

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Palm Sunday • March 24, 2024

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero

PRELUDE Prelude in G (Felix Mendelssohn)

Ty Woodward, organ

\*OPENING HYMN #280 United Methodist Hymnal – All Glory, Laud and Honor

**(Refrain): All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.** Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son, who in the Lord's name comest, the King and Blessed One. *(Refrain)*. The company of angels are praising thee on high, and we with all creation in chorus make reply. *(Refrain)*. The people of the Hebrews with psalms before thee went; our prayer and praise and anthems before thee we present. *(Refrain)*. To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise; to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *(Refrain)*. Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring, who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. *(Refrain)*.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Shannon Sturges, Lay Lector

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven.**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

**Let those who trust the Lord say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."**

\*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors. Lord of hosts, he is the King of Glory." *(William Mathias)*

\*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ann Wilson

#2233 The Faith We Sing — Where Children Belong

**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.*

I Am a Child of God

**I am a child of God; You are God's child, it's true. Children of God are called to love one another, as Jesus taught to do.**

*As the congregation sings, the children may go to Sunday School in Room 206.*

## OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Dan Nessel, Lay Lector

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

**Thanks be to God!**

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## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE PSALM Psalm 118:1, 19-29

Dan Nessel

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

THE GOSPEL Mark 11:1-11

Shannon Sturges

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

SERMON "Take the Step!"

Rev. Patricia Farris

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## WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER #92 UMH — For the Beauty of the Earth (*verses 1, 6*)

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies; (*Refrain*): **Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.** For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given, for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven: (*Refrain.*)

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD

Tricia Guerrero

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.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

## WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Shannon Sturges

*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](http://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

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

Hosanna In Excelsis Deo (Charles Gounod)

Hosanna in excelsis Deo. (*Hosanna to God in the highest.*)

\*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

## \*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dan Nessel

**All glory to you, giver of life, sufficient and full for all creation. Earth and sea and sky and all that lives declare your presence and love. Accept our praises. Renew your creation. Reveal your glory in and through all that lives, that we may walk humbly and joyfully with you, now and always. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

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## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\*HYMN #278 UMH – Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang; through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang. To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast, the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best. From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd, the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud. The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state, nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait. "Hosanna in the highest!" that ancient song we sing, for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King. O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice, and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Farris

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Tu es petra - *Thou Art the Rock* (Henri Mulet)

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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new), or scan this QR code for the online form.



—**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.

—**Extended Deadline for Easter Flowers:** Today is the last day to purchase Easter Flowers for Easter Sunday morning sanctuary worship in celebration of a loved one, an event, a joy, or a remembrance. Stop by the Sunday Welcome Table to fill out a form. \$15 per plant.

—**Flowers:** To order flowers for to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund).

—**Give:** Your gifts help us grow our ministries today and into the future. Thank you for considering giving to the General Church Fund to support everything we do. You may give today during service, or other ways; by mailing payment, dropping by the business office, or securely through the online giving portal located on the website front page. Questions about financial gifts, or gifts of time? Give us a call anytime at the church office.

—**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](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org). To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry](http://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](http://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. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi**

Senior Minister  
**Rev. Patricia Farris**  
[p.farris@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:p.farris@santamonicaumc.org)

Pastoral Associate  
**Tricia Guerrero**  
[t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)  
Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation  
**Rev. Keri Olsen Paget**  
[k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org)

Business Administrator  
**Christina Eddy**  
[c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org)  
Congregation Care Associate  
**Anne Premer**  
[a.premer@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:a.premer@santamonicaumc.org)

Preschool Director  
**Dee Menzies**  
[d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org)  
Assistant Preschool Director  
**Dane Rold**  
[d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org)

Music Director  
**Dr. James Smith**

Organist  
**Ty Woodward**  
Office Manager  
**Sarah Rold**  
[s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org)  
Membership and Facilities  
Coordinator  
**David Penson**  
[d.penson@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:d.penson@santamonicaumc.org)

Communications Director  
**Tina Gage**  
[t.gage@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.gage@santamonicaumc.org)

Head Custodian  
**Javier Espinoza**  
Family Ministries Coordinator  
**Jamie Jones**

Program and Outreach Coordinator  
**Brandon Searfoss**

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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) · 310-393-8258



## Today! Palm Sunday

10 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship

The day we celebrate Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, with the waving of palms and loud Hosannas!

