



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday in Lent • Moment for Mission • March 30, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, organ

\*OPENING HYMN #343 United Methodist Hymnal — Come Back Quickly to the Lord

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Cady Senior, Lay Lector

As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,  
**so God seeks and saves the lost.**

Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,  
**so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.**

As a parent receives a returning wayward child,  
**so God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.**

Therefore let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received.

**Let us receive and welcome and rejoice over one another in the name of Jesus Christ.**

\*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

“Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving, let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of Praise!”

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Cady Senior

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

*\*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jamie Jones, Family Ministries Coordinator

#2233 The Faith We Sing — Where Children Belong

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping 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 Rooms 204 and 206.*

## OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Tricia Guerrero

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

**Thanks be to God!**

## MOMENT FOR MISSION Red Cross Blood Drive

Dr. Jane Spiegel, Health Ministry Council

HYMN #122 UMH — God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

## SILENT PRAYER & PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Tricia Guerrero

Response: **Open our hearts, O God.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## CHORAL RESPONSE

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## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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## THE GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

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

## SERMON "Repentance, Restoration, and Relationship"

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

Rev. Batson

Children of God, Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

**Holy and awesome God, we stand in your presence filled with regret for our many sins and failings. Though there is greatness in us, and a deep longing for goodness, we have often denied our better selves and refused to hear your voice calling us to rise to the full height of our humanity. For there is weakness in us, as well as strength. At times we choose to walk in darkness, our vision obscured. We do not care to look within, and we are unwilling to look beyond at those who need our help. O God, we are too weak to walk unaided. Be with us as a strong and wise friend, and teach us to walk by the light of your truth.**

The Lord God is merciful and gracious, endlessly patient, loving, and true, showing mercy to thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and granting pardon. Believe the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.**

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## WE RESPOND

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Rev. Batson

*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

Amazing Grace (Marianne Forman)

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. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise! than when we first begun. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, and grace will lead me home.

### \*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### \*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Tricia Guerrero

**Faithful God, who runs to greet us with relief and joy, please accept our offerings and may they continue the celebration of those who have been found. May they be used to bring hope to those in need and light to those in darkness. Through our repentance and offerings we ask that you continue to transform our lives so that we may be a witness to your grace in the world. In the name of Christ who calls us to new life, we pray. Amen.**

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## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

### \*HYMN #121 UMH – There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Olsen Paget

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



—**Children and Families on Sundays:** Families are invited to begin worship in the Sanctuary. Following the Children's Message, children are guided to Sunday School for ages 12 months through 5th grade in the Education Building. Parents with infants are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary or in the Family 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:** To order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund). Available Sundays: April 6/13/20/27.

—**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.

—**Sunday Social Gathering:** After worship today, come say "Hello" for Coffee Hour in Simkins Hall. Stop by the Sunday Welcome Table if you have any questions.

*Resident Bishop*  
**Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank**

*West District Superintendent*

**Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi**

*Senior Minister*

**Rev. Greg Batson**

[g.batson@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:g.batson@santamonicaumc.org)

*Pastoral Associate*

**Tricia Guerrero**

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*Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation*

**Rev. Keri Olsen Paget**

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*Business Administrator*

**Christina Eddy**

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*Congregation Care Associate*

**Anne Premer**

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*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**

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*Head Custodian*

**Javier Espinoza**

*Family Ministries Coordinator*

**Jamie Jones**

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*Program and Outreach Coordinator*

**Brandon Searfoss**

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*Preschool Director Emerita*

**Dee Menzies**

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*Preschool Co-Director*

**Dane Rold**

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*Preschool Co-Director*

**Johanna Holman**

[j.holman@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.holman@santamonicaumc.org)

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

SUNDAY INSERT  
MARCH 30, 2025

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA  
PRESENTS:

 **Blood Drive**<sup>2025</sup>  
sponsored by First UMC



**SUNDAY, APRIL 6**  
**9 AM - 3 PM**  
**IN SIMKINS HALL**



## First UMC Blood Drive - Sign Up Now!

There's still time to sign up for the Red Cross Blood Drive that will be held in Simkins Hall next Sunday, April 6. Consider making a blood donation part of your Lenten practice. 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 website: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), and enter sponsor code FirstUMCSM, or, **stop by the Health Ministry table today during Coffee Hour.**

