

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

The Transfiguration of the Lord • Commissioning of the 2018 Haiti Mission Team
February 11, 2018



He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”

— Mark 9:6-7

WE GATHER

WELCOME

Todd Erlandson

PRELUDE Prelude in G (Felix Mendelssohn)

Ty Woodward, Organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #173 United Methodist Hymnal — Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sherry Erlandson, Lay Lector

Holy God, upon a mountain top Jesus was transfigured revealing the glory of your life-giving love.

By his transfiguration enlighten our path:

That we may dare to serve others with humility and compassion

That we may love without judgement or condemnation

To share in his life and his ministry this day and always.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

“Alleluia. Amen.”

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Please greet those worshipping near you.

As a courtesy to others, please silence all cell phones/sound-making devices. *Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ron Theile

#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 their Sunday School classes.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Todd Erlandson

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship, for worship, and for service.

Thanks be to God!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director
Barbara Smith, soloist; David Kossoff, Oboe

Don't Be Weary, Traveler (arr. Karen Seals)

Don't be weary, traveler, come along home to Jesus. My head got wet with the midnight dew, angels bear me witness too. Where to go I did not know, ever since He freed my soul. I look at the world and the world looks new, come along home to Jesus. *[Virginia Slave Song]*

THE LESSON 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (Pew Bible page 180, N.T.)

Sherry Erlandson

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

THE GOSPEL Mark 9:2-9 (Pew Bible page 44, N.T.)

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

SERMON "on transfiguration and being terrified by unconditional love"

Rev. Robert English

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER #2202 TFWS — Come Away with Me

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD

Rev. Keri Olsen

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

Your generous gifts support the ministries and outreach of the church. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC" in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also place your Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card in the offering plate. Give online at any time at www.santamonicaumc.org. Credit cards are now accepted at the Sunday Hospitality Table during Coffee Fellowship. Thank you. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts.

THE OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir

Unfold, Ye Portals *from* The Redemption (Charles Gounod)

Unfold, unfold, unfold, ye portals everlasting. With welcome to receive Him ascending on high behold the King of glory! He mounts up through the sky, back to the heav'nly mansions hasting. Unfold, unfold, unfold, for lo, the King comes nigh. But who is He the King of glory? He who death overcame, the Lord in battle mighty. But who is He the King of glory? Of hosts He is the Lord, of angels and of powers: the King of glory is the King of the saints.

* RESPONSE #94 UMH – The Doxology

* UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Olsen

O God, you call us to participate in your work of extravagant mercy and compassionate justice. We offer ourselves to you and to the world, which is your own. Give us courage and conviction that we may joyfully follow you into new adventures of faithful service, led by the light that shines through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SENDING FORTH THE 2018 HAITI MISSION TEAM (*see insert*)

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* HYMN #2173 TFWS – Shine, Jesus, Shine

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Crown Imperial March (William Walton)

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.

FAMILY INFO

—Nursery Care is available at 9 a.m. in Room 204 in the Education Building. Parents with young children are welcome to worship in the sanctuary or in the Kids Zone in the narthex.

—A changing table is provided in the restroom located in the hallway west of the Fireside Room.

—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.

WORSHIP INFO

—Rev. Patricia Farris is in meetings via Skype with the UM Committee on Faith and Order in the Côte d'Ivoire today.

—Tricia Guerrero is participating in the Upward Bound House Home Run for Kids today.

—Please see an usher if you need information or assistance.

—Flowers: "In loving memory of Mary Knowlton, mother and grandmother." Dedicated by Richard and Yolanda, Jonathan and Jared Knowlton.

—To request prayers, fill in a Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card and place it in the offering plate during worship.

—If there are Prayer Quilts on the north wall of the sanctuary, you are invited to pray over and tie knots on the quilts.

—Visit the Fireside Room to view *Shining Through: Photographs of First UMC Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows*, by photographer Fabian Lewkowicz.

—Stop by the Hospitality Table in Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center during Coffee Fellowship for information or to ask whatever might be on your mind! We're here to serve you.

—Next Sunday: First Sunday in Lent; Baptism; Rev. Patricia Farris will preach.

MISSIONS

—We collect food weekly for the Westside Food Bank. In February, please bring canned tuna.

—The Haiti Mission Team departs February 15. Please pray over and tie a knot in the prayer squares on the table along the north wall; each member of the team will take a prayer square with them.

—In today's Order of Worship is a Prayer for Haiti card. Let us pray daily for our team and for the people of Haiti.

