FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SAN DIEGO

NOVEMBER 29TH, 2026 – 9:00 AM



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

"Christian joy does not ignore the world's instability,
it refuses to believe instability gets the final word." ~ Unknown

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

Declamation* on *"Genevan"
Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

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.

• **Advent Invocation**

• **Hymn of Advent, UMH #213:** ***Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates***

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope . . . . . Rebecca Luers, Kenton Reaves-Hundley, and Larry Luers

How does hope shine in an unsteady world?
By lighting candles in the night,
and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.
By praying for children as they grow and offering simple kindness.
By insisting that small acts can make a difference.
There are a million ways to practice hope.
So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and an invitation.
With God's help, may we bring hope
into an unsteady world. Amen.

Candle Lighting Response: UMH #211 ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** **(vs. 1)**

TO OFFER OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS

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

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.

Anthem . . . . . Chancel Choir; Brian Lustig, Director

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Hal H. Hopson (1933-2025)

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our sins and fears release us; let us find our rest in thee.
By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.
Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our sins and fears release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

TO HEAR THE WORD

• **Prayer for Illumination**

Through all the words, may it be Your Word we hear. Amen.

• **Gospel Lesson: Matthew 24:36–44**

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

Sermon: ***Joy When the World Feels Unsteady*** . . . . . Rev. Dr. Brittany Juliette Hanlin

Musical Reflection

Chorale Prelude on "Houston"
Rebecca Groom te Velde (b. 1956)

TO RENEW COMMITMENT

Faith in Action

Scan QR code or visit fumcsd.org/egive to give online.
If you prefer to give in person, you're invited to place your cash or check in the offering area at the back of the sanctuary.

- **Hymn of Faith, UMH #206:** ***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light***

- **Doxology**

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

- **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

  Loving Christ, when we feel the world shaking,
  we remember the trust you carried as you walked the earth.
  While the world may be unsteady, may our faith be steadfast.
  With grateful hearts we pray.
  Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

- **Hymn of Commitment, TFWS #2091:** ***The King of Glory Comes***

- **Benediction**

Postlude

Toccata* on *"Creator alme siderum"
Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943)

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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