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*March 30, 2025*  
*9:00AM*

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### 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](http://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

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.  
God cleanses our sin, renewing our lives.

Words: Sr. Pamela Storter, alt.

Music: Margaret Daly

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### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

New every morning is God's love for us.

**New every day is our opportunity**

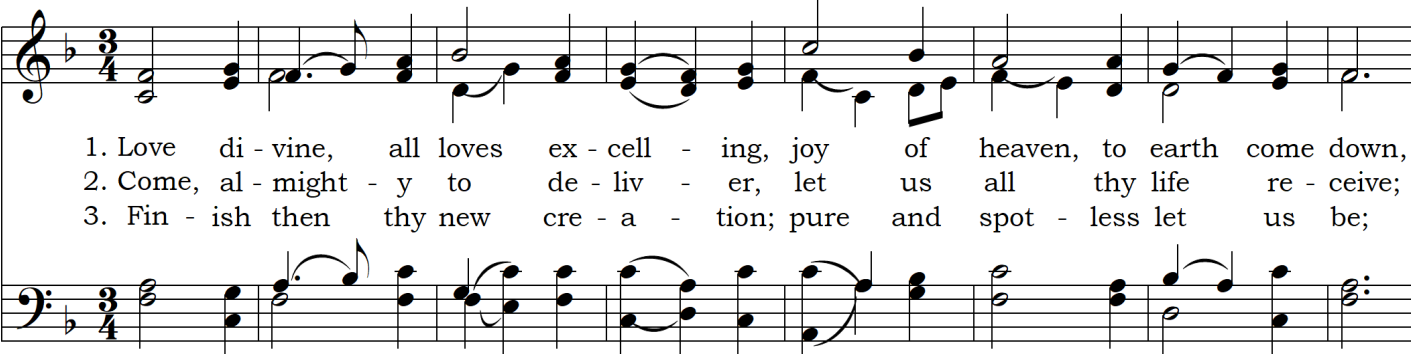
**to practice gratitude for what we have,**

**to seek ways to heal the world,**


**to draw closer to our Creator.**

So let us worship God.

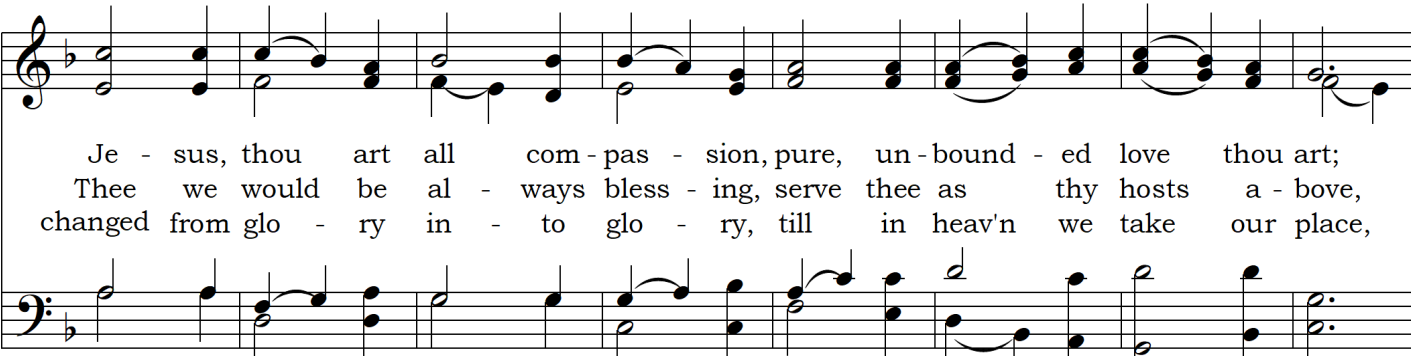
Beth Merrill Neel, *Hold Fast to What is Good*



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
 2. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;  
 3. Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.  
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heav'n we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ry trem - bling heart.  
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard

# 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

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

New Testament, page 171

## 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, 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](http://fumcaustin.org/first-steps).*

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of living water,  
we confess that our wells are empty.  
Our reservoirs of hope have run dry.  
We feel their absence in the careless words we have thought and spoken.  
We feel their loss in wounded relationships and unjust circumstances.  
Forgive what we have done and left undone, O Lord.  
Then let the rain of your mercy replenish the parched places in ourselves  
and in our world.  
Amen.

