

from dust to destiny

six weeks in the stories of Genesis

September 27, 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

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* CALL TO WORSHIP

While I live I will praise the Lord;
I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Praise ye the Lord.

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

The One who made heaven and earth and sea;
the One who keeps truth forever.

Praise ye the Lord.

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

The One who makes justice for the oppressed;
the One who feeds the hungry.

Praise ye the Lord.

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

The One who protects the stranger;
the One who upholds the widow and orphan.

Praise ye the Lord.

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

Let us worship God together!

*** HYMN**

Creation Sings

1. Cre - a - tion sings! And we are in the mu - sic, the move - ment
2. Cre - a - tion groans at our dis - cor - dant clash - ing: the Spir - it

of God's en - er - gy and art, a lit - ur - gy that links our life to
comes with mu - sic as our friend to bring the har - mo - ny of peace and

an - gels, a lit - a - ny that ris - es from the heart. The Spir - it
beau - ty, to teach the tex - tures of the way to blend. O God, you

sings! Through love and lam - en - ta - tion, from Pen - te -
draw the mel - o - dy from si - lence, you make of

cost to joy of Eas - ter Day the u - ni - verse is res - o - nant with
us the in - stru - ments of song! We of - fer thanks in wor - ship and in

mu - sic, the small - est crea - ture danc - es to its play.
won - der that such a gift to hu - man souls be - longs.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

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Music: *Londonderry Air*, Traditional Irish Melody

MINISTRY MOMENT

Music Ministry

ANTHEM

Sing Unto God

Sing unto God,
let joyful voices raise
a song of gladness
with unending praise.

Words: Thomas Morell

Music: George Frideric Handel (HWV 63) Judas Maccabeus; Arr. James J. Chepponis

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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 26:12-25

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. The next First Steps Class is Sunday, November 15, 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.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Music Down In My Soul

I hear music in the air.

I can feel it in the air.

There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head I hear singing in the air.

I got this music down in my soul;

and it fills my heart with the joy of the Lord!

I've got it joy everlasting.

I've got it peace everlasting.

I've got it love everlasting.

Do you love the Lord?

I love the Lord!

Words and Music: Traditional Spiritual "Over My Head"; Arr. Moses Hogan

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* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Musical score for 'Presentation of the Offering'. The score is written on four staves in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/4 time. 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!'.

Words: Thomas Ken; Adapt. Gilbert H. Vieira

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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'. The score is written on three staves in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/4 time. 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 score includes parts for 'Celebrant' and 'All'.

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



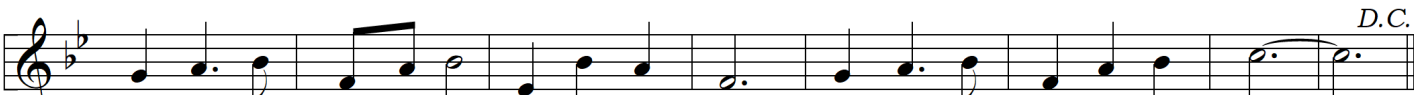
Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and shared, life for the world.

Fine



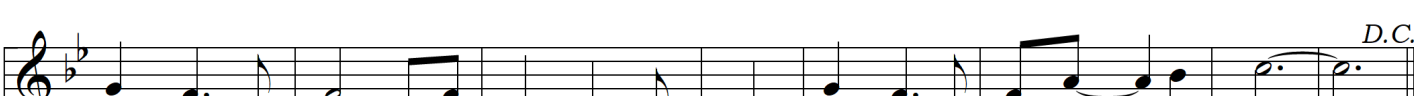
Let us be wine, love free-ly poured. Let us be one in the Lord.____

D.C.



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

D.C.



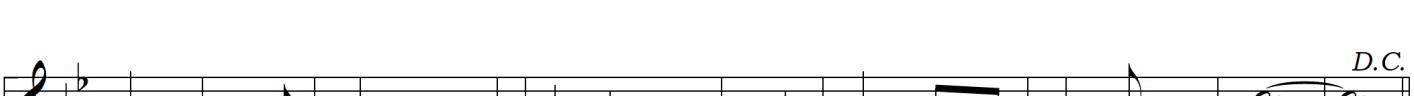
2. You are my friends if you keep my com-mands, no longer ser-vants but friends.

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

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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

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Music: Traditional 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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed on the chancel by the Downtowners Sunday School Class in appreciation of the Modern Families Sunday School Class.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist: Reverend Cathy Stone

Music: Scott Davis

Offertory: Adam Buttyan and Alan Schlichting

GREAT THANKSGIVING MUSICAL RESPONSES

Words

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Music: Mark A. Miller

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SPIRITUALS OFFERING

In worship we often sing songs and hymns from the traditions of the Black Church. This music, born of the enslavement and oppression of Black Americans, began as a way of communicating messages of hope and perseverance. Today we share this music to lift up this witness of determination, inspiration, and eternal life.

Most songs from these traditions were not published until after the names of their creators were long forgotten. In recognition of this, whenever we sing gospel and spiritual songs, we contribute “royalties” as an offering that will support the development of young Black musicians at Huston-Tillotson University.

If you would like to contribute to this offering, please use the envelope provided in the pew or give online at fumcaustin.org/giving and select “Other Designated” in the drop down menu. Please write or type in the memo: Spirituals Offering.

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. To find class contact information, visit fumcaustin.org/sundayschool.

YOUTH

Sunday School for 6th through 12th grade begins in the Great Hall of the Family Life Center. We gather for announcements and then split into middle school and high school groups. Learn more at fumcaustin.org/youth.

CHILDREN

Sunday School for preschool through 5th grade is located on the first floor of the Sanctuary Building. Check in at one of our welcome stations for a name tag and guardian sticker before dropping children off in their classrooms. Childcare is also available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from 8:45AM-12:15PM. Learn more at fumcaustin.org/children.

SUNDAY PARKING

The church parking lot is reserved for mobility-impaired individuals. All able-bodied members are asked to use the free parking available on Sundays in the Peak Parking Garage (owned by the Texas Trial Lawyers Association) at the southwest corner of 13th and Lavaca Streets or at open meters around the church. The garage is open from 7:00AM-2:30PM.