

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday in Lent • March 19, 2023

WE GATHER



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero

PRELUDE Postlude for the Office of Compline (Jehan Alain)

Ty Woodward, organ

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** #292 United Methodist Hymnal – What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul,
for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul. What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, that caused the
Lord of life to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.
To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and
to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing; while
millions join the theme I will sing. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Bumiller, Lay Lector

We believe in a merciful God,

a God who does not keep score, a God who wants good for us.

We believe in a creative God,

a God who restores, a God capable of seeing what we cannot.

We believe in a saving God,

a God who heals, a God who opens our eyes, a God who fills our hearts with hope.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

What wondrous love is this!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

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

**Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Martha Ross, Lay Lector

We give thanks for God's Creating Spirit that continues to give us life and lead us forward!

Thanks be to God!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL John 9:1-11 (Pew Bible page 96, N.T.)

Bill Bumiller

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

SERMON "seeking: sight and insight"

Rev. Patricia Farris

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER

#378 UMH – Amazing Grace (verses 1-4)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Tricia Guerrero

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

Bill Bumiller

Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC" in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also mail your gift to the church or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. Or, 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.

THE OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Director

Set Me as a Seal Upon Thine Heart (Michael D. McClish)

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm. For love is stronger than death. If I speak with the tongues of men and angels, have the gift of prophecy, and faith to move mountains, and have not love, I'm as sounding brass, as a clanging cymbal, I am nothing. For love is patient, love is kind, and never fails. Many waters cannot quench love. Neither floods can drown it. Set me as a seal upon thine heart.

*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Martha Ross

Mighty God, you overwhelm us with your great mercy. At the time of our greatest need, you surprise us with your wondrous love. As you draw us into the renewing relationship of love, may we respond with gratitude as we offer the substance of our souls to continue the ministry of Christ. For his name and glory, we pray and present our gifts. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Farris

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Tuba Tune (C. S. Lang)

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.*

—**Welcome New Visitors!** We're happy you're here. You may fill out a Let's Connect Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate, or sign in online: www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new, or scan this QR code for the online form.



—**Lenten theme:** This season's Lenten theme, worship segments, and visuals of "seeking; honest questions for deeper faith," comes to us from the group *A Sanctified Art*. www.sanctifiedart.org

—**Nursery Care:** Nursery Care is available on Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 11 a.m. in Room 204 in the Education Building. Parents with young children are also welcome to worship in the sanctuary or in the Kids Zone in the narthex.

—**Safe Sanctuaries®:** 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.

—**Flowers:** Dried floral arrangements at the reredos help to remind us of our Lenten Discipline during the season of Lent. You may still order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship to be displayed in the Narthex: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund.

—**Give:** There are many ways to give. Checks, cash, stocks or wills, or your gift of time. You may give securely online at: www.santamonicaumc.org/give, via mail, or onsite through the office mail slot. Thank you!

—**Prayer Quilts:** If there is a Prayer Quilt in worship, you are invited to pray over and tie knots on the quilt on the north wall of the Sanctuary, or call or email Sarah in the church office to request a tie be made on the quilt for you: Sarah Rold (310.393.8258), or s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org. To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry.

—**Prayer Requests:** The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests, and treat all requests as confidential. Request a prayer at any time. Go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests.

—**Westside Food Bank:** We collect food weekly for the Westside Food Bank. Bins are located outside the Sanctuary Sunday mornings.

Resident Bishop
Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

West District Superintendent
Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa

Senior Minister

Rev. Patricia Farris

p.farris@santamonicaumc.org

Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries

Tricia Guerrero

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Deacon Associate

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget

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Business Administrator

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Preschool Director

Dee Menzies

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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

Head Custodian

Javier Espinoza

Children's Ministries Coordinator

Jamie Jones

Currently, based on state and local recommendations, **masks are optional, but always acceptable and welcome.** Everyone is strongly encouraged to get your vaccinations and booster shots. If you feel ill, please choose to worship from home online. Let us know if you need assistance in joining online.

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

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS



Free!

