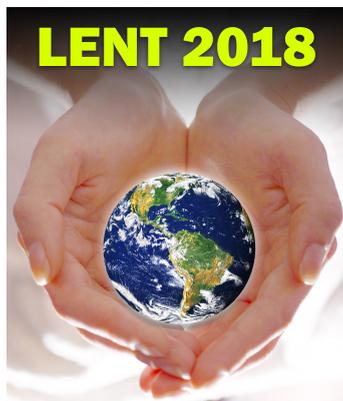


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

First Sunday in Lent • Baptism • Children's Church • February 18, 2018



“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.”

— Genesis 9:9-10

WE GATHER

WELCOME

Rev. Robert English

PRELUDE When in the hour of utmost need (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, Organ

*CENTERING ON GOD

Please stand and turn toward the cross in the center aisle.

#484 United Methodist Hymnal — Kyrie Eleison

Psalm 25:1-2a, 9-10

#484 UMH — Kyrie Eleison

Candace Johnson, Lay Lector

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#269 UMH — Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In these forty days of Lent, God leads us into a time of reflection and prayer.

You open our eyes, O God, to your presence in the world.

You free us to lead others to the radiant splendor of your mercy.

Be with us in these journey days, O God.

Make us those who are born fresh and loving, open to the life of the earth and all people.

Guide us to new living in Christ Jesus.

As a courtesy to others, please silence all cell phones/sound-making devices. *Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all within me bless His holy name; bless the Lord, O my soul."

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Please greet those worshipping near you.

#2233 The Faith We Sing – Where Children Belong

Tricia Guerrero

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.

Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.

As the congregation sings, all children are invited to come forward.

BAPTISM Beatrix Elizabeth Milligan (*see insert*)

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands (*verse 1*)

He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands

As the congregation sings, the children may go to Children's Church in the Chapel.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. English

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship, for worship, and for service.

Thanks be to God!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

Barbara Smith, Soloist

There Is a Balm in Gilead (arr. William Dawson)

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul. Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. Refrain. If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus, and say "He died for all." Refrain.

THE LESSON Genesis 9:8-17 (Pew Bible page 7, O.T.)

Candace Johnson

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL Mark 1:9-15 (Pew Bible pages 34-35, N.T.)

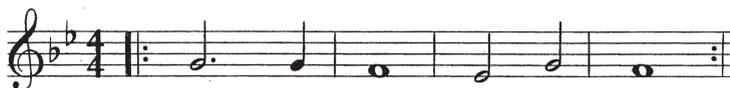
Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Love God/Love Creation: In the Silence of the Wilderness"

Rev. Patricia Farris

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER – The Earth Sings



All the earth [^]sings to God!



SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM



Sunday, February 18, 2018

*Parents respond in **bold italics**. Congregation responds with words printed in **bold type**.*

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Robert English

Brothers and Sisters, from the beginnings of Christianity, baptism has been our entrance into the family of faith. We believe baptism is a visible sign of the grace and love of God at work in our lives. Through this gift of grace, we enter into a special relationship with Christ. We are marked as his follower and welcomed as part of the universal church. We believe that Jesus gives children a special place in the family of faith. He said to us: "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

PRESENTATION

Michael Lamb, Lay Leader

I am pleased to present to you **BEATRIX ELIZABETH MILLIGAN** for Baptism.

THOSE TO BE BAPTIZED *(Questions to the Parents and Godparents)*

Rev. Patricia Farris

Do you believe in God the source, the fountain of life; and in Christ, the offspring of God, embodied in Jesus of Nazareth and in the church; and in the liberating Spirit of God, the wellspring of new life?

We do.

Rev. English

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you of new life in Christ, resisting evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

We do.

Rev. Farris

Will you nurture Beatrix in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example she may be guided to accept God's grace for herself, to profess her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

We will.

(To the Congregation)

Michael Lamb

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Beatrix in your care?

