



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Palm Sunday • April 13, 2025

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Amazing Grace (arr. Dale Wood)

Ty Woodward, organ

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dorothy Nichols, Lay Lector

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna! Rejoice for the Lord is in our midst.

He comes with joy and hope.

He comes to set us free from fear.

Hosanna!

Hosanna! Glory to God in the Highest Heaven.

*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)

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dorothy Nichols

Please greet those worshipping near you.

*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Molly Smith, Lay Leader

#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 the Education Building.

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!

HYMN #277 UMH — Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

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 HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE PSALM Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Dorothy Nichols

THE GOSPEL Luke 19:28-40

Dan Nessel

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

SERMON "Welcoming the New King"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Dan Nessel

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.

OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates (G. F. Handel)

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty. Who is the King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory, of glory.

*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

God of Peace, who reigns in unexpected ways, we gather before you in this season of Lent, bringing our gifts as an offering of our hearts. Just as the crowd welcomed Jesus with shouts of praise, we offer our lives in service to your kingdom. Use these gifts to bring hope, healing, and love to a world longing for your peace. Guide us to give generously with joyful hearts, knowing that in our giving, we proclaim your reign of grace. Bless these offerings and all who give in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #278 UMH – Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Toccata (from Suite Gothique) – Léon Boëllmann

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.



—**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. Available Sundays: April 27. May 4/11/18/25.

—**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. 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.

—**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.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of SANTA MONICA
1008 Eleventh Street
Santa Monica, CA 90403
www.santamonicaumc.org
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Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

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HOLY WEEK

SUNDAY INSERT • APRIL 13, 2025

Today! Palm Sunday

10 a.m. Sanctuary, Livestream

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

Today! Palm Sunday Brunch

Easter Bunny/Egg Hunt

11 a.m. in Simkins Hall

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

• Good Friday Labyrinth Walk

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

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

• 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 SUNDAY

APRIL 20: Easter Sunrise Service

6:30 a.m. Palisades Park

(Santa Monica Blvd. & Ocean Ave.)

Family-friendly worship, Holy Communion, hot coffee & fellowship. Bring blankets, chairs, & fresh flowers for the cross.

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)*



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

• History and Archives Community Gathering

One way we will celebrate First UMC's 150 years is to remember and celebrate our history and the stories we share. The History and Archives Committee is hard at work and excited to host a special Community Gathering to prepare for the Fall. We invite all to participate in a special and fun opportunity to look back at old pictures and memorabilia and help us identify people, places, events... and share our stories! Contact Tricia with questions: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org.

Saturday, April 26, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Fireside Room

• World Labyrinth Day at First UMC

The Labyrinth Society — in collaboration with Veriditas, and The Legacy Labyrinth Project— invites you to join in celebrating World Labyrinth Day! **Walk as One at 1 p.m.** On this 17th 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.

Saturday, May 3, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Simkins Hall

• United Women in Faith Senior Scholarship Luncheon

The United Women in Faith are excited to celebrate six high school graduates for a special scholarship recognition, on Sunday, May 4, after worship in the Fireside Room. All are invited to join in the celebration! There is a \$15 charge for the lunch to offset costs. Please RSVP (for lunch count): UWFsantamonica@gmail.com

Sunday, May 4, after worship in the Fireside Room

• Messy Camp registration - Open Now

Join Santa Monica First UMC for Messy Camp, a one week summer program for children in grades K through 5th grade. The week is full of fun and games, music and movement, scripture stories and crafts, science and mission projects. We explore our beautiful and messy world together, and learn ways we can make our community and world a better place. \$150/first child, \$125/each additional sibling.

Monday, July 28 - Friday, August 1, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Register Now on the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/messy-camp

MISSION AND SERVICE

• Relay for Life

The Health Ministry Council is excited to announce First UMC is supporting the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life at Drake Stadium at UCLA. Relay for Life strives to bring communities together to remember loved ones lost, honor survivors of all cancers, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society make a global impact on cancer. A special event is the Luminaria walk – to remember those we've lost, celebrate cancer survivors, and show everyone affected by cancer that we are the light in the darkness. You may walk at any time for any length during the 12 hour event. To sign up or donate to the team:

www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry

Saturday, April 19, 12 p.m. noon to 12 a.m. midnight
340 Charles E. Young Dr. W, Los Angeles, 90024

• Ongoing Volunteer Opportunity at The People Concern

Linda Diane Anderson runs a volunteer group on the **third Saturday of the month** at The People Concern, making sandwiches and assembling sack lunches. The shift is 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., but often ends earlier. Volunteers do not have to work every Saturday or Sunday but are asked to commit to a regular shift each month. If you would like to be part of the group rotation of volunteers, contact Tricia:

t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org.

• Mission and Outreach partners

We at First UMC work in partnership with a variety of groups and organizations throughout our community and the larger UMC to bring hope and healing where it is needed most. **Visit the website:**

www.santamonicaumc.org/outreach-missions

• Westside Food Bank

Westside Food Bank is continuing its efforts to assist those affected by the LA fires. Canned food is collected at First UMC every Sunday to benefit the Westside Food Bank. Food bins can be found outside the Sanctuary and in the Preschool.

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

• 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

YOUTH

• United Methodist Youth Fellowship Group

Weekly UMYF meetings held Sundays 6 - 8 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry

Upcoming Meetings: Apr 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!

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/

• 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

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

• 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. Next meeting: **April 16** 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, May 17**

• 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

• 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. 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



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

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

Order Easter Flowers

Today is the last Sunday to dedicate Easter Flowers in honor of a loved one for a small donation. Dedications will be listed in the OOW for next Sunday's Easter service.

Order flowers online:

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



Stay Connected

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

First UMC website: www.santamonicaumc.org

Facebook: 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 our of 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, 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.

