

from dust to destiny

six weeks in the stories of Genesis

September 20, 2026
9:00AM

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

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing! fresh from the Word!
Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjeon

Music: *Bunessan*, Gaelic Melody; Arr. Alec Wyton © 1982 The Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing Inc.

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* CALL TO WORSHIP

A time set apart,
a time to come together;
a space filled with silence,
a space filled with song;
hearts seeking solace,
hearts overflowing with joy;
this is the day the Lord has made.
Let us worship God.

* HYMN

The God of Sarah Praise

1. The God of Sa - rah praise, the God of dreams long dead,
 2. The God of A - brah'm praise, the God of all who roam,
 3. The God of Ha - gar praise, the God of those op - pressed,
 4. Our God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,

who brings forth un - ex - pect - ed life, dis - arm - ing dread.
 who guides us in - to for - eign lands and makes our home.
 who sees the lost and o - ver - looked and calls them blessed.
 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!" cry, "Al - might - y King!

Though grief lasts through the night, joy ris - es with the sun;
 When dark - ness shrouds our path, the stars, as pledg - es shine.
 Though wan - der - ing a - lone through des - erts of de - spair,
 Who was, and is, the same, and ev - er - more shall be:

God leaves us laugh - ing in sur - prise at death un - done.
 God's cov - e - nant will be ful - filled by love's de - sign.
 God leads us to a well of hope and meets us there.
 Je - ho - vah, Lord, the great I AM, we wor - ship thee!"

Words: Stanzas 1-3, David Bjornlin © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc.

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Stanza 4 from *The Yigdal* of Daniel ben Judah

Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew Melody; Harm. Hymns Ancient and Modern

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 18:1-15

SERMON

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. To sign up, fill out a Connections Card and place it in the offering basket or go online at fumcaustin.org/first-steps.

MISSION EMPHASIS

At the Well

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

Holy Spirit, living breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul;
bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.

Cause your Word to come alive in me;
give me faith for what I cannot see.

Give me passion for your purity,
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within,
may your joy be seen in all I do.

Love enough to cover every sin
in each thought and deed and attitude.

Kindness to the greatest and the least;
gentleness that sows the path of peace.

Turn my striving into works of grace;
breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit from creation's birth,
giving life to all that God has made.

Show your power one again on earth,
cause your church to hunger for your ways.

Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
lead us on the road to sacrifice,
that in unity the face of Christ
will be clear for all the world to see.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; Arr. Mary McDonald © 2006 Thankyou Music

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* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Musical score for 'Presentation of the Offering' in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures 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 music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some measures containing rests.

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!

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

Musical score for 'The Great Thanksgiving' in B-flat major (two flats) and 3/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some measures containing rests. The first two staves are labeled 'Celebrant' and 'All' at the beginning of their respective lines.

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.

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

...And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name
and join their unending hymn:

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!

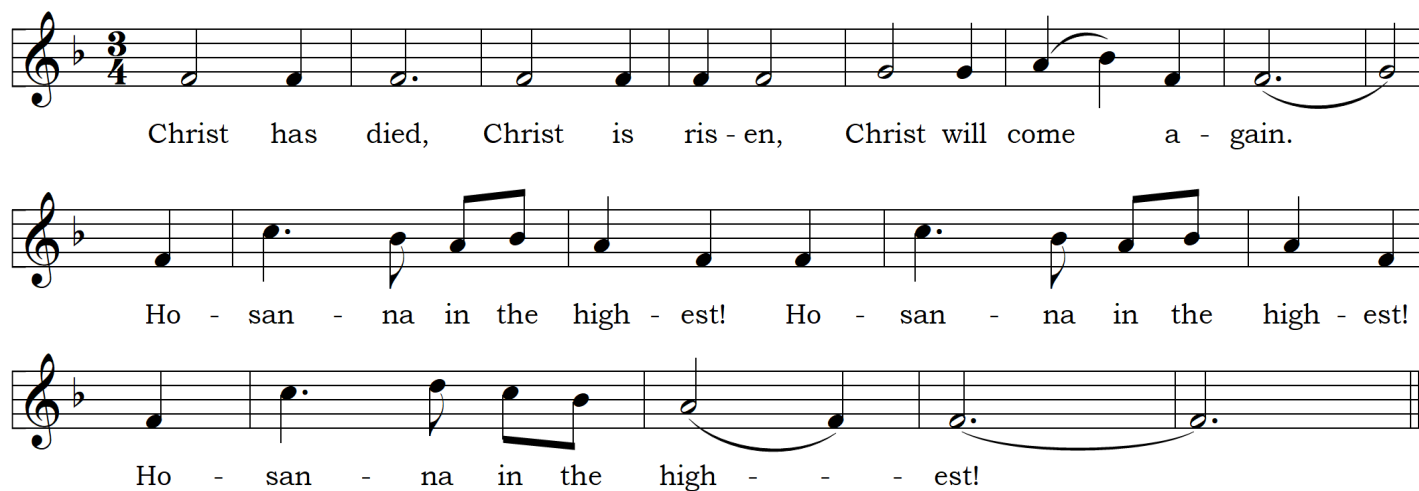
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blest is the One who comes