With God's help we will live in the example of Christ, growing in our love for God and for one another. We will surround Beatrix with a community of grace and forgiveness, that she may grow in her trust of God and learn how to serve others. We will pray for her, that she may walk in love following Jesus in the way that leads to life.

BAPTISM

Rev. Farris

BEATRIX ELIZABETH

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN #611 United Methodist Hymnal – Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verses 1 & 2)

INTRODUCTION

Michael Lamb

Members of the household of faith, I commend Beatrix to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

We give thanks to God because you are a gift to us and we welcome you in Christian love. As members with you in the body of Christ and in this community of faith, we renew our promise to participate faithfully in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR THE CREATION (with sung response)

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Your generous gifts support the ministries and outreach of the church. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC" in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also place your Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card in the offering plate. Give online at any time at www.santamonicaumc.org. Credit cards are now accepted at the Sunday Hospitality Table during Coffee Fellowship. Thank you. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts.

THE OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir

Soon I Will Be Done (arr. William Dawson)

Soon I will be don'a-with the troubles of the world, Goin' home to live with God. I want to meet my mother, I'm goin' to live with God. Soon I will be don'a-with the troubles of the world, Goin' home to live with God. No more weepin' an'a wailin', I'm goin' to live with God. Soon I will be don'a-with the troubles of the world, Goin' home to live with God. I want to meet my Jesus, I'm goin' to live with God.

*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. English

May we forge a new friendship with the earth and discover a new affinity with beauty, with life, and with Christ, in whom all things were created in heaven and on earth, for all things were created through him and for him. Amen.

 WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #178 UMH – Hope of the World

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in G Minor (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward

Worship concludes with the Postlude music which prepares us to transition from worship to life in the world. You are invited to remain seated until the Postlude concludes, or to exit quietly.

—Nursery Care is available at 9 a.m. in Room 204 in the Education Building. Parents with young children are welcome to worship in the sanctuary or in the Kids Zone in the narthex.

—A changing table is provided in the restroom located in the hallway west of the Fireside Room.

—First UMC takes the safety of the children and youth very seriously. We follow Safe Sanctuaries® practices, which is our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all of our children, youth, and adults.

—Please see an usher if you need information or assistance.

—If you would like to learn more about baptism or inquire about baptism for your children, please see one of our pastors.

—Flowers: Dried floral arrangements at the reredos help to remind us of our Lenten Discipline during the season of Lent.

—Now is the time to donate toward the purchase of Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday morning sanctuary worship in celebration of a loved one, an event, a joy, or a remembrance. Stop by the Sunday Hospitality Table or call, email or mail your dedication (please print clearly) along with \$12 per plant to the church office. Deadline to order is March 22.

—To request prayers, fill in a Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card and place it in the offering plate during worship.

—If there are Prayer Quilts on the north wall of the sanctuary, you are invited to pray over and tie knots on the quilts.

—Visit the Fireside Room to view *KNOW, LOVE, DO: Changing Nature and Us*, the work of artist Christian Kasperkovitz (aka *Elkpen*). A Los Angeles-based artist, Elkpen looks for novel ways to talk about nature to a wide audience.

—Look for the new Community Board during Lent. All are invited to reflect upon the Lenten theme of Love God/Love Creation: *What one thing can I do today to love God and love Creation?* and write your answer on the board.

—Stop by the Hospitality Table in Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center during Coffee Fellowship for information or to ask whatever might be on your mind! We're here to serve you.

—Next Sunday: Second Sunday in Lent; Rev. Patricia Farris will preach.

—We collect food weekly for the Westside Food Bank. In February, please bring canned tuna.