## Today! Palm Sunday Celebration: Brunch/Easter Bunny/Egg Hunt

Today, 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall and the Courtyard

Following worship, come for a Palm Sunday celebration, hosted by Children and Family Ministries. Featuring brunch, an Easter Egg hunt, games and crafts, a family photo opp, and a visit from the Easter Bunny! Fun for all ages!



## Youth Selling See's Candy for the Youth Service Project Trip

The youth will be selling See's Easter Candy as a fundraiser for the 2024 Youth Service Project. Stop by their table to learn more about this summer's trip and support their efforts!



## Order Easter Flowers - Deadline extended to today!

Today is the last day to dedicate Easter Flowers for Easter Sunday morning sanctuary worship in celebration of a loved one, an event, a joy, or a remembrance. Dedications will be listed in the OOW for next Sunday's Easter service. Stop by the Sunday Welcome Table to fill out a form. \$15 per plant.



## 580 Cafe Lenten Food Drive - Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated to the 580 Cafe Food Drive! Your donation provides students at UCLA the opportunity to select non-perishable food items, providing an important support to students who have limited access to healthy food options. There's still time to donate through next Sunday. *Details on page 2.*

## Food Drive runs thru Sunday March 31

(donation bins in the Narthex and at Welcome Table)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### • Methodist Foundation Scholarships

Every year the Loans & Scholarships committee has the pleasure of acknowledging outstanding scholars, including graduating high school seniors, continuing undergraduates, and graduate students, for their scholastic excellence, commitment to community, and dedication to our church. To apply for this year's scholarships, **the application will be available**

**April 7** on the website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/methodistfoundation](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/methodistfoundation), or stop by the church office.

### • Kids Night Out

Kids Night Out will be back in April! While parents enjoy a well-deserved night out, children are provided a safe and fun evening of games, activities and crafts, pizza dinner, and a movie with our trained childcare team.

**Saturday, April 13, 4 – 8 p.m.** \$35/child + \$15 for each additional sibling, 2 years – 5th grade. Sign-ups begin Friday, March 29 on the website:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/kids-night-out](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/kids-night-out)

### • Legacy Circle Luncheon

Please join us as we recognize all of the generosity of Legacy Circle Members. Planned giving is an important pillar of support for the church and we give thanks for all the members that include First UMC and Methodist Foundation in their estate plans. *Catered lunch will be provided.* **Sunday, April 21, after worship, Simkins Hall**

### • World Labyrinth Day

First UMC is pleased to join the World Labyrinth Society for World Labyrinth Day. Every year on the first Saturday in May thousands of people around the world participate in WLD as a moving meditation for world peace and shared appreciation of the labyrinth experience.

**Saturday, May 4, 1 – 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall**

### • First UMC Spring Concert - Save the Date

Save the date for this year's Spring Concert, featuring Michael McClish: World Premiere – Mass of Ascension; Poulenc: Gloria, Chancel Choir with guest singers, orchestra & Westwood Methodist Chancel Choir. *No admission charge – Freewill Offering will be taken. Reception to follow performance.*

**Sunday, May 19, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

## MISSION AND SERVICE

### • Help the 580 Cafe UCLA Students - Lenten Food Drive

The 580 Cafe is a ministry of the Wesley Foundation serving UCLA students. It serves as a space for students to build collective care and share food, conversation, and activism. The 580 Cafe Food Cupboard provides students at UCLA the opportunity to select non-perishable food items, providing an important support to students who have limited access to healthy food options. **How you can help:** Your donations of the following food items supports the 580 Cafe in their efforts to end physical and spiritual hunger on campus. *See list of food items needed on the donation bins.*

### Food Drive runs thru Sunday March 31

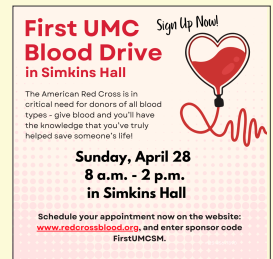
*(donation bins in the Narthex and at Welcome Table)*

### • First UMC Blood Drive

The Health Ministry Council is pleased to announce that an in-person Blood Drive will be held at First UMC for the first time since 2019! The American Red Cross is in critical need for donors of all blood types - give blood and you'll have the knowledge that you've truly helped save someone's life! For more information, questions, or to volunteer, contact Debi Jenkinson ([debijwong@yahoo.com](mailto:debijwong@yahoo.com)). Schedule your appointment now on the Red Cross website:

[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), and enter sponsor code FirstUMCSM.

