Welcome New Visitors! We’re happy you’re here. You may fill out a New Visitor Sign-In form online to send us your prayer requests, questions, comments, and suggestions. Go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new.

Flowers: To donate to the Flower Fund or to send flowers to home-bound seniors, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund

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Resident Bishop
Bishop Grant J. Hagiy
West District Superintendent
Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa
Senior Minister
Rev. Patricia Ferris
p.ferris@santamonicaumc.org
Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries
Tricia Guerrero
t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org
Business Administrator
Christine Eddy
c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org
Congregation Care Associate
Anna Premer
a.premer@santamonicaumc.org
Preschool Director
Dae Menzies
d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org
Assistant Preschool Director
Dane Rold
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Music Director
Dr. James Smith
Organist
Ty Woodward
Office Manager
Sarah Rold
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Membership and Facilities Coordinator
David Penson
d.penson@santamonicaumc.org
Communications Director
Tina Gage
t.gage@santamonicaumc.org
Need Custodian
Javier Espinoza
Children’s Ministries Coordinator
Jamie Jones
Social Media and Outreach Coordinator, Summer
Jamie Kolnes

Ecclesiastes © John August Swanson

ONLINE Worship • Back to School Blessings • August 15, 2021

Today’s service is an Online service. Go to www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream, for more information.

WELCOME
Melanie Hutsell, Lay Lector
Jory Schulman, guitar

PRELUDE
Cavatina (Stanley Myers)
Leigh Erlandson, Lay Lector

CALL TO WORSHIP
Come and hear the good news.
Our God is a God of blessing.
God’s love is for all people and all of creation.
Our God is a God of compassion and justice.
No matter who you are or what is happening in your life.
Our God is a God of wisdom and truth.
We are called to lives of faithfulness in beloved community.
We have been blessed to be a blessing.

God is real. God is love. 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
RESPONSE The Doxology Aaron Shows, organ
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!

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE Melanie Hutsell
We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship, for worship, and for service. Thanks be to God!

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS (see insert) Rev. Patricia Farris, Leigh Erlandson
Response: Pour out your blessings, O God.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

SERMON “A Time for Everything: Back to School” Rev. Farris

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying Aaron Shows
Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD Michael Olsson

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES Melanie Hutsell
Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. You may mail your gift to the church or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. You may also give online at www.santamonicaumc.org/give, or mail checks through your online banking programs. You may continue to earmark gifts for our various mission projects. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts. Thank you.

OFFERTORY Chancel Choir Quartet
And All the Earth Shall Own Him Lord (Jerusalem) from “Chariots of Fire” (C. Hubert H. Parry, arr. Fred Bock)
And did those feet in ancient time walk upon Israel’s mountains green? And did the Christ of heav’n come down? Was God in flesh both heard and seen? And did He die to prove His love? And did He rise again more pow’rful still? And was His rule on earth started there upon Golgotha’s tragic hill? Bring me my bow of burning gold! Bring me my arrows of desire! Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold! Bring me my Chariot of Fire! I will not cease to spread His light: My faith a shield, His Word my sword; “Til Christ, my God, is crowned as King, and all the earth shall own Him Lord!

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION Melanie Hutsell
Holy God, we come with joy and thankfulness for the blessings we have been given. Use our gifts today to share your blessings in our community and world. Be with us in all that we do so our lives may be a blessing to others and give praise to you. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE Rev. Farris

BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE Postlude No. 5: Triumph (Aaron Shows) Aaron Shows
Chancel Choir Quartet: Barbara Smith, Vera Lugo, Anand Darsie, and Troy Robertson Guest Organist: Aaron Shows
BLESSING LITANY

God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for this school year, a beginning filled with hope and expectation as well as uncertainty and anxiety. May the blessing tags which we give to our students and teachers bless and remind them that they have everything they need to learn, to teach, and to grow this year in school.

Pour out your blessings, O God.

We ask your blessing on school supplies and backpacks, on our computers and phones that help us to learn, to teach and to connect as this new school year begins.

Pour out your blessings, O God.

We ask your blessing on the students in our church and community. They commit themselves to study and learning in the school year ahead. Give them open minds and open hearts to learn and to grow.

Pour out your blessings, O God.

We ask your blessing on our Preschool. Empower it to be a place to grow in knowledge and love for our youngest students and to be a community of support for teachers, students and families.

Pour out your blessings, O God.

We ask your blessing on parents. May they be guided by your love and given strength for patience, understanding and wisdom this year. May they also be reminded of the love and prayers of this church family that surround them.

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We ask your blessing on teachers. Help them to teach in new ways and to grow in knowledge and wisdom during this school year. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care.

Pour out your blessings, O God.

We ask your blessing on the administrators in our school systems. Guide their decision-making with wisdom and love as they navigate and lead in this uncertain time.

Pour out your blessings, O God.
RESPONSE  

The Doxology  

Aaron Shows, organ
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!  
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WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

THE LESSON  

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NIV)  

Michael Olsson, Lay Lector
The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

SERMON  

“A Time for Everything: Back to School”  

Rev. Farris

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During the month of August, First UMC will continue the tradition of taking donations that will enable us to support low-income and marginalized communities. This year we are expanding our school supply support to two new organizations: Sherman Indian High School and the School Bell Backpack Program through the Assistance League of Santa Monica. We are ONLY accepting money donations (not supplies) towards the purchase of supplies in bulk. To donate, go to www.santamonicaumc.org/give, click Give Online, then select “School Supplies” in the dropdown menu. Thank you for your support!

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Download the app here: https://subsplash.com/76vw/app

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