spirit moves in mystery  
 and still so much is unknown.**  
 So we come: to be curious, not certain,  
 to ask questions without answers,  
 to learn the unknowable.  
**We come to humbly be together in the Church.**

**TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS**

- **Hymn of Celebration, UMH #660: *God is Here***

**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.

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

*Look at the World*  
 John Rutter (b. 1945)

Look at the world Everything all around us Look at the world And marvel every day Look at the world So many joys and wonders So many miracles Along our way  <i>Refrain</i> Praise to thee O Lord for all creation Give us thankful hearts that we may see All the gifts we share and every blessing All things come of thee	Look at the earth Bringing forth fruit and flowers Look at the sky The sunshine and the rain Look at the hills Look at the trees and mountains Valley and flowing river Field and plain  Think of the spring Think of the warmth of summer Bringing the harvest Before the winter’s cold Everything grows Everything has a season ‘Til it is gathered to the fathers fold	Every good gift All that we need and cherish Comes from the Lord In token of his love We are his hands Stewards of all his bounty His is the earth and his the heavens above
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**A Time with Children**

## TO HEAR THE WORD

### Anthem

#### *God is Everywhere*

Jay Althouse (b. 1951)

All who seek God's love and grace  
Find His love in every place,  
And a friend in every face.  
God is everywhere.

When our earthly comforts fail,  
When the woes of life prevail,  
When we feel alone and frail,  
God is everywhere.

And when we are lonely,  
We go to God in prayer.  
He is always with us;  
He is everywhere.

In abundance and in need,  
When we follow, when we lead,  
We will know by word and deed.  
God is everywhere.

All who seek God's love and grace,  
Find that love in every place,  
And a friend in every face.  
God is everywhere.  
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.

### Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 55:8-9*

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

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

- Hymn of Faith, UMH #124: *Seek the Lord*

## TO RENEW COMMITMENT

### Faith in Action

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



### Offertory

#### *Trio on "The Ash Grove"*

Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

- 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

Gracious God, who calls us together and invites us to belong,  
and who send us out to open our hearts to others,  
we give You thanks for surrounding us with community.  
Grant that through being at Church, we may expand our generosity  
beyond these walls and into the world,  
beyond our faith tradition into Your mystery. Amen.

## TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

- Hymn of Consecration, UMH #664: *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*
- Benediction . . . . . Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

### Postlude

#### *Toccata in E Minor*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

### 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

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REV. TRUDY D. ROBINSON, LEAD PASTOR

REV. DR. HANNAH KA, PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

REV. BRITTANY JULIETTE HANLIN, PASTOR OF CONNECTION AND CARE

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