**Sunday, April 28, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Simkins Hall**



### • Upward Bound House Home Run for Kids

Upward Bound House presents the 12th Annual Home Run For Kids, a day of exercise, food, and fun all for a good cause! Includes a 5k Run/Walk and a Kiddie K (1km) for families. Join the First UMC Church and Preschool Team! Sign up here:

<https://santamonicaumc.org/home-run-for-kids/>

**Sunday, May 19, in Brentwood (11620 San Vicente Blvd)**

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

### • Children's Ministry

Jamie Jones, the Sunday School teachers, and a few other special guests offer weekly messages to children at the beginning of worship each Sunday during the Children's Message. **This means our families begin worship with us each week in the Sanctuary before heading to Sunday School following the Children's Message.** You are invited to look around and greet a child and their family each Sunday. You might hear a few more giggles and whispers or see some wiggles...let's celebrate the joyful and life-filled presence beloved children bring to our community each week! [www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry)

### • Nursery Care

Nursery Care for ages 6 months to 3 years 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.

### • Preschool Enrollment Ongoing

Schedule a tour today with Dee Menzies, Preschool Director at 310-395-7292, or visit our webpage for more information: [www.santamonicaumc.org/preschool](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/preschool)

## YOUTH

### • United Methodist Youth Fellowship Group

Weekly UMYF meetings held Sundays 6 - 8 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. [www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry)

## PRAYER

### • Walk the Labyrinth/Chapel Open for Prayers

The Labyrinth and Chapel are open on the first Friday of the month, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Families welcome! Open next: **Good Friday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. for the Labyrinth and Chapel**

### • Prayer Requests

The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests. You may send a prayer request to the church at any time.

[www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests)

## 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](http://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](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/biblestudy)

### • Listening Hearts Women's Group

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](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org).

Next meeting: **Wed, April 3, at Literati Cafe**

### • Prayer Quilt Ministry

**Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300.** The Prayer Quilt Ministry is a group that makes Prayer Quilts as a service for those in need. To request a Prayer Quilt, visit:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry)

Next meeting: **Saturday, April 20**

### • The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir provides music every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service. **Sing in the Chancel Choir!** We always welcome new members who would like to sing with the choir! Rehearsals on Thursday evenings, and sing in church each Sunday morning. Contact Jim Smith if you are interested: [djes@roadrunner.com](mailto:djes@roadrunner.com)

### • Open Space Young Adults

Open Space is a young adult ministry that offers community for young adults to journey alongside one another in spiritual discovery, growth, and belonging. Learn more: [www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space). IG: @openspacesm. Next Meeting: **Wed, April 17**

### • Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings **once a month** after worship. Next meeting is **April 7**, in the Fireside Room.

# Holy Week 2024

## Thursday, MARCH 28: Maundy Thursday

- 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 958 Lincoln Blvd, SM

## Friday, MARCH 29: Good Friday

- **Prayer Vigil** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
First UMC Chapel. Open all day for prayer.
- **Good Friday Labyrinth Walk** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Simkins Hall. The Labyrinth will be open for walking, every step a prayer.
- **Good Friday Services**
  - 12 p.m. Good Friday - Stations of the Cross  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 958 Lincoln Blvd, SM
  - 7 p.m. Good Friday Ecumenical Service  
**Join Rev. Patricia Farris, and the First UMC Choir in an ecumenical service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
958 Lincoln Blvd, SM



# Easter Sunday Services

## MARCH 31: Easter Sunrise Service

6:30 a.m. Palisades Park  
(Washington Ave. & Ocean Ave.)  
Bring fresh flowers for the cross, and a lawn chair or blankets. Hot coffee served.

## MARCH 31: Easter Celebration Worship

10 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship  
Family Service, Choir, Organ, Brass Ensemble, Easter Flowers, and Alleluias!  
(nursery care provided)

## Easter Sunday Services

**6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service**  
Palisades Park (Washington Ave. & 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, Flowers, and Alleluias!  
(nursery care provided)

[www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org)



**Give Online** You may give online via the QR code on the left (take a photo of the code with your phone), via mail, or onsite through the church office mail slot. To learn more: [www.santamonicaumc.org/give](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/give)