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.

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



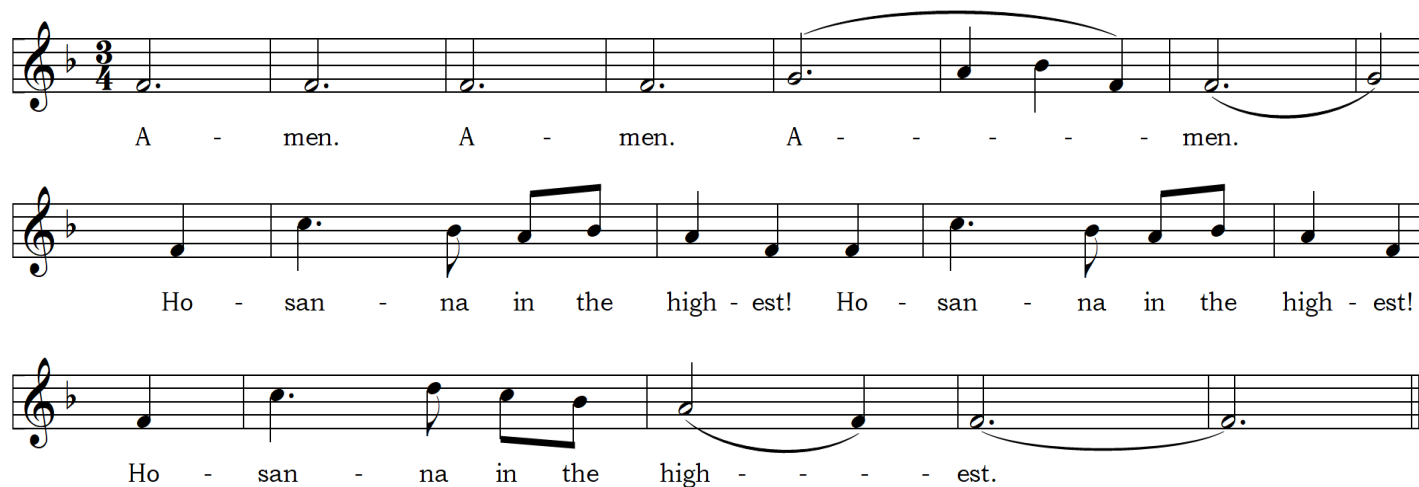
Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

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 your Son Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
 all honor and glory are 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

Let Us Be Bread

Refrain



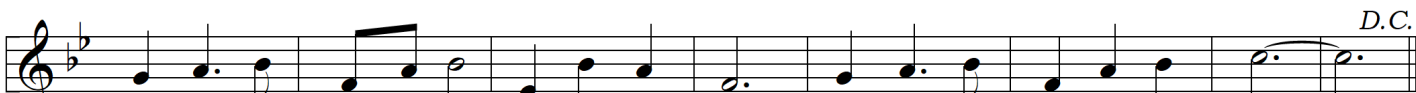
Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and shared, life for the world.

Fine



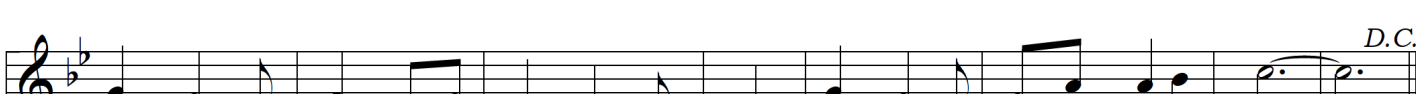
Let us be wine, love free-ly poured. Let us be one in the Lord.____

D.C.