*A moment for silent confession*

Friends,  
believe the good news:  
in Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven.  
Take hold of the new life that is yours.  
Thanks be to God.  
Amen.

## OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

## OFFERTORY

### How Can I Keep from Singing?

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.  
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?  
What though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth it liveth.  
What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing!  
I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin, I see the blue above it.  
And day by day this pathway clears, since first I learned to love it.  
The peace of God restores my soul, a fountain ever springing.  
All things are mine since I am loved; how can I keep from singing.  
The Mother God sustains my breath, the Father God my spirit.  
Abundance all around me lies; receive, and strength come with it.  
There is no moment but this one, I use it now for giving.  
How can I forfeit love for fear? How can I keep from singing?

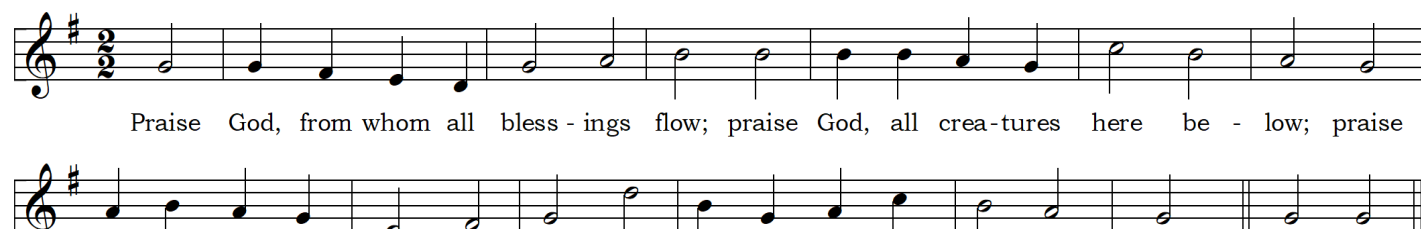
Words: Anne Warner (Stanzas 1, 2, and 3); Robert Wilks (Stanza 4)

Music: How Can I Keep from Singing, Robert Lowry; Arr. Robert Wilks

Words Stanza 4 and Arr.: Robert Wilks © Robert Wilks

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## \* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING



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:



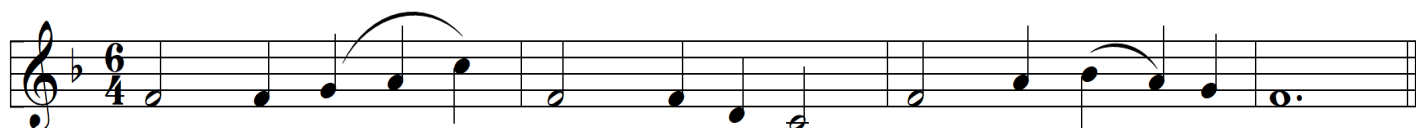
1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
2. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



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 ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

*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 895

## RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

## HYMNS DURING RECEIVING

340	Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy	Stanzas 1 and 3
338	Where He Leads Me	Stanzas 1, 2, and 4



## 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

Stanzas 1 and 2

### VOLUNTARY

+ + +

### CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in honor of the staff and community at Black Mamas Village.

### WORSHIP LEADERS

*Preacher:* Reverend Taylor Fuerst

*Liturgist:* Reverend Cathy Stone

*Cantors:* Kelton Bloxham, Scott Davis, and Linda VanHorne

### GREAT THANKSGIVING MUSICAL RESPONSES

Words: Trad. International Commission on English in the Liturgy

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

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://fumcaustin.org/children).

### 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](http://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](mailto: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.

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Name of donor

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Phone number (in case of questions)

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Amount enclosed (make check payable to FUMC)

The lily is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

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The lily is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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