



FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

AUGUST 23, 2026 – 9:00 AM



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

THIRTEENTH 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

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable
because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” ~ C.S. Lewis

Prelude Brian Woods-Lustig, Director of Choral Activities

Introductory Prelude in G

Ernest Alfred Dicks (1865-1948)



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 transcript service.*

- **Call to Worship** Tamara Cunningham, Liturgist
- How do we speak of things that cannot be described?
 What words do we use to shine a light on the mystery?
God’s wisdom stretches knowledge.
God’s movement transcends understanding.
 Yet mere human beings can be changed by God’s forgiveness.
God stretches toward us with this sacred gift.
 So we come: to be curious, not certain,
 and to receive the unknowable.
We come to receive the mystery that is God.

TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

- **Hymn of Celebration, UMH #121: *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy***
- Pastoral Prayer** Rev. Trudy D. Robinson
- 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

*Your children are invited to join our Sunday School immediately following A Time with Children.
 If this is your child’s first time joining, please follow the kids and leaders to register your child.*

TO HEAR THE WORD

- Anthem** Summer Choir; Brian Woods-Lustig, Director
- Lord for Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake*
 Richard Farrant (1525-1580)
- | | |
|--|---|
| Lord, for Thy tender mercy’s sake,
lay not our sins to our charge,
But forgive that is past,
give us grace to amend our sinful lives,
to decline from sin, | and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in a perfect heart.
Amen.

(Lidley’s Prayers, 1566) |
|--|---|

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.

Scripture Lesson: *Genesis 45:3-15*

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

Sermon: *What We Really Mean When We Talk About Forgiveness* Rev. Dr. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

- Hymn of Faith, UMH #355: *Depth of Mercy*

TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

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

Offertory



Bercense

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

- 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

Eternal God whose forgiveness heals all brokenness,

Grant that through experiencing You, we may expand our generosity

beyond mystery to faith, ideas to action, and foes to friends. Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

- Hymn of Commitment, TFWS #2169: *God, How Can We Forgive*

- Benediction

Postlude

Fantasia on "Morning Song"

Chris Kovarik (b. 1970)

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. DR. BRITTANY JULIETTE HANLIN, PASTOR OF CONNECTION AND CARE

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A RECONCILING CONGREGATION