3rd Sundays of the month
After worship in the Fireside Room

Today - Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council will provide free Blood Pressure Screenings today after worship in the Alcove (**note the location change*). Screenings are held every third Sunday of the month. We give thanks for this ministry of health and wellness.

Today, after worship in the Alcove

Easter Flowers

Order now!

Deadline: April 4, 2023

\$15 per order

Easter Flowers - Order Now!

Now is the time to donate toward the purchase of Easter Flowers for Easter Sunday morning worship in celebration of a loved one, an event, a joy, or a remembrance.

Order online: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund, or stop by the Sunday

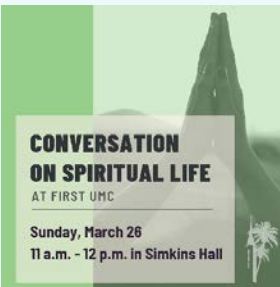
Welcome Table and fill out a form. Flowers are \$15. Deadline to order is April 4.



Service of Lessons & Anthems

This service of Lessons & Anthems is an annual tradition. This is a solemn service, designed to prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week. In word and music, we will remember the last days of Jesus' life—his witness, his teaching, his faithfulness.

Next Sunday, March 26, 10 a.m., online and in-person worship



Conversation on Spiritual Life at First UMC

Have you longed for greater spiritual depth and connection in your life? Have you wished for experiences at church that would help you go deeper or learn more?

Would you welcome a place to share your questions and prayers? All are welcome to come join an open Conversation on Spiritual Life at First UMC. Bring your questions! Presented by Patricia Farris, Tricia Guerrero, and Leigh Erlandson.

Childcare will be provided.

Next Sunday, March 26, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Simkins Hall

Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever: www.santamonicaumc.org/give

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www.santamonicaumc.org • info@santamonicaumc.org

[@santamonicaumc](https://www.instagram.com/santamonicaumc)



Lent 2023

Lent is a 40-day season given to us as a time of spiritual preparation for Easter. Our theme for Lent this year is “seeking: honest questions for deeper faith.” Through the stories of Scripture this season, we are all invited to wrestle with questions of identity, purpose, direction, and vocation. We will hear our own questions and longings echoed in these stories of our faith.

Visit the website for Lent/Holy Week schedule: www.santamonicaumc.org/lent

• Lenten Art Exhibit

Stop by the Fireside Room to view artwork and read statements from artists that are part of a collective called "A Sanctified Art." Each picture is connected to a Sunday in Lent and the Scripture we will hear in worship. You can also find the images in our Lenten Devotionals for Sundays, reflecting our "seeking" theme for Lent. The gallery will be open each Sunday after worship.

• Lenten Zoom Bible Study: Gospel of Matthew

Rev. Larry Young is leading a 6-week study of the Gospel of Matthew - it's not too late to participate! Duplicate sessions are offered Wednesdays at 2 and 7 p.m. The study was created for local church use by the Center for Continuing Education at Yale Divinity School, Rev. Young's alma mater. To sign up and for Zoom link, go to: <https://santamonicaumc.org/gospel-matthew>

Next class, Wednesday, March 22, via Zoom, 2 & 7 p.m (duplicate class)

• Walk the First UMC Labyrinth

First UMC offers two opportunities to Walk the Labyrinth. The Labyrinth will be open for Good Friday, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

We will also participate in **World Labyrinth Day**, on Saturday, May 6, to **Walk as One at 1 p.m.** On this 15th Annual World Labyrinth Day as in previous years, many will walk a labyrinth at 1:00 p.m. local time, creating a unified rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next around the globe.

Good Friday, April 7, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

World Labyrinth Day, Saturday, May 6, 12 - 2 p.m. in Simkins Hall

• Communion Servers Needed

Each month when communion is offered in church, members of the Communion Server Ministry take communion out to those who cannot be present during the service. By including others, we expand the Table of the Lord to include those who cannot be present in body. The volunteers who are involved in this ministry feel blessed in being able to serve in this way. **If you are interested in becoming a communion server, please contact Anne Premer (a.premier@santamonicaumc.org) or the church office.** We offer training and on-going support to our communion servers.

