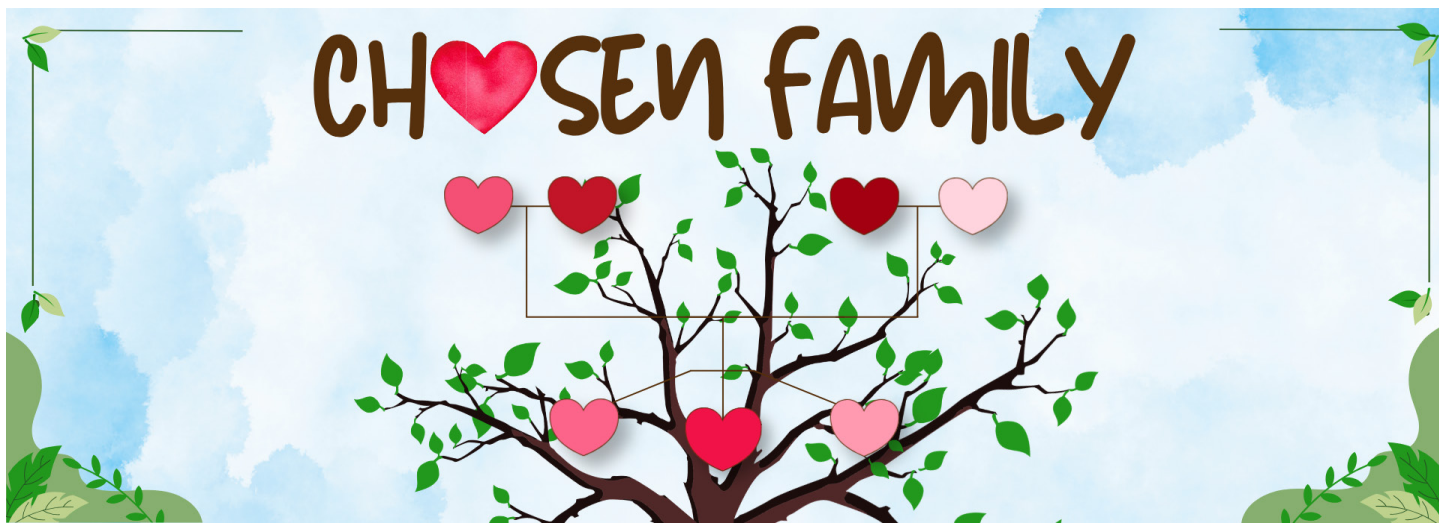




*July 26, 2026
9:00AM*

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

Church of God

Church of God, chosen people,
sing your praise to God.
God has called you out of darkness
into marvelous light!
Come people of God, with joyful song,
praise God, Creator of all.
God calls us now to follow Christ,
let hearts be filled with joy!

Words: Sr. Pamela Stotter, alt.

Music: Margaret Daly

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CELEBRATION OF CLERGY

Siblings in Christ,
as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church
by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness,
will you who celebrate our shared calling
support and uphold Taylor, Cathy, and John in these ministries?
We will!

* CALL TO WORSHIP

A creativity that designed the universe,
a love that never ceases,
a pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost,
a hope that cannot be quenched:
these are the things that are of God,
so let us worship God.

* HYMN 529

How Firm a Foundation

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God,
as we hear the scriptures read and proclaimed,
help us recognize your voice calling us
into the family you are creating—
a community bound by grace, love, and discipleship.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:35-39

SERMON

Not My Choice

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.

