



FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

DECEMBER 28, 2025 – 9:00 AM



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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



“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.” ~ Howard Thurman

Prelude Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries

Prelude on the Sussex Carol

Russell Schulz-Widmar (b. 1944)

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.*

- We come for Christmas
to embrace God's love and joy.
- We come for Christmas
to live into Christ's peace and hope.
- We come for Christmas
to open our eyes to those who may not know.
- We will leave with Christmas
to share the hope, peace, love, and joy.

- Hymn of Celebration, UMH #250: *Once in Royal David's City*

Morning Prayer Tobias Crislip

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.

Sacrament of BaptismOlivia Laurie-Evelyn Slay
Laurie St. Gean, Certified Lay Minister, assisting

A Time with Children

Anthem Winter Choir; Brian Woods-Lustig, Director

Coventry Carol

arr. Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)

Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child,
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do,
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we do sing
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

Herod, the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight,
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee!
And ever mourn and say,
For thy parting neither say nor sing,
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

- ## • 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: *Matthew 2:13-23*

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

Sermon: *Lesser-Known Songs of Christmas—Ramah’s Weeping* Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

- Hymn of Faith, UMH #221: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

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



Offertory

Interlude on the Coventry Carol
W. S. Lloyd Webber (1914-1982)

- 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
God of Christmas, Christ of the flesh, Spirit of newness
guide us to bring good news to all we meet.
May the gifts we offer and the lives we live
reflect Your beautiful gifts of Christmas. Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

- Hymn of Consecration, UMH #238: *Angels We Have Heard on High*
- Benediction Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

Postlude

Carillon on “Antioch”
Mary Beth Bennett (b. 1954)

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

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A RECONCILING CONGREGATION