



FIRST CHURCH
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SAN DIEGO

MARCH 8, 2026 – 9:00 AM



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

THIRD 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

“We know that no one ever seizes power with the intention of relinquishing it.
Power is not a means; it is an end.”
~ George Orwell



Prelude Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries

Chorale Prelude on “Aus der Tiefe rufe ich”

C. P. E. Bach (1714-1788)

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** Nathan Stowe, Liturgist

Here, on the third Sunday of Lent, our journey continues.

We remain

standing in front of the mirrors that hide nothing;
listening to the ancient stories that speak truth today;
settling into the harsh truth and waiting for the light to shine on the exit;
leaning into the faith which promises to make us whole and holy.

Here we are

still walking through Lent, seeking God in trust.

May it be so. Amen.

TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

• **Hymn of Praise, UMH #660: *God is Here***

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

John Rutter (b. 1945)

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.
See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.

Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
His dying crimson like a robe,
Spreads o’er his body on the Tree;
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

(Isaac Watts)

• **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 27:11-24*

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

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

- Hymn of Faith, UMH #349: *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

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



Offertory

Prelude on “Vexilla Regis”

Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)

- 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 #581: *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

• Benediction Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

Postlude

Toccata on “All for Jesus”

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!

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
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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