



FIRST CHURCH  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
of SAN DIEGO

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 – 9:00 AM



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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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

“Guilt and defensiveness are bricks in a wall against which we all flounder;  
they serve none of our futures.”  
~ Audre Lorde

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

*Prelude on “Land of Rest”*

Pamela Decker (b. 1955)



**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.*

• **Silent Processional**

• **Call to Worship** . . . . . Garrett Ganucheau, Liturgist

Here, on the first Sunday of Lent, our journey begins.

**We are called**

to stand in front of the mirrors that hide nothing;  
to listen to the ancient stories that speak truth today;  
to settle into the harsh truth and wait for the light to shine on the exit;  
to lean into the faith which promises to make us whole and holy.

**Here we are**

on the first Sunday of Lent, seeking God in trust.

**May it be so. Amen**

**TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS**

• **Hymn of Praise, UMH #269: *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days***

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

*A Better Resurrection*

Georgia Stitt (b. 1972)

I have no wit, no words, no tears;  
My heart within me like a stone  
Is numb’d too much for hopes or fears;  
Look right, look left, I dwell alone;  
I lift mine eyes, but dimm’d with grief  
No everlasting hills I see;  
My life is in the falling leaf:  
O Jesus, quicken me.

My life is like a faded leaf,  
My harvest dwindled to a husk:  
Truly my life is void and brief  
And tedious in the barren dusk;  
My life is like a frozen thing,  
No bud nor greenness can I see:  
Yet rise it shall—the sap of Spring;  
O Jesus, rise in me.

My life is like a broken bowl,  
A broken bowl that cannot hold  
One drop of water for my soul  
Or cordial in the searching cold;  
Cast in the fire the perish’d thing;  
Melt and remould it, till it be  
A royal cup for Him, my King:  
O Jesus, drink of me.

(Christina Rossetti)

• **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 21:33-45*

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

Sermon: *The People of the Passion—The Defensive*. . . . . Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

- Hymn of Faith, UMH #430: *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

## TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

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



Offertory

*Pastorale on “Gerontius”*

David Blackwell (b. 1961)

- Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

- Prayer of Thanksgiving

For your grace, O God, we are humbled and grateful.  
In your story, O God, we see you waiting and watching.  
By your Son, O God, we stand and learn, serve and give.  
With your Spirit, O God, we live, move, and grow. Amen.

## TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

- Hymn of Commitment, UMH #296: *Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle*

• Benediction . . . . . Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

Postlude

*“Bryn Calfaría” from Three Preludes Founded on Welsh Hymn Tunes*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

## 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  
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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. 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