

March 1, 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

Eternal Lord of Love

Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.

Words: Thomas H. Cain

Music: *Old 124th*; Harm. Charles Winfred Douglas

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today
to worship the One who created us,
the One who calls us,
the One who equips us,
the One who loves us without end.

With joyful hearts,
let us worship God.

* HYMN 156

I Love to Tell the Story

Stanzas 1, 3, and 4

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord,
your Word is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love,
and strength to follow on the path you set before us;
through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 3:1-17

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. 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

Lord, I Want a Heart that Follows Thine

Lord, I want a heart that follows only after you
a heart that gives you praise.
Lord, I want a heart that hears your voice,
an undivided heart that will obey.
Lord, I want a heart surrendered to exalt your name,
a heart set free from pride.
Lord, I want a heart where you are great and I am small,
let God be glorified.
Give me a heart that only you can give,
a heart where you can live through me your will divine.
Give me a heart that will not turn aside, completely crucified,
a heart that follows after thine.
Lord, I want a heart where you are Lord and I, your child,
will have but one desire.
Lord, I want a heart that never fails to seek my God,
a heart that never tires.
Lord, I want a heart that always hungers for your word,
a heart to thirst for more.
Lord, I want a heart that holds the promise of your word,
a heart to follow you.
Lord, I want a heart that breaks to sin against my God,
my heart, O God, refine!
Lord, I want a heart for you, my God,
I want a heart that follows after thine.

Words and Music: Steve McCoy

(Used with permission.)

* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures high and low.



Praise God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it one.

Words: Brian Wren © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

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Music: *Old 100th*; Attr. Louis Bourgeois

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.

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.



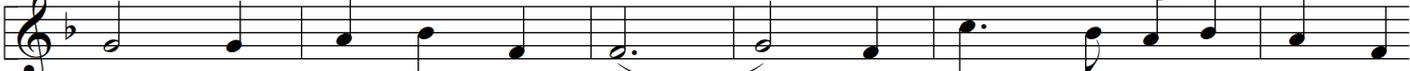
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - - - - ry.



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.

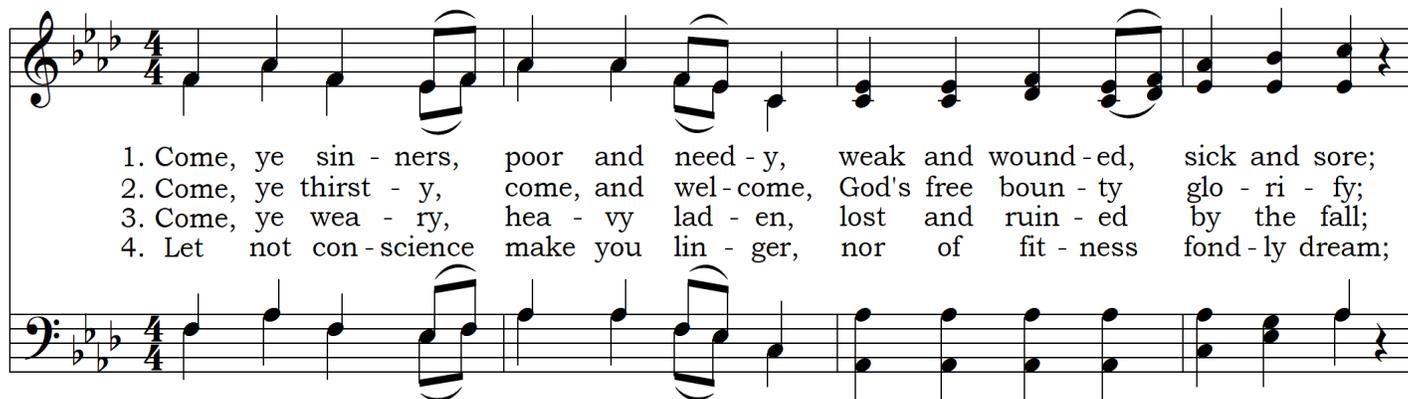
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

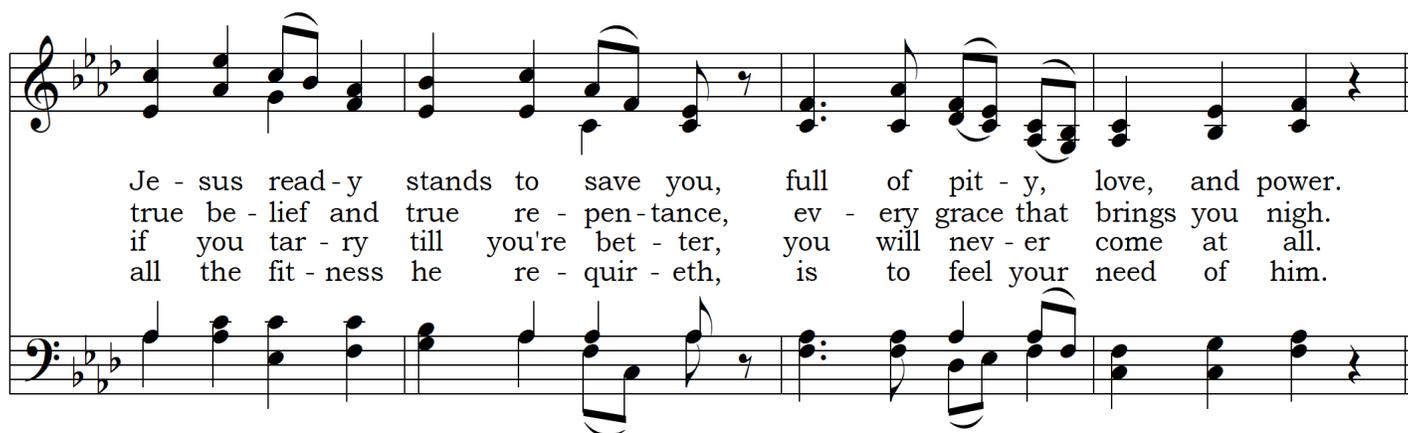
RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Hymn