1. I am the bread of life, bro-ken for all. Eat now and hun-ger no more.____

D.C.



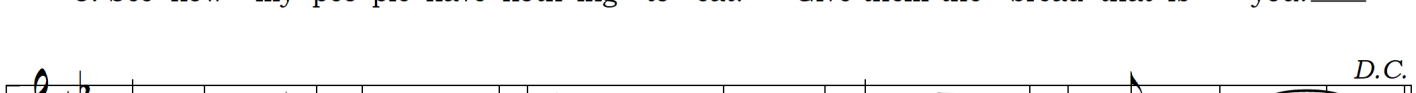
2. You are my friends if you keep my com-mands, no longer ser-vants but friends.

D.C.



3. See how my peo-ple have noth-ing to eat. Give them the bread that is you.____

D.C.



4. As God has loved me so I have loved you. Go and live on in my love.____

Words and Music: Thomas J. Porter © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

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Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

1. Moth-er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright morn - ing of this world.
2. Moth-er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing me your food of light,
3. Moth-er - ing Spir - it, nur-t'ring one, in arms of pa - tience hold me close,

Cre - at - or, source of ev - ery breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
grain of life, and grape of love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
so that in faith I root and grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Words: Jean Anzen, based on the writings of Juliana of Norwich © 1991 Abingdon Press

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Music: Trad. English Melody

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

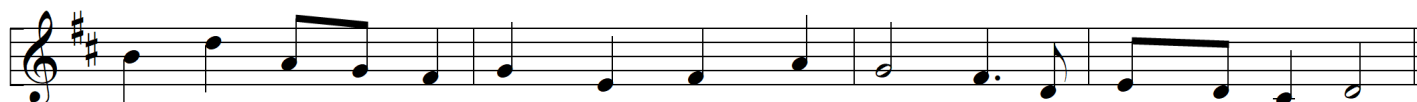
* BENEDICTION

* HYMN

Bring Forth the Kingdom

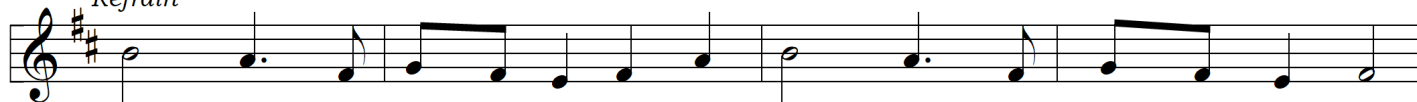


1. We are salt for the earth, O peo - ple: salt for the King - dom of God!
2. We are a light on the hill, O peo - ple: light for the Cit - y of God!
3. We are a seed of the Word, O peo - ple: bring forth the King - dom of God!
4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple: bound for the King - dom of God!



Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the King - dom of God!
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the King - dom of God!
Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the King - dom of God!
Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the King - dom of God!

Refrain



Bring forth the King - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the King - dom of peace;



bring forth the King - dom of jus - tice, bring forth the Cit - y of God!

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VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed on the chancel by Ben and Danielle Thoma in honor of Margery Thoma's birthday and in memory of Dennis DiSarle.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist: Reverend Cathy Stone

Music: Scott Davis

GREAT THANKSGIVING MUSICAL RESPONSES

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Music: Mark A. Miller © 1999, 2000 Abingdon Press

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GIFTS MAKE TRANSFORMATION POSSIBLE

Cash or checks will be received during the offertory. We also have three convenient ways to give online: (1) use your smartphone to scan the QR code provided on the front page of the FUMC Weekly and follow the prompts; (2) use the FUMC App on your smart phone; and/or (3) make an online donation at fumcaustin.org/giving.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00-10:45AM

ADULTS

Our classes offer adults a wide selection of age groups, study topics, and learning styles. Many classes are meeting in person and online. Visit fumcaustin.org/sundayschool.

YOUTH

Sunday School for 6th through 12th grade begins in the Great Hall of the Family Life Center. Learn more at fumcaustin.org/youth.

CHILDREN

Sunday School for preschool through 5th grade is located on the first floor of the Sanctuary Building. Learn more at fumcaustin.org/children.