MISSION EMPHASIS MOMENT

Mobile Loaves & Fishes

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

O Love

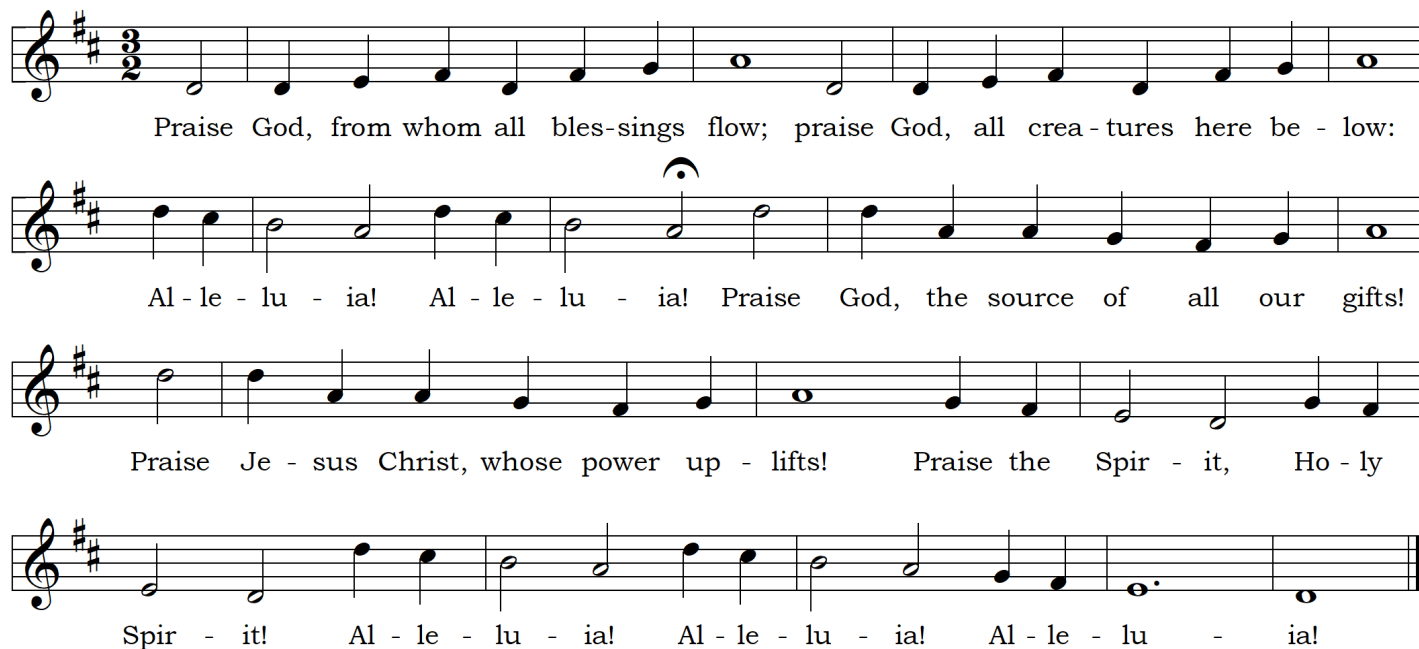
O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thy ocean depths
its flow may richer, fuller be.
O joy that seeks me through the pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

Words: George Matheson

Music: Elaine Hagenberg © 2016 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

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* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING



Praise God, from whom all bles-sings 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!

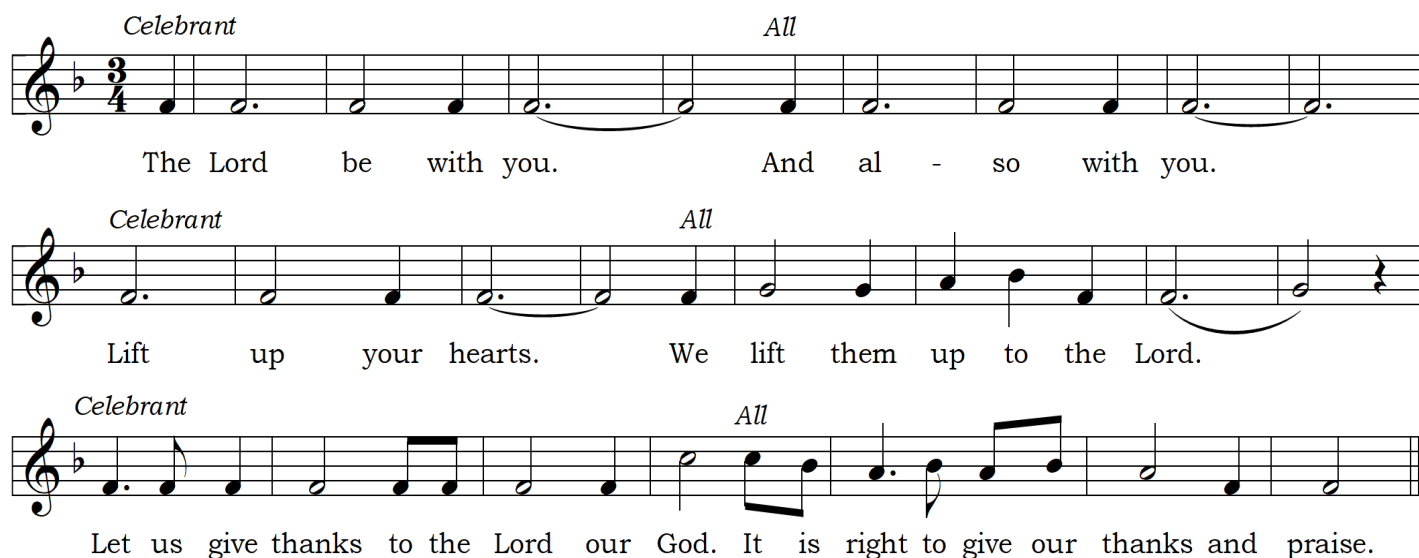
Words: Thomas Ken; Adapt. Gilbert H. Vieira © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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

FEASTING AT THE TABLE OF GRACE

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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!

