



# FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

JANUARY 4, 2026 – 9:00 AM



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

## EPIPHANY 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

“Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens.” ~ Jimi Hendrix

Prelude . . . . . Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries

*Aria on “Greensleeves”*

James Biery (b. 1956)



**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** . . . . . Rick Cook, Liturgist

In the quiet of night, a star rises,  
a sign that holy wisdom is breaking into  
the world.

**We come with open hearts.**

God stirs in our questions and meets us  
in our longing,  
shining light on paths we have yet to imagine.

**We come seeking God's presence.**

As the Magi were changed by the light that  
guided their way,  
we open ourselves to the wisdom that transforms  
our journey.

**Guided by God's light, we choose the way  
of wisdom and press on with courage.**

- **Hymn of Celebration, UMH #254: *We Three Kings***

## INVITATION TO CONFESS

- **Invitation**

- **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** . . . . . Dana Zimbric, Director of Children's Music

## 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.**

- **Gospel Lesson: *Matthew 2:1-12***

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

**Sermon: *The Gifts of Wisdom*** . . . . . Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

## TO RENEW COMMITMENT

**Faith in Action**

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



Offertory Anthem . . . . . Winter Choir; Dana Zimbric, Guest Conductor

*What Star Is This?*

Rachel Aarons (b. 1984)

What star is this, with beams so bright, more beautiful than the noonday light? It shines to herald forth the King, and Gentiles to his crib to bring.  True spake the prophet from afar who told the rise of Jacob's star; and eastern sages with amaze upon the wondrous token gaze.	The guiding star above is bright; within them shines a clearer light, and leads them on with power benign to seek the Giver of the sign.  O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek thy face, let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of thy light to use.	To God the Father, heavenly Light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night, to God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unceasing praise.  (Charles Coffin)
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- **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 #247: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

Solo . . . . . Carly Cummings, soprano

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

(Nahum Tate, 1700; Lk. 2:8-14)

*lyrics can be found in UMH #236*

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

Prayer After Holy Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this Holy Mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others, in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Hymn of Consecration, UMH #245: *The First Noel* (v. 1, 2, 5)
- Benediction . . . . . Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

Postlude

*Carillon on "St Edmund"*

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!](http://fumcsd.org/welcome!)

Worship online: Each week at [fumcsd.org/watch-live](http://fumcsd.org/watch-live) or subscribe to our YouTube channel: [fumcsd.org/youtube](http://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](http://fumcsd.org/enews)



FIRST CHURCH  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SAN DIEGO  
Radical Grace, Extravagant Love  
& Divine Justice for All



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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO • IN MISSION SINCE 1869

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REV. DR. HANNAH KA, PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

REV. BRITTANY JULIETTE HANLIN, PASTOR OF CONNECTION AND CARE

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