



March 23, 2025
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 sent 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 or the QR code found on the front of the FUMC Weekly.

During Lent, you are also invited to write particular prayers for new life for yourself, for others, or for our world on the paper butterfly available in the pews. Both the butterflies and Connections Cards can be placed in the offering basket when it is passed.

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

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath,
such a truth as mends in length,
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move,
such a love as none can part,
such a heart as joys in love.

Words: George Herbert

Music: *The Call*, Ralph Vaughan Williams, adapt. E. Harold Geer

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to you, O God,
to thank you for what is good.

**We come to you, O God,
to cry out for what is wrong.**

We come to you, O God,
to ask for help and restoration.

**We come to you, O God,
with aching hearts and glad souls.**

Let us worship God.

Beth Merrill Neel, *Hold Fast to What is Good*

* HYMN

Come Away from Rush and Hurry



1. Come a - way from rush and hur - ry to the still - ness of God's peace;
2. In the pas - tures of God's good - ness we lie down to rest our soul.
3. Come, then, chil - dren, with your bur - dens, life's con - fu - sions, fears and pain.



from our vain am - bi - tion's wor - ry, come to Christ to find re - lease.
From the wa - ters of God's mer - cy we drink deep - ly, are made whole.
Leave them at the cross of Je - sus; take in - stead his king - dom's reign.



Come a - way from noise and clam - or, life's de - mands and fren - zied pace;
At the ta - ble of God's pres - ence all the saints are rich - ly fed.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them, he a - lone will sat - is - fy.



come to join the peo - ple gath - ered here to seek and find God's face.
With the oil of God's a - noint - ing in - to ser - vice we are led.
All our long - ings find at - tain - ment when to self we glad - ly die.

Words: Marva J. Dawn © 1999 Marva J. Dawn; admin. Hope Publishing Co.
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Music: *Beach Spring*, attr. B. F. White

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover peace;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:1-13

Old Testament, page 650

SERMON

Imagination

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, May 4, 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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God, you call us to step more deeply into ourselves
as we amend and awaken to who you desire us to be.
Let us acknowledge our transgressions in stillness and in silence
so that may prepare our hearts for change.

Moment of silence.

**We confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit.
In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way.
Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you.
Our egos have kept us from noticing our missteps;
yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change.
There is another opportunity to bear good fruit.
In a world full of spoiled and rotten produce and systems designed to kill,
we are called to be the change that sustains generations.
Let us lean with you into this chance for transformation.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's grace and mercy abounds.
God is with us in the change.
God's everlasting arms embrace us.
Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free.

Amen.

Reverend Mia McClain, alt.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

There's a Wideness In God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.
For the love of God is broader
than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we should take God at God's word;
and our life would be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

Words: Frederick William Faber

Music: *St. Helena*, Calvin Hampton © 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

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* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Musical notation for the hymn 'Presentation of the Offering'. It consists of two staves of music in G major and 2/2 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise
God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Words: Thomas Ken

Music: *Old 100th*, attr. to Louis Bourgeois

FEASTING AT THE TABLE OF GRACE

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also 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.

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

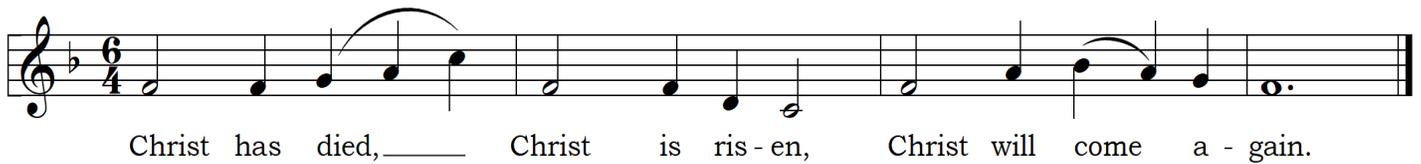
...And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name
and join their unending hymn:

Musical notation for the hymn 'The Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of two staves of music in G minor and 6/4 time. The melody is more complex and expressive, with lyrics written below the notes.

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
2. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
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 risen, Christ will come again.

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.

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.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

HYMNS DURING RECEIVING

340 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

338 Where He Leads Me

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

We Walk by Faith

1., 5. We walk by faith, and not by sight: No gra - cious words we hear
2. We may not touch his hands and side, nor fol - low where he trod;
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief, and may our faith a - bound;
4. That when our life of faith is done in realms of clear - er light

of him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we be - lieve him near.
yet in his prom - ise we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!."
to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found.
we may be - hold you as your are in full and end - less sight.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the treble clef staff.

Words: Henry Alford, alt.

Music: *Martyrdom*, attr. High Wilson

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed on the chancel by Will and Alison Binford in celebration of Emma's 9th birthday.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist: Reverend Dr. Becca Edwards

Cantors: Scott Davis, Courtney Katzmeyer-Vielma, and Victoria Tijerina

GREAT THANKSGIVING MUSICAL RESPONSES

Words: Trad. International Commission on English in the Liturgy

Music: *Land of Rest*, USA folk tune; Adapt. Marcia Pruner

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.



ORDER DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 14

A traditional symbol of Easter, the lily is a flower that seemingly dies away, then returns with new life each year.

You are invited to place lilies in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday to the glory of God and in honor of or in memory of loved ones. Plants cost \$20 each and are florist quality and great for replanting so you can enjoy them long after Easter. You may order lilies by filling in the form below and placing it in basket during the offering or mailing it to the church office; by contacting Tami Kellberg at tami@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 226); or by using the QR code. If paying by check, please write "Easter Lily" on the memo line of your check.



Orders must be received by 10:00AM on Monday, April 14. Plants may be picked up after the 11:00AM worship service on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Name of donor

Phone number (in case of questions)

Amount enclosed (make check payable to FUMC)

The lily is in honor of _____

The lily is in memory of _____

