



FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of SAN DIEGO

SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2026 – 9:00 AM



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

SEVENTEENTH 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 Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

Words of Inspiration

“We are all like people sleeping in a dark room, waking up at the sound of a voice we think we know,
only to find the room empty.” ~ Virginia Woolf

Prelude Sarah Amos, Director of Music Ministries

Vater unser im Himmelreich, BWV 737

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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** Barb Wiecksel, Liturgist
 There is so much to hear.
 Voices that call for our attention,
 noise that fills our days,
 thoughts that follow us into the night.
And beneath it all, there is a voice.
 Not every holy word arrives with thunder.
Sometimes God comes as a whisper in the night.
 A voice easily missed, a voice that asks us to become still.
 So, let the noise within us settle
 and make room for what we might otherwise miss.
God is still speaking. May we have hearts to listen.

TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

- **Hymn of Celebration, UMH #100: God, Whose Love is Reigning o’er Us** (vs. 1-3, 5)
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.

Anthem Chancel Choir; Brian Lustig, Director
Striving After God
 Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989)
 True art is made noble and religious by the mind producing it.
 For those who feel it, nothing makes the soul so religious and pure as the endeavor to create something perfect.
 For God is perfection, and whoever strives after perfection, is striving after God.

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 Chancel Choir
A Call to Silence
 Craig Courtney (b. 1954)

I listen to the forrest in cathedrals made of trees, and to the twilight vespers as the sun falls to its knees. I listen to the echoes of the ageless canyon walls, and to the stained-glass worship of the rainbow as it calls: “Be still and know that I am God.”	I listen to the whisper of the river as it flows And to the swirling ballet of a thousand flakes of snow. And when I hear the eagle’s wings repeat a soaring prayer, and when the falling stars cry out, I know that God is there. “Be still and know that I am God.”	Each of these a silent choir, a wordless hymn of praise, the language is unspoken yet heard in many ways, a soundless sanctuary where I am free to go to meet God in the silence, to just be still and know: “Be still and know that I am God.”
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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: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

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

Sermon: *Whispering in the Night* Rev. Dr. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

- Hymn of Faith, UMH #473: *Lead Me, Lord*

TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

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



Offertory

Prélude modal

Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

- 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

Still-Speaking God,
For every word that awakens us,
every silence that deepens us,
and every grace that sustains us,
we give You thanks.
Open our lives to Your presence,
our hands to our neighbors,
and our hearts to the holy work of love. Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

- Hymn of Commitment, UMH #581: *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

- Benediction

Postlude

Toccata in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

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

619-297-4366 • fumcsd.org • MAIL@FUMCSD.ORG

A RECONCILING CONGREGATION