Resident Bishop
Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
West District Superintendent
Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa

Senior Minister
Rev. Patricia Farris
p.farris@santamonicaumc.org

New & Emerging Ministries
Rev. Robert English
r.english@santamonicaumc.org

Chaplain in Residence
Rev. Keri Olsen
k.olsen@santamonicaumc.org

Director of Children & Youth Ministry
Tricia Guerrero
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Business Administrator
Christina Eddy
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Congregation Care Visitor
Anne Premer
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Preschool Director
Batsheva Spector
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Assistant to the Preschool Director
Dane Rold
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Music Director
Dr. James Smith

Organist
Ty Woodward

Lead Coordinator
Sarah Rold
s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org

Membership and Facilities
Coordinator
David Penson
d.penson@santamonicaumc.org

Communications Director
Tina Gage
t.gage@santamonicaumc.org

Communications Coordinator
Shalimar Carducci
s.carducci@santamonicaumc.org

Head Custodian
Javier Espinosa

God is real. God is love. ■ Every person matters. You matter. ■ Together we can change the world.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 www.santamonicaumc.org · 310-393-8258

February 18, 2018

by Jack Fry, First UMC Church Member

Did you know that there are 27 African-American spirituals in *The United Methodist Hymnal*, and that there are 13 in *The Faith We Sing*? Many African-American spirituals are familiar to us, as we have sung them in school, church and Sunday school and have listened as they were sung by famous musicians. Sometimes one inexplicably keeps repeating itself over and over in our minds as we go about our daily routines. They are melodic, rhythmic and each one tells a story, a story that we once heard in Sunday school or one that came to us from the Bible, or, in some cases, one with hidden meaning.

These spirituals go back to a rather dark time in American history, a time during which several hundred thousand human beings were captured in their native Africa, separated from their family members, crammed into the bowels of sailing ships and forced to suffer long sea voyages terminating in the United States where they were sold as slaves. They were forced to live under poor conditions, work long hours, receive no wages and were subjected to cruel treatment if they failed to please their owners or attempted to escape.

Forbidden to pursue their own religious beliefs, they were exposed to Christianity in the hopes of their owners that by following the teachings of the Bible, they would be less likely to attempt escape. Many of the slaves accepted these Christian teachings and expressed them in styles and rhythms that were familiar to them from their African heritage. Often the spirituals followed a format that reflected an African tradition of responses to a leader's sung

phrases, e.g. *Rise Up Shepherd and Follow* (TFWS #2096); *Over My Head* (TFWS #2148); *Oh Freedom* (TFWS #2194); and several others as well as *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* (UMH #703).

But African-American spirituals express more than Christian messages. Some, such as *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen* (UMH #520) tell of the misery of lives torn from native homes only to be spent in slavery. Others, e.g. *My Lord What a Mornin'* (UMH #719) and *I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing* (UMH #333) express joy and hope for a better life, and *All God's Chillun Got Shoes* tells of the hope that shoes, which in many cases slaves didn't have, would be available in Heaven (or freedom) as well as robes and harps.

In lamenting that the people of Israel were rejecting the word of God, the prophet Jeremiah referred to a resinous substance found in Gilead that was rubbed into wounds to promote healing and asked, "is there no balm in Gilead?" As the African slaves were exposed to and began to accept the teachings of Christianity, they saw Jesus as the answer to Jeremiah's question, and they sang, *There Is a Balm in Gilead* (featured today by the Chancel Choir.)

Today as we listen to these songs or, better yet as we sing them ourselves, we can learn from the stories they tell, we can enjoy their rich melodies and rhythms, we can be thankful for the progress and understanding that has evolved, and we can anticipate enlightenment yet to come as we celebrate the music and culture of African-American History.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

Sunday 10 a.m. **Sanctuary Worship**
 Sunday 5 p.m. **simple church**
simple church theme: on finding God in wild places

MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today - Baptism • First Sunday in Lent • Children's Church

11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, SH

11:30 a.m. Memorial Planning Seminar, FR

2:30 p.m. Walk the Labyrinth, SH

Monday, February 19 - Church campus closed for Presidents Day

Wednesday, February 21

9 a.m. UMW Workparty/Lunch, Workroom

Thursday, February 22

5:30 p.m. Family Place Community Meal, Off-site

Sunday, February 25 - Second Sunday in Lent •

Haiti Work Team returns

11:30 a.m. Book Study/Potluck, FR

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children's Ministry

February Theme: Who Then Is This?