• UMCOR: Earthquake Relief for Turkey and Syria

Join us in prayer for the people of Turkey and Syria who have experienced two devastating earthquakes, followed by aftershocks. You can donate to UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery Advance here: <http://ow.ly/APs450MKGNq>

• The First UMC App

First UMC offers a free app - download it and give it a try! With the app, you can:

- Participate in Sunday's service, in real time or anytime at your convenience, right from your smartphone or iPad.
- Access our calendar of our events and get text notification reminders the day of Sunday service, and special events.
- Share the app with a friend if you want to invite them to an event, or share info about a special program we offer.
- Access an audio/written Bible with a built-in daily reading plan. To download the app, go to: <https://subsplash.com/76vw/app>. Or, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM

FIRST UMC

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

APRIL 2: PALM SUNDAY

• 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Waving of Palms and Loud Hosannas!

• After Church: Easter Hop-By

Featuring an Easter Egg scavenger hunt, games and crafts, a family photo opp, delicious treats and a visit from the Easter Bunny! Fun for all ages!

APRIL 6: MAUNDY THURSDAY

• Community Maundy Thursday Service

7 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church (958 Lincoln Blvd)

APRIL 7: GOOD FRIDAY

• Prayer Vigil 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., First UMC Chapel

Open all day to pray and "watch with Jesus."

• Good Friday Labyrinth Walk 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Simkins Hall. The Labyrinth will be open for walking, every step a prayer.

• Community Good Friday Service 7 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (958 Lincoln Blvd)

APRIL 9: EASTER SUNDAY

• 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service

Palisades Park (*Washington Ave. & Ocean Ave.)

****note new location - no longer at Santa Monica Blvd.***

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, Organ, Flowers, and Alleluias!

(nursery care provided)

Ongoing Ministries at First UMC

If you'd like more information for ministry opportunities, you may contact the church office (310) 393-8258, or visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org

• Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom Men's Bible Study is a weekly online meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture.

www.santamonicaumc.org/biblestudy

• Open Space Young Adult Group

Open Space is a young adult ministry that offers community for young adults to journey alongside one another in spiritual discovery, growth, and belonging.

Visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space

• Listening Hearts Women's Group, with Tricia Guerrero

Listening Hearts is a spiritual community of women who gather to listen to one another in the midst of life's chaos, led by Pastoral Associate Tricia Guerrero. Contact Tricia for upcoming meetings: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org.

www.santamonicaumc.org/small-groups

• Sunday School for Kids

Sunday School is currently happening weekly on **Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in Room 206**. Parents can drop off and pick up children ages 2 through 5th grade during morning worship. Children are also welcome to remain with families in the Sanctuary, and worship activity bags can be found in the Narthex or from an Usher. Reach out to Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) if you have any questions.

www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-school

• Nursery Care

Nursery Care is available on **Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 11 a.m. in Room 204** in the Education Building. Parents with young children are also welcome to worship in the sanctuary or in the Kids Zone in the narthex.

• Youth Group

The Youth Ministry at First UMC is a community of youth and adult volunteers who gather to explore and grow in faith together. Regular Youth Group meetings are held in the Youth Lounge **Sunday nights from 6 - 8 p.m.** Email Tricia Guerrero (t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) if you would like to get connected to this group for youth in grades 6-12. www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry

• Prayer Quilt Ministry

3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300.

To order a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry

• The Chancel Choir

Meets at 7:40 p.m. on Thursdays (with a break during the Summer). The Chancel Choir provides music every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service.

• Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings **every third Sunday of the month** after worship. We give thanks for this ministry of health and wellness.

www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry

STAY CONNECTED

To join in fellowship and ministry, here's how to connect:

First UMC website: www.santamonicaumc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc

Instagram: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.instagram.com/santamonicaumc)

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/SantaMonicaUMC

First UMC app: Download from the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM

Sunday Social Gathering: Come say "Hello" and help yourself to coffee and donuts after worship in the Courtyard. Stop by the Sunday Welcome Table and visit with staff member David Person if you have any questions!