**Next Sunday, April 6, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA  
1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 • 310-393-8258  
[www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) • [info@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:info@santamonicaumc.org)   @santamonicaumc

## LENT 2025

### • Lent 2025

We are providing a full schedule of opportunities to observe a holy and meaningful Lent at First UMC. See in this insert, and the church website for full schedule:

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

### • Today! Community Lunch for Families

All families are welcome to join Pastors Greg and Tricia for a Community Lunch today after worship in Room 300. Supervision of children and youth in the youth room and playground will be available after lunch giving parents the chance to visit with the Pastors and one another. We look forward to this opportunity to connect with families!

**Today, 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Room 300 in Edu. Bldg.**

### • Lenten Book Study - Continuing

All are welcome to join Rev. Greg Batson and Rev. Larry Young as they co-host a 5-week Lenten Book Study based on the book *The Third Day*, by Bishop Tom Berlin. **Today's class after worship will go over Chapter 4.**

Class schedule: *(same class, one in-person and one online)*

• **Sundays, March 30 & April 6, 11:30 a.m., in the Fireside Room** led by Rev. Larry Young

• **Wednesdays, April 2 & 9, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom** led by Rev. Greg Batson. Zoom link on the website:

<https://santamonicaumc.org/lenten-book-study-25>

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

The Labyrinth is open on the first Friday of every month, 1–3 p.m. in Simkins Hall. If you've never walked the Labyrinth before, there are printed instructions to help with your walking meditation, or see a labyrinth host for guidance. Children and families welcome! For those unable to walk, we have finger labyrinths available. The Chapel is also open for prayers during this time.

**Friday, April 4, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall, Chapel**

### • Service of Lessons and Anthems

Through the Word and music, this annual service prepares us to enter into the events of Holy Week in deep prayer and reflection.

**Next Sunday, April 6, during 10 a.m. worship**

## HOLY WEEK 2025

### Sunday, APRIL 13: Palm Sunday

#### 10 a.m. Sanctuary, Livestream

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

### Sunday, APRIL 13: Palm Sunday Celebration

#### 11 a.m. Simkins Hall

Brunch/Easter Bunny/Egg Hunt. Fun for all ages!

### Thursday, APRIL 17: Maundy Thursday

#### 6:30 p.m. First UMC Chapel

Command to Love One Another: Remembering Jesus' Last Supper and Washing the Disciples Feet

### Friday, APRIL 18: Good Friday

#### • Prayer Vigil

#### 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. First UMC Chapel

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

#### • Good Friday Labyrinth Walk

#### 12 p.m.- 6 p.m. Simkins Hall

#### • Good Friday Ecumenical Service

#### 7 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church

with Rev. Greg Batson, and the First UMC Choir  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church (958 Lincoln Blvd)

## Easter Worship Services

### SUNDAY, APRIL 20: Easter Sunrise Service

#### 6:30 a.m. Palisades Park

Palisades Park (Santa Monica Blvd. & Ocean Ave.)  
Family-friendly worship, Holy Communion, hot coffee & fellowship. Bring blankets, chairs, & fresh flowers for the cross.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 20: Easter Celebration Worship

#### 10 a.m. Sanctuary, Livestream

Family Service, Choir, Organ, Easter Flowers, and Alleluias!  
*(nursery care provided for infants and toddlers in the Fireside Room)*

## MISSION AND SERVICE

### • Westside Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity

Westside Food Bank is underway helping with the long recovery period in the aftermath of the LA fires. Come to our volunteer opportunity to help Westside Food Bank with packaging produce boxes.