Bible Verse: "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!" Mark 4:41

Anchor Point: Jesus shows God's Power.

Sunday Theme: Children's Church

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

6 p.m. UMYF Program on Lent, Chapel

No Youth Choir tonight

First UMC takes the safety of the children and youth very seriously. We follow Safe Sanctuaries® practices, which is our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all of our children, youth, and adults.

FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY

Aging with Dignity: Part 2

Funeral/Memorial Planning - Today

Discover the importance of funeral/memorial service planning, and other spiritual considerations when dealing with end of life care. Come for yourself as well as your family - it's a wonderful gift to you and your loved ones. Led by Rev. Robert English.

Today, 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Loving God with Our Minds Book Study/Potluck

The featured book for February is *Days of Awe and Wonder: How to Be a Christian in the 21st Century* by Marcus Borg. Marcus Borg is one of our Book Study group favorites. This is a collection of pivotal writings, interviews, and previously unpublished essays that is both a wonderful introduction to and review of his major themes. This is a powerful read for the weeks of Epiphany leading into Lent. As Borg writes: "God, the sacred, pervades all that is, even though we do not often see it. But there are moments in which our eyes are opened and we see the glory." Everyone is welcome. Bring something to share for our potluck lunch. Book may be purchased on Amazon or at the Sunday Hospitality Table.

Next Sunday, February 25, 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Family Place Community Meal

The Community Meal potluck is an opportunity to help feed about 30-40 adults & children, served buffet style. Attending the potluck not only provides a delicious meal for the families and allows the parents an evening free from cooking dinner but is a way for all who attend to be a part of a warm and accepting community. For more information, contact the Community Meal Volunteers by emailing meal@santamonicaumc.org, or call the church office.

Thursday, February 22, Family Place (1020 12th St.)

After worship, all are invited to stay for Coffee Fellowship in Simkins Hall.

If you are a new visitor today, feel free to ask any questions you may have at the Hospitality Table in the Simkins Hall Alcove.

FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

Habitat for Humanity Build Date - Long Beach

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. Help Habitat with an opportunity for a hands-on build day in Long Beach. Anyone 16 years and older is welcome to participate. Meet at First UMC and then carpool to Long Beach. Contact Rev. Robert English to participate: r.english@santamonicaumc.org

Saturday, March 3, meet at 7 a.m.

Build time 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Haiti Mission Team Report-Back

Since the devastating 7.0 earthquake in 2010 near Port-au-Prince, First UMC has sent 6 work teams to live and serve in the country of Haiti. In collaboration with Haitian Methodist partners, our efforts thus far have made tangible progress in rebuilding churches, clinics, schools and homes. We believe that our biggest impact in the rebuilding effort in Haiti, however, is in giving hope and building relationships with our fellow Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ. The seventh First UMC work team leaves tomorrow for a week-long trip. Come to the Report Back Luncheon, where all are welcome to hear team members share their experiences and stories of grace in Haiti. Lunch will be served.

Sunday, March 4, 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall.

Save the Date: Time for Wearin' of the Green

Women of Action, a circle of United Methodist Women, in partnership with Fellowship and Events and Children's Ministry, invites everyone to the 19th Annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon. The cost of \$8 per person includes lunch and a robust and rousing sing-along, with gaily Gaelic piano. Children are welcome and will be provided materials to create seasonal crafts. Children under 5 will be admitted for free. Don't forget to wear green!

Sunday, March 12: 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall.

March Mid-Week Recital

The March Mid-Week Recital features *Duo Undine: Boglárka Kiss, flute; Alison Bjorkedal, harp.* Founded in 2005, the flute and harp duo were recently selected by the Beverly Hills Auditions as one of the top chamber groups in Los Angeles. Alison is on the faculty of California Institute of the Arts, and Boglárka teaches at Pasadena City College. Both musicians hold the Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

Wednesday, March 14, 12:10 - 12:40 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow for artists.

