

from dust to destiny

six weeks in the stories of Genesis

September 6, 2026
11:00AM

OUR INVITATION

Because we believe that every person is a beloved child of God, on a journey to God, with God, we welcome ALL people, *without exception*, to participate fully in the life of this church.

OUR MISSION

First United Methodist Church exists to build a community where all people are invited to know God's love and to join God in transforming the world.

OUR VALUES

Justice. Working to eradicate injustice for the excluded and marginalized. *Bridge-Building.* Nurturing multigenerational friendships and community partnerships. *Storytelling.* Sharing our stories of faith and of growth. *Active Learning.* Pursuing knowledge and understanding of God. *Service.* Seeking mutually empowering service opportunities. *Constructive Disruption.* Disrupting systems of power to create positive change.

OUR FAMILIES

We love children in worship. Activity clipboards and other materials for children are available at the back of the Sanctuary. Our Family Room in the balcony offers rockers, books, toys, and a diaper change station for parents with infants and toddlers. Childcare is available from 8:45AM-12:15PM for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in EDU Room 102.



LEARN MORE AT
www.fumcaustin.org

GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

Asterisks () indicate an invitation to stand as you are able.*

GATHERING VOLUNTARY

GREETING

As you prepare for worship, please greet your neighbors and fill out a Connections Card. You can find the printed version in the pew in front of you or you can use the QR code on the front page of the FUMC Weekly. To let our pastors know about a prayer request for you or someone you love, you can use the printed Connections Card that will be placed in the offering basket when it is passed or you can use the QR code found on the front of the FUMC Weekly.

Response: I was glad when they said to me,
“**Let us go to the house of the Lord!**”

Psalm 122:1

ENTERING THE HOLY

INTROIT

We Will Worship You, Lord

We will worship you, Lord, with all of our might,
we will praise you with a psalm;
we will worship you, Lord, with all of our might,
we will praise you all day long.

For thou, O Lord, art glorious,
and thy name is greatly to be praised;
may our hearts be pure and holy in thy sight
as we worship you with all of our might.

Words and Music: Daniel Gardner © 1981 Integrity's Hosanna! Music.

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* CALL TO WORSHIP

All the earth honors the Lord;
all of creation stands in awe of God.
Because when God spoke, it happened!
When God commanded, there it was!

Kings are not saved by the strength of their armies;
warriors are not rescued by their power.
Today, we put our hope in God;
God's faithful love fills the whole earth.

* HYMN

O God Who Shaped Creation

1. O God who shaped cre - a - tion at earth's cha - o - tic dawn, your
 2. O God, when trin - kets tar - nish and plea - sures lose their charm, when,
 3. In mer - cy and com - pas - sion your good - ness is re - vealed; with

word of pow'r was spo - ken, and lo! the dark was gone! You
 wea - ried by our wan - d'ring, we seek your o - pen arm, with
 ten - der - ness you touch us, and bro - ken hearts are healed. You

framed us in your im - age, you brought us in - to birth, you
 moth - er - like com - pas - sion you share your warm em - brace; you
 claim us as your chil - dren, you strip our pride - ful shame; with

blessed our in - fant foot - steps and shared your splen - dored earth.
 set for us a ban - quet and heal us through your grace.
 free - dom born of mer - cy we bless your ho - ly name!

Words: William W. Reid, Jr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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Music: *Ellacombe*, Gesangbuch der H. W. K. Hofkapelle; Harm. W. H. Monk

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit,
enliven us,
energize us,
and focus our attention.

Come, Holy Spirit,
prepare our hearts
to meet the living God.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-2:4

SERMON

The Character of the Creator

RESPONDING IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE FAITH JOURNEY

Are you interested in what it means to be a member of First Church? First Steps is an informal gathering where you can meet the pastors and staff, learn about United Methodist beliefs, hear more about our many ministry opportunities, ask questions about this community of faith, and explore whether membership at First Church is your next step in faith. The next First Steps Class is Sunday, September 13, at 12:15PM in the FLC Garrison Chapel. Lunch is provided and childcare is available in EDU Room 102. To sign up, fill out a Connections Card and place it in the offering basket or go online at fumcaustin.org/first-steps.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God!