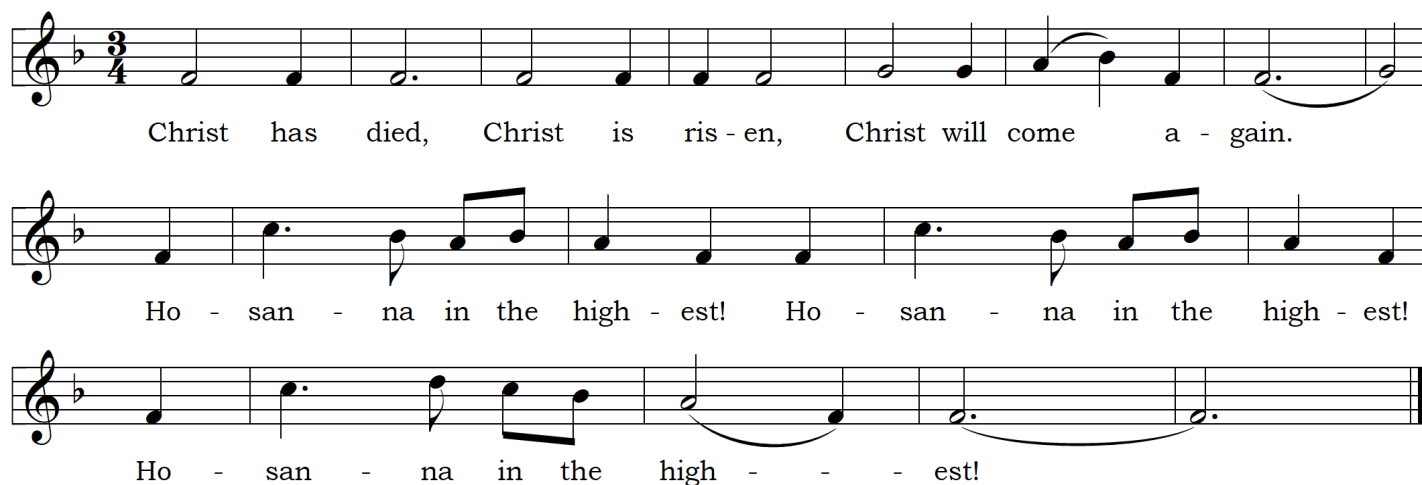
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blest is the One who comes

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:



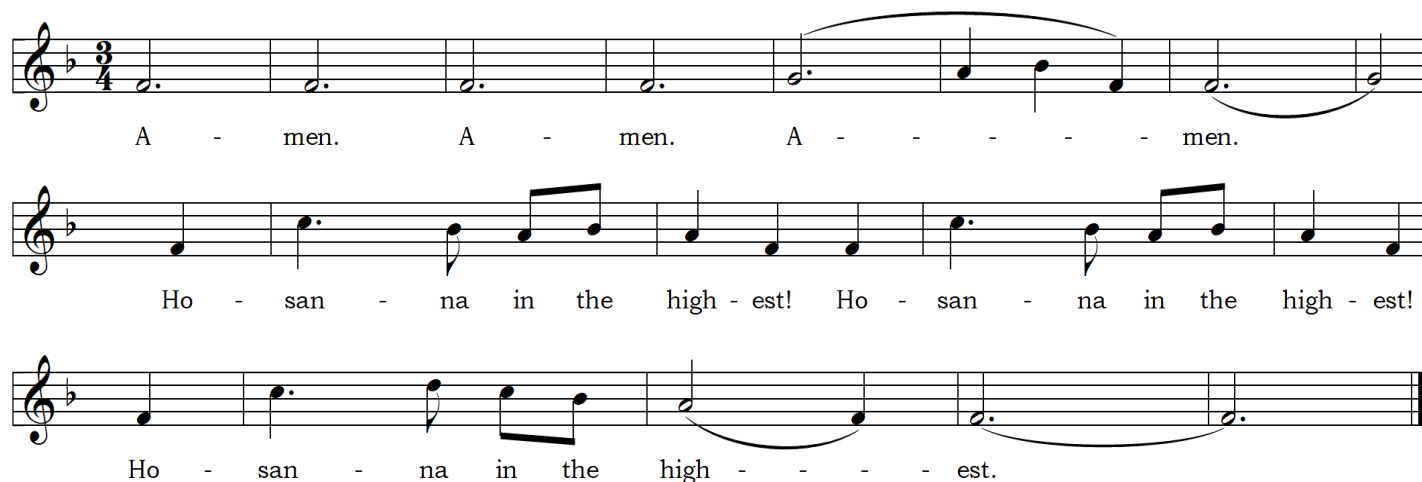
Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

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

526

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

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.

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music: Bob Moore © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

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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

BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Let us pray:

God, our gracious Creator,
we give you thanks for the gift of life
to these who celebrate their birthdays in July.
Grant that they may make this new year in their lives
an offering that will enrich your world and give you glory.
Cause them to grow in wisdom and grace
and strengthen their trust in your goodness
all the days of their lives;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979, alt.

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 369

Blessed Assurance

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed on the chancel by Ann Howie and Jan Howie in honor of their mother, Ruth Howie, who will celebrate her 104th birthday on July 30.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Reverend Cathy Stone

Cantors: Scott Davis, Victoria Tijerina-Gordon, and Sarah Urías

GREAT THANKSGIVING MUSICAL RESPONSES

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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.