



LOVE LOOKS LIKE

January 11, 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 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.

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

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

Christ, when for us you were baptized, God’s Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove and yet as urgent as a flame.
Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,
that, likewise in God’s service we may perfect freedom find.

Words: F. Bland Tucker, rev.

Music: *Caithness*, Melody from The Psalmes of David in Prose and Meeter; Harm. The English Hymnal

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Through the waters of baptism,
God calls us to wade
into the way of the Sacred.

In community,
we are claimed as beloved
and invited into new life.

The waters are sometimes calm,
flowing slowly and easily.

They remind us of who we are, together.

The waters are sometimes moving swiftly.

They lead us in the direction of justice,
with urgency and peace.

The waters are sometimes raging.

They beckon us to live courageously,
to choose practices of radical Love even as evil looms.

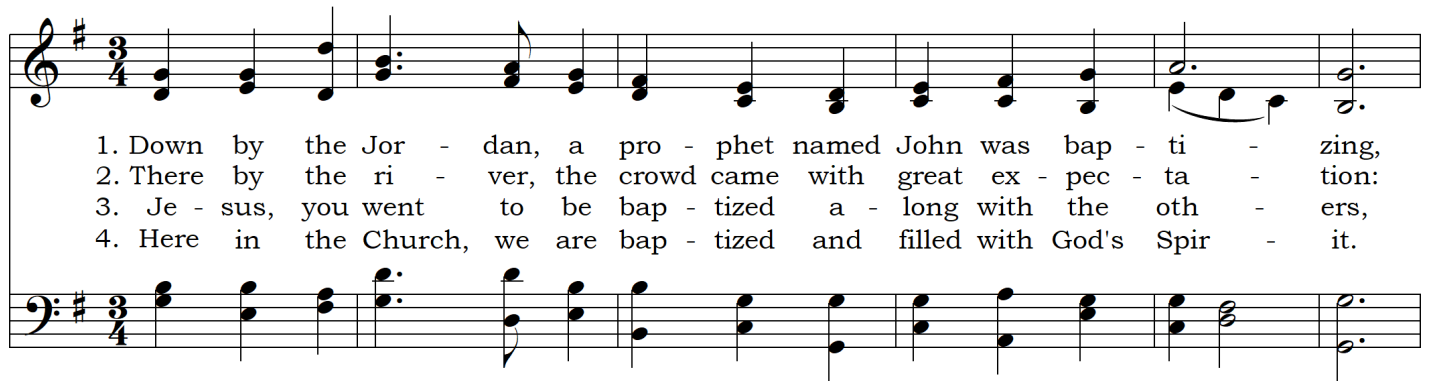
Through all of life’s changes and challenges,
the promises of God uphold us.

We are claimed, eternally, as kin in Christ.