When I in awesome wonder

consider all the works

thy hands have made.

I see the stars,

I hear the mighty thunder,

thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul,

my Savior God, to thee:

how great thou art!

And when I think that God,

his Son not sparing,

sent him to die,

I scarce can take it in;

that on the cross,

my burden gladly bearing,

he bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come

with shouts of acclamation and take me home,

what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration

and there proclaim,

my God, how great thou art!

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Arr. Craig Courtney © 1994 Manna Music, Inc.

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* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures here be -
low: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our
gifts! Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly
Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a fermata over the final note. The second staff has a fermata over the first 'Al - le - lu - ia!'. The third staff has a fermata over the final note. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

Words: Thomas Ken; Adapt. Gilbert H. Vieira © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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Music: *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*, Geistliche Kirchengesänge; Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

FEASTING AT THE TABLE OF GRACE

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *All*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *All*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant *All*
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score is written on three staves in B-flat major (two flats) and 3/4 time. The first staff is for the Celebrant and All, with a fermata over the final note. The second staff is for the Celebrant and All, with a fermata over the final note. The third staff is for the Celebrant and All, with a fermata over the final note. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Pastor gives thanks, recalling God's story of abundance.

...For your grace and for all your mercies toward us,
we join your people on earth and all the company of heaven
in proclaiming your praise:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of pow'r and might.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - - - - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blest is the One who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Please be seated. Pastor continues leading the prayer, recalling the acts of Christ.

...In remembrance of all your mighty acts on our behalf,
we bring our whole selves to you,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Ho - san - na in the high - - - est!

Pastor continues leading the prayer, asking God to pour out God's Holy Spirit on us and this meal.

...Through Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,
 now and forever.

A - men. A - men. A - - - - - men.

Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Ho - san - na in the high - - - - - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God in heaven,
 hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come,
 your will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom,

the power,

and the glory, forever.

Amen.

HYMNS DURING RECEIVING

All Who Hunger



1. All who hun-ger, gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
2. All who hun-ger, nev - er stran-gers, seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
3. All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mun - ion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their lives in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

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Music: Bob Moore © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

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Come Share the Lord



1. We gath - er here in Je - sus' name, his love is
(3. He joins us) here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who
(5. We'll gath - er) soon where an - gels sing; we'll see the

burn - ing in our hearts like liv - ing flame; for through God's lov - ing Son we now are
pours the cup is ris - en from the dead; the one we love the most is now our
glo - ry of our Lord and com - ing King; now we an - ti - ci - pate the feast for

Fine
joined as one:
gra - cious host: come, take the bread, come drink the wine, come share the Lord.
which we wait:

2. No one is a stran - ger here, --- ev - ery - one be - longs; find - ing our for -
4. We are now a fam - i - ly of which the Lord is head; though un - seen he

give - ness here, we in turn for - give all wrongs. 3. He joins us
meets us here in the break - ing of the bread. 5. We'll gath - er

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PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

In gratitude, in deep gratitude

for this moment,

this meal,

these people,

we give ourselves to you.

Send us out to live as changed people

because we have shared the Living Bread

and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us,
expect much from us,
enable much by us,
encourage many through us.
So, Lord, may we live to your glory,
both as inhabitants of earth
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.
Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

See Back Page

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed on the chancel by Ken and Elizabeth Lerner in thanksgiving for their marriage and in celebration of their 43rd wedding anniversary.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist: Reverend Cathy Stone

Music: Scott Davis

GREAT THANKSGIVING MUSICAL RESPONSES

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LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING

1. Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks -
 2. The law God en - forc - es, the stars in their

giv - ing to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly
 cours - es and sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly

raise; who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and
 shine; the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and

stayed us, by guid - ing us on to the end of our
 foun - tains, the deeps of the o - cean pro - claim the Di -

days. God's ban - ners are o'er us, pure light goes be -
 vine. We, too, should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us

night: till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is
 raise, till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks -

ban - ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 giv - ing; to God in the high - est ho - san - na and praise!

Words: Katherine K. Davis © 1939 E. C. Schirmer Music Co. renewed 1966

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Music: *The Ash Grove*, Welsh Folk Tune