Resident Bishop
Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
 West District Superintendent
Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa

Senior Minister
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 New & Emerging Ministries
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Ty Woodward

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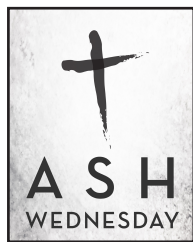
Head Custodian
Javier Espinosa

God is real. God is love. ■ Every person matters. You matter. ■ 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

February 11, 2018



One Wednesday a year, sometime in February or March, you notice someone at work, school, or elsewhere with a smudge on her forehead. It looks as if she missed a spot when washing. Then you see another who looks as though he needs to glance in the mirror. By the time you see the third, you realize it is Ash Wednesday and these passersbys must have received the “imposition of ashes.” This practice we use to mark the first day of Lent may seem odd. People go to church mid-week to have a cleric place dirt on their foreheads. In the early days of the church, it was even more dramatic. Pastors did not dip their thumbs into the ashes to draw the shape of a cross on your forehead. Instead, they poured or sprinkled ashes over your head.

Why ashes?

In “A Service for Worship for Ash Wednesday” in the *United Methodist Book of Worship*, two suggestions of what worship leaders may say as they make the sign of the cross on another’s forehead are offered: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” and “Repent, and believe the gospel.” Ashes were an ancient symbol of our humanity. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). The Hebrew word translated *dust*, is occasionally translated *ashes* elsewhere.

Receiving the imposition of ashes is a powerful way to confront our humanity and mortality. They remind us that we are not God, but God’s good creation. In them we recognize that our bodies will not last forever, and come face-to-face with the reality of our eventual death. But, it is not the end of the story! Lent leads to Easter, the day we celebrate that though our bodies are temporary and our lives are flawed, a day of resurrection will come when we will live in the presence of God forever.

Here at First UMC we offer two Ash Wednesday services in the Chapel. The ashes used for the services come from the burned palms of last year’s Palm Sunday Service. Javier Espinosa quietly performs his own ritual of carefully burning the palms that were saved from the previous year. We invite you to this intimate and reflective service that marks the beginning of the Lenten season.

Ash Wednesday Services: Wednesday, February 14, 12:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., in the Chapel

The First UMC Lenten Devotional: Lent can be a deeply personal time for renewal and reflection. In the early church, it was the time when new converts prepared for baptism by prayer, study and fasting. This collection of writings is offered to you for your own Lenten meditations. It is the work of our members, sharing their faith and their stories. There is one devotional for each day of Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Our “theme” this year is *Love God and Love Creation*; you will find many of these writings slanted to this kind of thinking. You may also find suggestions as to what you can do that day to love God and love Creation.

Please join us in these readings and all our Lenten opportunities for worship, service, prayer and observance. You may pick up the devotional in the narthex, or you may sign up online for a daily Devotional email: www.santamonicaumc.org/devotionals.

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1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403
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WORSHIP & PRAYER

Sunday 10 a.m. **Sanctuary Worship**
 Sunday 5 p.m. **simple church**
simple church theme: on transfiguration and being terrified by unconditional love

MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today - Home Run for Kids (off-site)
 Haiti Work Team Commissioning
 11 a.m. Pennies for Haiti, SH
 11:30 a.m. Five Wishes Seminar, FR
Monday, February 12
 5 p.m. CAST Auditions, 6th-12th graders, SH
Wednesday, February 14
 9 a.m. UMW Workparty/Lunch, WR
 12:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Chapel
 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Chapel
Thursday, February 15 - Haiti Work Team departs
Saturday, February 17
 9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilt Workparty, Room 300
 10 a.m. DanceFit, SH
 10:30 a.m. Kling Memorial/Reception, Chapel/FR
Sunday, February 18 - Baptism • First Sunday in Lent
 11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, SH
 11:30 a.m. Memorial Planning Seminar, FR
 2:30 p.m. Walk the Labyrinth, SH

CHILDREN & YOUTH**Children's Ministry**

February Theme: Who Then Is This?
 Bible Verse: "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!" Mark 4:41
 Anchor Point: Jesus shows God's Power.
 Sunday Theme: The Four Friends

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

6 p.m. UMYF, Chapel
 6 p.m. Youth Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY**Pennies for Haiti - Today**

First UMC is sending 9 volunteers to Haiti from February 15-25. Joining with Église Methodiste d'Haiti (United Methodist Church of Haiti), we will be lending our time, talent, and faith to help our Haitian brothers and sisters by building and strengthening sustainable communities. Bring spare change (or cash!) to the Pennies for Haiti fundraiser after worship today. To find out more, and to help support this trip, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/haiti

Aging with Dignity: Five Wishes & Memorial Planning

Congregation Care Visitor Anne Premer and Rev. Robert English will lead a 2-Part Series open to all. Light refreshments served. No charge.