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

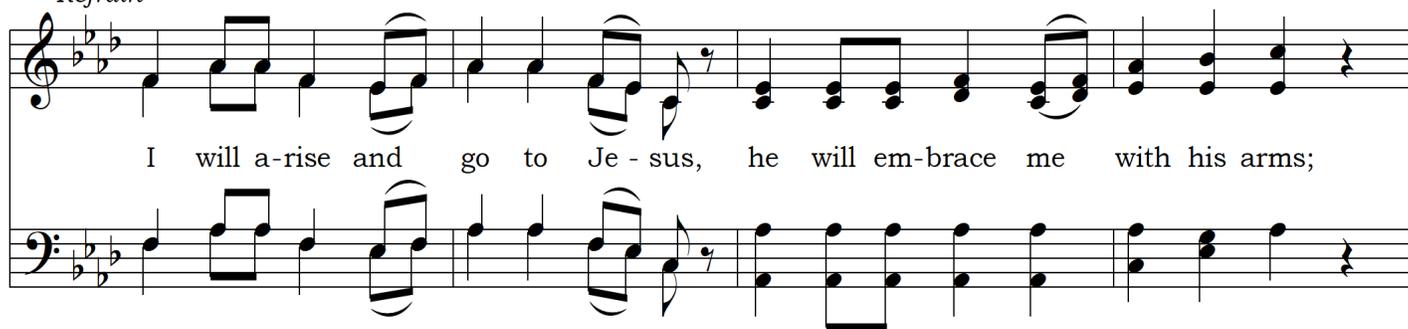


1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound - ed, sick and sore;
2. Come, ye thirst - y, come, and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
3. Come, ye wea - ry, hea - vy lad - en, lost and ruin - ed by the fall;
4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;

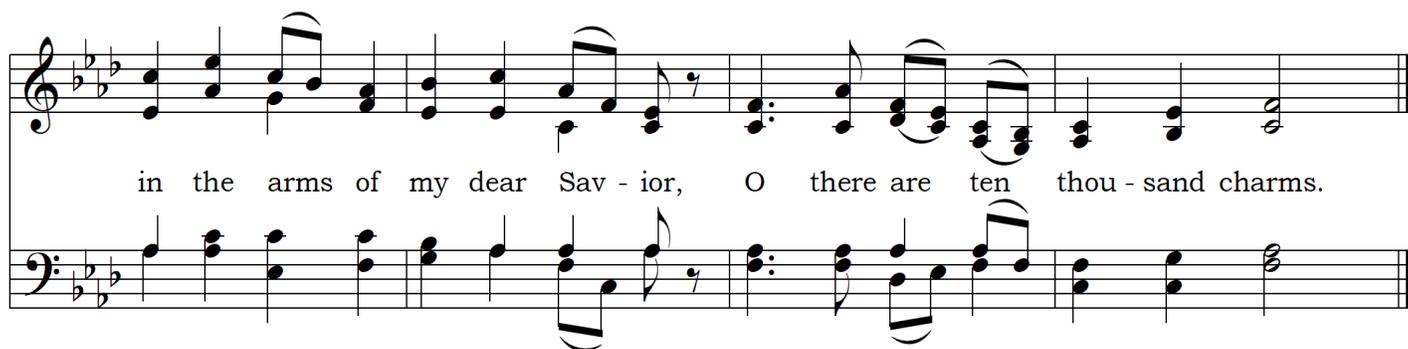


Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y, love, and power.
true be - lief and true re - pen - tance, ev - ery grace that brings you nigh.
if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er come at all.
all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth, is to feel your need of him.

Refrain



I will a - rise and go to Je - sus, he will em - brace me with his arms;



in the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

Words: Joseph Hart, alt.

Music: *Arise*, Southern Folk Melody; Arr. George Mims © 1979 Celebration

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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 369**

Blessed Assurance

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed on the chancel by Rachel Wright in celebration of Tami Kellberg's 40 years of faithful service on the staff of First Church.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist: Reverend Cathy Stone

Cantors: Kelton Bloxham, Scott Davis, and Alan Schlichtling

GREAT THANKSGIVING MUSICAL RESPONSES

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Music: Mark A. Miller © 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. 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.