NEW- simple church presents: Blessing of the Bicycles, Walkers, Canes and Human Mobility Devices

On Palm Sunday, come to a special new service. As we consider the gift of creation and how to be better stewards of this gift, we are taking some time to bless the devices that helps us to navigate this world by human power. A potluck will follow the blessing.

Sunday, March 25, 4:30 - 6 p.m. Fireside Room / Courtyard

For more information on these events, or to learn about our ministries and missions, go to www.santamonicaumc.org.

Lenten Devotionals Out Now

The First UMC Lenten Devotional, written by members of the congregation, are available for pick up in the Narthex, at the Hospitality Table, or in the church office. You may also sign up online to receive the daily devotional by email: www.santamonicaumc.org/lent.

How to Keep a Holy Lent: Beginners Guide

Look for the pocket-sized Lenten guide called *How to Keep a Holy Lent: Beginners Guide*, available now in the Narthex and at the Hospitality Table, and in the church office. Each day includes a suggested tip for observing Lent. Some examples include: *Day 8: No complaining day, Day 22: Tell someone what you are grateful for, Day 24: Read Psalm 121.*

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Houston Mission Work Team

First UMC has felt called to respond in many ways after the devastation in Houston from Hurricane Harvey. This Spring, a work team will be sent to Houston April 21-28 to further put our faith into action. Our community will have the opportunity to support the team on April 15 after worship through a luncheon fundraiser. Visit the website for more information and to donate towards their fundraising efforts:

www.santamonicaumc.org/houston

Cal-Pac Responding to Fires and Mudslides

Representatives of the California-Pacific Conference have been present at meetings in different locations near disaster areas for the past few weeks, organizing to respond with a number of different organizations inside and outside of the church. To find out how you can help with donations, volunteering, and more, go to:

www.santamonicaumc.org/disaster-response

*For more mission opportunities, go to:
www.santamonicaumc.org/outreach-missions.*

OPEN INVITATIONS

Walk the Labyrinth

The Labyrinth laid in the Simkins Hall floor of First UMC Santa Monica is a replica of the Chartres Labyrinth laid in the cathedral around 1220 CE. Walking the Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice, a way to quiet our minds and open our spirits to the presence of the Holy. Every step a prayer. New visitors are always welcome.

Today, 2:30 p.m. Simkins Hall.

United Methodist Women (UMW)

The organized unit of United Methodist Women is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. Their Wednesday work party meets weekly for fellowship, lunch, and crafting. They work year-round to prepare for their annual their annual Holiday Bazaar which benefits mission projects and is their principal fundraiser. For more information on the UMW contact Betty Storm: betty.storm@gmail.com.

There are many opportunities available at First UMC for spiritual growth, fellowship and community. To view more, go to:www.santamonicaumc.org.

HOLY WEEK 2018

MARCH 25: PALM SUNDAY

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Worship is followed by **Easter Egg Hunt and Family Brunch**

NEW: 4:30 p.m. simple church:

Blessing of the Bicycles, Walkers, Canes and Human Mobility Devices

Courtyard/Fireside Room

MARCH 29: MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Worship

MARCH 30: GOOD FRIDAY

Chapel open for Prayer 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Labyrinth open for walk 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

12:10 p.m. Community Service - First Presbyterian Church

1220 2nd St, Santa Monica, CA 90401

MARCH 31: SIMPLE CHURCH EASTER VIGIL

7:30 p.m. Courtyard/Chapel

An ancient liturgy of Light, Word, and Communion

APRIL 1: EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service

Palisades Park (Santa Monica Blvd. & Ocean Ave.)

Bring fresh flowers for the cross, and a lawn chair or blankets. Hot coffee served.

10 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship

First UMC Sanctuary

Family Service, Choir, Brass, Organ, Lilies, and Alleluias!
(nursery care provided)

www.santamonicaumc.org/lent