PART 1: Five Wishes - Today

We'll walk through the Five Wishes - a living will that's changing the way we talk about and plan for care at the end of life, addressing your medical, personal, emotional and spiritual needs. Seminar includes a video from Aging with Dignity, the national non-profit organization with a mission to affirm and safeguard the human dignity of individuals as they age and to promote better care for those near the end of life. Led by Anne Premer.

Today, 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

PART 2: Funeral/Memorial Planning

Discover the importance of funeral/memorial service planning, and other spiritual considerations when dealing with end of life care. Come for yourself as well as your family - it's a wonderful gift to yourself and your loved ones. Led by Rev. Robert English.

Next Sunday, February 18, 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

After worship, all are invited to stay for Coffee Fellowship in Simkins Hall.

If you are a new visitor today, feel free to ask any questions you may have at the Hospitality Table in the Simkins Hall Alcove.

FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

CAST Auditions - Aladdin Jr.

Children's After School Theater is calling all youth! CAST is holding auditions for their Spring production of the musical *Aladdin Jr.*, for 6th-12th graders. Audition materials will be provided there. For questions or to RSVP: cast@santamonicaumc.org.

Monday, February 12, 5 p.m. Simkins Hall

DanceFit

First UMC member Whitney Hagan leads DanceFit: "DanceFit is inspired by Zumba, a high-energy interval workout set to upbeat music, featuring choreographed dance tailored for fitness. It's a full body workout, targeting your core, arms, legs, and glutes. What if I can't dance? You don't need to be a great dancer to feel welcome in DanceFit! The class is designed for multiple levels, including beginners. We emphasize moving to the music and having fun regardless of your fitness level." (No charge.)

Saturday, February 17: 10 - 11 a.m. Simkins Hall

Standing Together

A new *Standing Together* group is forming. This is a group of approximately 10 people from First UMC and 10 from the group of our Muslim neighbors that gather for Friday Prayers in our Fireside Room each week. The group meets for seven sessions. These will be held on Sunday afternoons tentatively scheduled for 7 Sundays between March 4 and June 3.

The purpose is to get to know one another as friends and neighbors and learn about one another's religious faith and practice. We share some common readings, discussion, and food. We have provided child care for past groups and have had the joy of our children becoming friends as well as the adults. Let Rev. Patricia know at your earliest convenience if you are interested or have questions about the experience.

Walk the Labyrinth

The Labyrinth laid in the Simkins Hall floor of First UMC is a replica of the Chartres Labyrinth laid in the cathedral around 1220 CE. Walking the Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice, a way to quiet our minds and open our spirits to the presence of the Holy. Every step a prayer.

Sunday, February 18, 2:30 p.m. Simkins Hall

NEW- simple church presents: Blessing of the Bicycles, Walkers, Canes and Human Mobility Devices

On Palm Sunday, come to a special new service. As we consider the gift of creation and how to be better stewards of this gift, we are taking some time to bless the devices that helps us to navigate this world by human power. A potluck will follow the blessing.

Sunday, March 25, 4:30 - 6 p.m. Fireside Room / Courtyard

Please wear your name tag to worship every Sunday. If you would like a name tag, or need a replacement, email info@santamonicaumc.org, or go to the Sunday Hospitality Table, to order a new one.

In Case of Emergency....

Are you prepared for an emergency? Recent disasters around the world have focused our attention on what we need to know should a calamity strike our beloved church or a member of the congregation. Do we know who to contact on your behalf, if you are unable to speak for yourself?

Please take a few moments to **fill out an Emergency Contact Form**, available at the Sunday Hospitality Table every Sunday morning. We are requesting two contacts other than your spouse. If you've done this in the past, please fill out a new form so we can update your file. The information is for First UMC purposes only, and will be used only in case of an emergency.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Houston Mission Work Team

This church community has felt called to respond in many ways after the devastation in Houston from Hurricane Harvey. A work team will be sent to Houston in April to continue to put our faith into action. If you are interested or would like to learn more, email Team Leader, Tricia Guerrero: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org or call the church office. Visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/houston

Cal-Pac Responding to Fires and Mudslides

Representatives of the California-Pacific Conference have been present at meetings in different locations near disaster areas for the past few weeks, organizing to respond with a number of different organizations inside and outside of the church. To find out how you can help with donations, volunteering, and more, go to:

www.santamonicaumc.org/disaster-response

For more mission opportunities, go to:
www.santamonicaumc.org/outreach-missions.