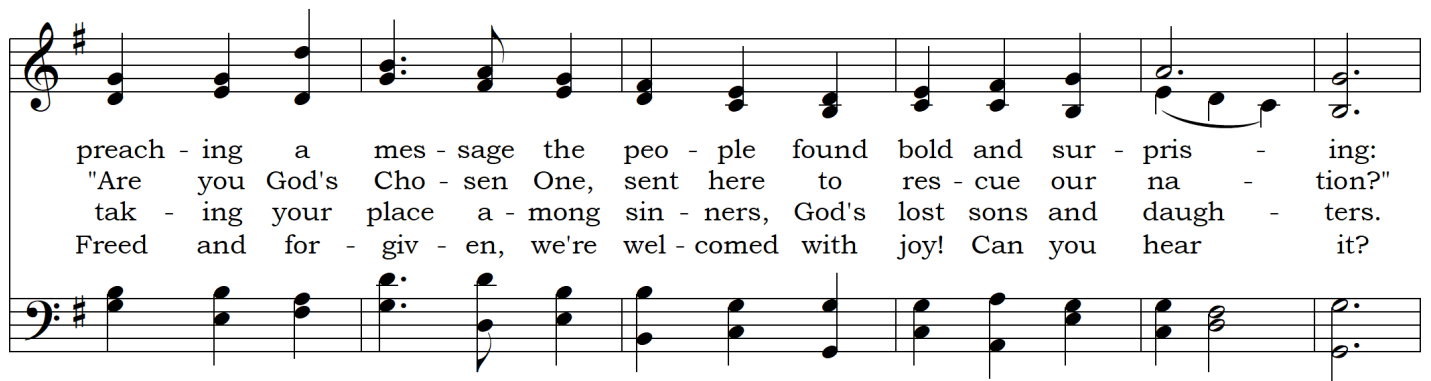
@enfleshed

* HYMN

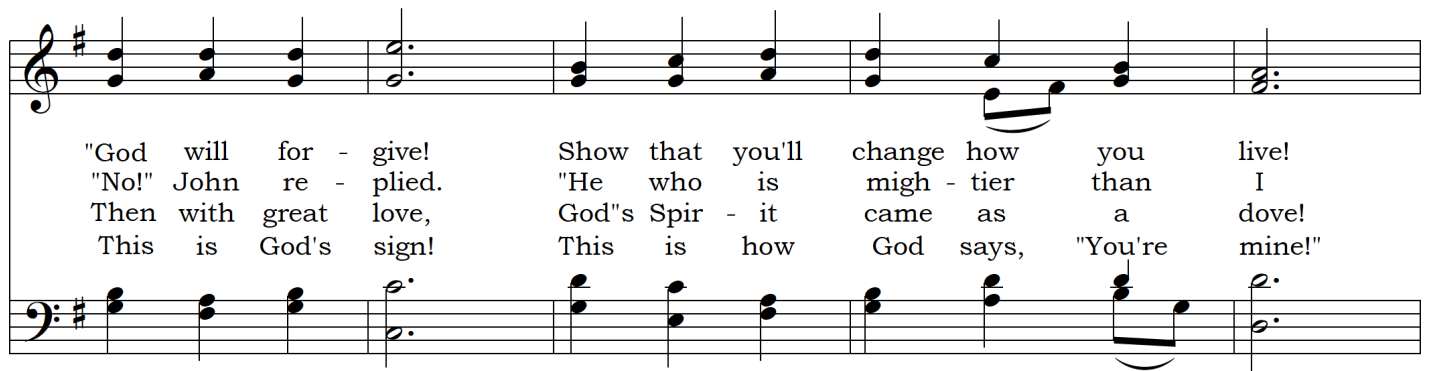
Down by the Jordan



1. Down by the Jor - dan, a pro - phet named John was bap - ti - zing,
 2. There by the ri - ver, the crowd came with great ex - pec - ta - tion:
 3. Je - sus, you went to be bap - tized a - long with the oth - ers,
 4. Here in the Church, we are bap - tized and filled with God's Spir - it.



preach - ing a mes - sage the peo - ple found bold and sur - pris - ing:
 "Are you God's Cho - sen One, sent here to res - cue our na - tion?"
 tak - ing your place a - mong sin - ners, God's lost sons and daugh - ters.
 Freed and for - giv - en, we're wel - comed with joy! Can you hear it?



"God will for - give! Show that you'll change how you live!
 "No!" John re - plied. "He who is migh - tier than I
 Then with great love, God's Spir - it came as a dove!
 This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"



Sure - ly God's new day is ris - ing!"
 judg - es and of - fers sal - va - tion."
 Your work be - gan in those wa - ters.
 Let's take the good news and share it!

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © 2000

(All rights reserved. Used with permission from *Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor*, Upper Room Books 2009.)

Music: *Lobe Den Herren*, Erneuerten Gesangbuch; Harm. by William Sterndale Bennett

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, source of all light,
by your Word you give light to the soul.
Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding
that our hearts and minds may be opened.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 42:1-9

SERMON

* UNITED METHODIST SOCIAL CREED

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ,
calls us by grace
to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one in divine love for the world.

Today is the day
God cares for the integrity of creation,
wills the healing and wholeness of all life,
weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference,
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God cries with the masses of starving people,
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God deplores violence in our homes and streets,
rebukes the world's warring madness,
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.
And so shall we.

Today is the day
God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind, and
sets the oppressed free.
And so shall we.

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, February 22, 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.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

To Thee My Heart I Offer

To thee my heart I offer, oh Christ-child sweet and dear;
upon thy love relying, be thou ever near.
Oh take my heart and give me thine and may it be forever mine,
oh Jesus, holy, undefiled, my Savior meek and mild.
What brought thee to the manger, oh Christ-child sweet and dear?
Thy love for me be ever near, Lord, how great thy perfect Love,
that reaches from the heavens above.
Thy love for us, by sin defiled, that made thee, God, a child.
Let me be thine forever, oh Christ-child sweet and dear;
uphold me with thy mercy, be thou ever near.
Thy hand bestows thy gifts to me and all I have, I offer thee!
My heart, my soul, and all I own; let these be thine alone.

Words: Mein Herz will ich dir schenken, Anon. 1653

Music: Elaine Hagenberg © 2020 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

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* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy

Spirit! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Words: Thomas Ken; Adapt. Gilbert h. Vieira

Adapt. © 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

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM AND HOLY COMMUNION

INTRODUCTION

Siblings in Christ:

through the sacrament of baptism
God's Spirit has been poured out upon water,
water poured over and immersing us,
water that flows freely for all who will receive it,
water from the streams of God's saving power and justice,
water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,
water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Today we come to the waters,
to renew our commitments
in each other's presence
to Christ who has raised us,
the Spirit who has birthed us,
and the Creator who is making all things new.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

And so I ask you,

will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,

reject the evil powers of this world,

and repent of our sin!

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets

to the powers that be?

We accept the freedom and power God gives us

to resist evil, injustice, and oppression

in whatever forms they present themselves!

Will you proclaim the good news

and live as disciples of Jesus Christ,

his body on earth?

We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior,

put our whole trust in his grace,

and promise to serve him as our Lord,

in union with the church which Christ has opened

to people of all ages, nations, and races!

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel,

individually and together,

wherever you are and in all that you do?

We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church

and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith

as contained in the Scriptures

of the Old and New Testaments?