**Friday, April 11, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

1710 22nd Street, Santa Monica 90404

RSVP Tricia: [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

### • Children's Ministry

Families are invited to begin worship in the Sanctuary. Following the Children's Message, children are guided to Sunday School for ages 12 months through 5th grade in the Education Building. Parents with infants are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary or in the Family Zone in the Narthex. You are invited to look around and greet a child and their family in worship. 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)

### • Preschool Enrollment **OPEN NOW!**

Schedule a tour today with Preschool Co- Directors Dane or Johanna 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)

**Upcoming Meetings: Apr 6/27 in the Youth Lounge**

## PRAYER

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

The Labyrinth and Chapel are open on the first Friday of the month, from 1 - 3 p.m. Families welcome!

**Next Opportunity: April 4, 1 - 3 p.m.**

**April 18, Good Friday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Simkins Hall**

### • 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/)

### • Request a Prayer Quilt

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is a group that makes Prayer Quilts as a service for those in need. (*\*Prayer quilts may only be requested and sponsored by members of the First UMC congregation.*) To request a Prayer Quilt, visit:

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

## 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, led by Pastoral Associate Tricia Guerrero. Contact Tricia for upcoming meetings: [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org). Next meeting: **April 2** at Literati Cafe, 10 a.m.

### • Prayer Quilt Ministry

Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. Next meeting: **Saturday, April 12**

### • The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir provides music every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service. **Sing in the Chancel Choir!** Thursday evening rehearsals are from 7:30 - 9 p.m. in the Choir Room. Contact Jim Smith if you are interested: [djes@roadrunner.com](mailto:djes@roadrunner.com)

### • Messy Church

Messy Church is a monthly all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way. Next Messy Church: **Saturday, May 3, 4 - 6 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. Theme: Teach Us to Pray

### • 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: **Maundy Thursday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.**

### • Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings once a month after worship. Next meeting: **Sunday, April 27** in the Alcove



# 150th Planning is Underway!!

2025 is a special year for First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica - our 150th Anniversary! Our church was founded the same year as the City of Santa Monica, and we have been an integral part of this community since the beginning. **We look forward to a special worship service and celebration event on Sunday, October 12, 2025.** We will also have special events throughout the season, starting September 7, to commemorate this special milestone. We look forward to the planning and moments together as we remember our past, celebrate the present, and hope for the future. Contact the church office for special volunteer opportunities: [info@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:info@santamonicaumc.org)



## LA Fires Response

In the wake of the fires that have devastated the Los Angeles area, we now take time to connect with one another and process what has happened. In this time of crisis, we come together to support one another. Visit the website for support and volunteer opportunities:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/la-fire-response](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/la-fire-response)

*March 7, 2025: See Message of Support from Bishop Escobedo-Frank (sent to First UMCSM as well as 10 other local UMC churches)*

On the website: [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org)

## Order Easter Flowers

Now is the time to dedicate Easter Flowers in honor of a loved one for a small donation. Dedications will be listed in the OOW for the April 20 Easter service.

Order flowers online:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund), or at the

Sunday Welcome Table. \$15 per plant.

**Deadline to order: Tuesday, April 15**



## Giving Matters

There are many ways to contribute to the mission and ministry of First UMC. You may give online via the QR code on the right (*Point your phone camera at the QR code and click on yellow link*), via mail, or onsite through the church office mail slot. To learn more about ways to give, including the annual Stewardship campaign, Planned Giving, Tree of Life, support for the Music Program, and the flower fund, visit: [www.santamonicaumc.org/give](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/give)



## Stay Connected

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

**First UMC website:** [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)

**Instagram:** @santamonicaumc

**YouTube:** @SantaMonicaUMC

**The First UMC App:** App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM.



## All Church Cookbook! Call Out For Recipes

In celebration of our 150th Anniversary, we are excited to announce an All-Church Cookbook, and we need your recipes! How to participate:

- Submit One (1) Family recipe
- Submit a photo of your choice (*family pic or of the recipe*)
- A brief description (2 - 3 sentences) of why you chose this recipe

Send your submissions to Tina Gage:

[t.gage@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.gage@santamonicaumc.org), or, stop by the Sunday Welcome Table to drop off your submission.

**Deadline to submit is Sunday, May 25. Cookbooks will be available in the Fall.**