OPEN INVITATIONS

Prayer Quilt Ministry

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is an outreach ministry that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. There are a number of ways to be involved: When a prayer quilt is hanging in the Sanctuary come tie a knot and say a prayer. Remember the recipients in your prayers in the following days. *Correction: Sue Payne and Maile Marquand, chairs of the Prayer Quilt Ministry, will speak during Moments for Mission during worship Sunday March 11, not today as previously stated.

Next meeting: Saturday, February 17, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., Room 300

United Methodist Women (UMW)

The organized unit of United Methodist Women is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. Their Wednesday work party meets weekly for fellowship, lunch, and crafting. They work year-round to prepare for their annual their annual Holiday Bazaar which benefits mission projects and is their principal fundraiser. For more information on the UMW contact Betty Storm: betty.storm@gmail.com.

HOLY WEEK 2018

MARCH 25: PALM SUNDAY

10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Worship is followed by **Easter Egg Hunt and Family Brunch**

NEW: 4:30 p.m. simple church:

Blessing of the Bicycles, Walkers, Canes and Human Mobility Devices,

Courtyard/Fireside Room

MARCH 29: MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Worship

(child care provided)

MARCH 30: GOOD FRIDAY

Chapel open for Prayer 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Labyrinth open for walk 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

12:10 p.m. Community Service - First Presbyterian Church

1220 2nd St, Santa Monica, CA 90401

MARCH 31: SIMPLE CHURCH EASTER VIGIL

7:30 p.m. Courtyard/Chapel

An ancient liturgy of Light, Word, and Communion

APRIL 1: EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service

Palisades Park (Santa Monica Blvd. & 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, Lilies, and Alleluias!
(nursery care provided)

www.santamonicaumc.org/lent

A SERVICE OF SENDING FORTH

Commissioning the Haiti Mission Team

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Team responds in bold italics. Congregation responds in bold type.

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Keri Olsen

As Christians, we are to make the Lord Jesus Christ known to all people. We hear this in his words: "I give you a new commandment.... Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (*John 13:34-35*)

In Jesus' final command, we hear: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And, remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (*Matthew 28:19-20*)

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEAM

Grace Cho, Charity Goldberg, Katie Goldstein, Mahetzi Hernandez, Glenda Martinez, Michael Olsson, John Pfister, and leaders Todd & Sherry Erlandson.

TO THE TEAM

Rev. Robert English

Through our baptism we are called into a life of mission and service. We celebrate you and this task as you go forth in the Spirit. Through the gift of your service and love, you show the infinite love that God has for all people. This is both a privilege and a responsibility, and we ask that you now publicly affirm your commitment to God's work. Will you love, accept, and respect the persons whom you serve?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek to work in glad cooperation and mutual support with other workers, being sensitive and helpful according to the needs presented to you?

I will, with God's help.

TO THE TEAM (CONTINUED)

Rev. English

Will you answer God's call and live in God's Word, demonstrating your love of Jesus Christ and the church which you represent?

I will, with God's help.

Do you sincerely believe that the work you are about to undertake is the work of God for our world?

I do so believe.

COMMISSIONING AND ANOINTING OF HANDS

Rev. English

I commission you to share the love of Jesus Christ through the gift of your service in Haiti. We now anoint your hands with oil as a sign of the holy work which you will be doing.

Let us pray: Almighty God, bless these hands that will touch life. Bless these hands that will reach out and be received. Bless these hands that will be dirty and calloused by your work of bringing hope. Bless the work of your hands. **Amen.**

TO THE CONGREGATION

Michael Lamb, Lay Leader

Sisters and Brothers, I commend to you these persons whom we have commissioned to serve in Haiti. They are representatives of Christ and the church. I commend them to you for your love, your care, your prayers, and your support for the work that they will perform.

PLEDGE OF THE CONGREGATION

We rejoice to recognize you as representatives of our church, and thank God for your dedication and your gift of service. We send you forth with our prayers and our support, and, with you, we renew our commitment to God and service in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We pray God's blessings for you and all those in Haiti. Amen.