We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church

as we put our trust in God,

in Jesus Christ,

and in the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Let us pray.
Almighty God,
the life you birthed in us
by baptism into Jesus Christ
will never die.
Your justice never fails.
Your mercy is everlasting.
Your healing river flows.
Your Spirit blows where you will.
We cannot stop you, God!

But sometimes we try.
We try to block the waters,
we redirect the winds of the Spirit,
or we walk so far away from the life-giving stream
that we do not hear its sound,
and we forget its power.
We parch ourselves.
We are dry and thirsty, O God.
Come, refresh us!

We remember that on the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”
When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

O God,
pour out your Holy Spirit!
Pour out your Holy Spirit!

Pour out your Spirit upon these waters.
Pour out your Spirit upon this bread and wine.
Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.
Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.
Let this meal feed our souls with the grace of Jesus.
Let this meal fill us with strength for the journey of faith.

Most Holy God, Abba, Creator!
Glory to you!

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!
Glory to you!

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!
Glory to you!

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!
All glory is yours, now and forever.
Amen!

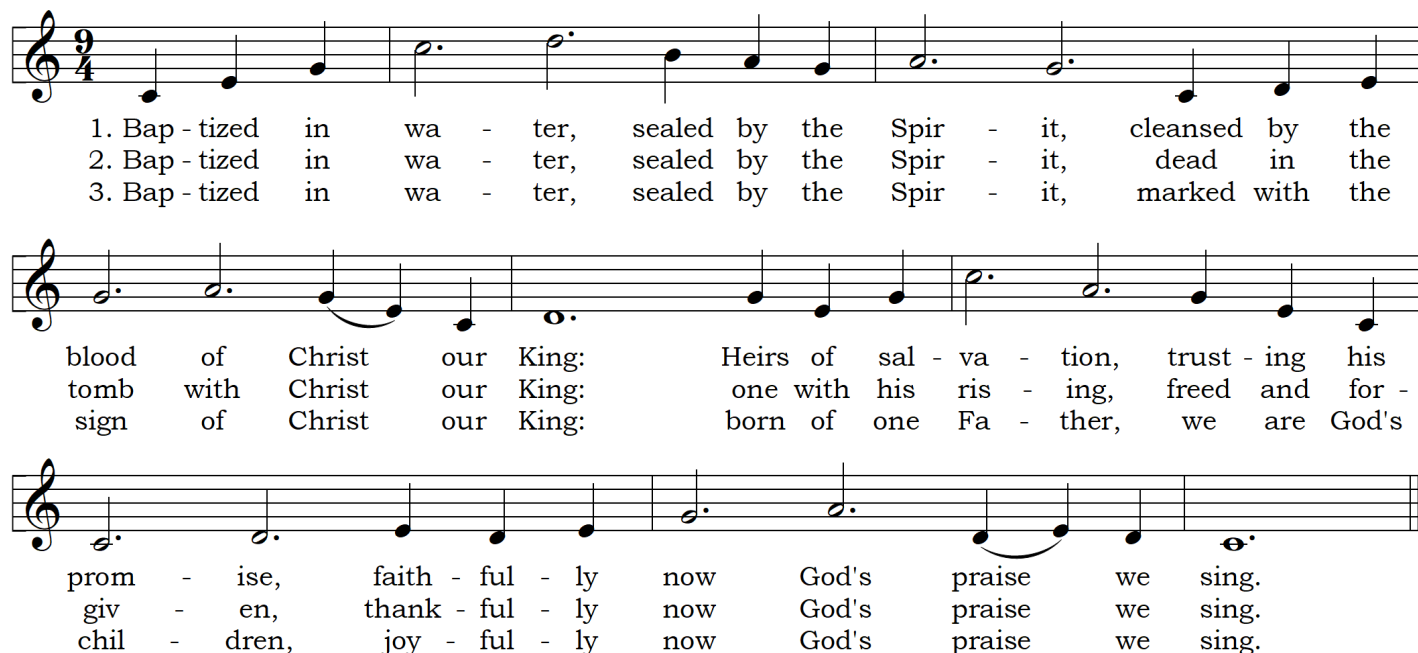
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 AND REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

608

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now



1. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our King: Heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
 tomb with Christ our King: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our King: born of one Fa - ther, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren, joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Words: Michael Saward © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.

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Music: *Bunessan*, Gaelic Melody

605 Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters Stanza 1

611 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise Stanza 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

Borning Cry



1. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be there when you are
3. "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was there to cheer you
5. "In the mid - dle ag - es of your life, not too old, no long - er
7. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be there when you are



old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
on; you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
old, I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold."



2. I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you
4. If you find some - one to share your time and you join your hearts as
6. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry



well; in a blaze of light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.
one, I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
eyes, I'll be there as I have al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

Words and Music: *Waterlife*, John Ylvisaker © 1985 John Ylvisaker

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VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed on the chancel in appreciation of all the volunteers who enhance our worship experience.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist: Reverend Cathy Stone

Cantors: Scott Davis, Courtney Katzmeyer-Vielma, Victoria Tijerina-Gordon, Sarah Urías, and Linda VanHorne

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.