



March 1, 2026
11:00AM

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

Reflection

Louis Vierne (Op. 31 No. 19)

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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast!
 3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4. 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.
 Let us all in thee in - her - it; let us find that sec - ond rest.
 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;
 Take a - way our bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 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.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ing, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 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

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.

MINISTRY MOMENT

Rick Santos, CEO Church World Service

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Cantique de Jean Racine

O divine Word above, our hope and consolation,
eternal light of the heavens and the earth;
the peaceful night has past our voices greet the morning;
look down, O Lord, and hear thy people's prayer.
Inspire us, Lord, we pray, with the power of thy Spirit,
that hell may flee before thy mighty word.
From slumber waken us, our weary souls reviving,
that we may never forget thy laws!
Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on thy congregation
now gathered here in the sight of thy throne;
receive the hymns they offer to thy eternal glory;
renewed by thy gifts may they go forth in peace.

Words: Jean Racine, trans. John Rutter

Music: Gabriel Fauré Op. 11, edited John Rutter

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* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Musical notation for the hymn 'Presentation of the Offering'. It consists of two staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the lyrics: 'Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures high and low.' The second staff contains the lyrics: '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

Musical notation for the 'Great Thanksgiving' section. It consists of three staves of music in B-flat major and 3/4 time. The first staff is divided into two parts: 'Celebrant' (The Lord be with you.) and 'All' (And al - so with you.). The second staff is also divided: 'Celebrant' (Lift up your hearts.) and 'All' (We lift them up to the Lord.). The third staff is divided: 'Celebrant' (Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.) and 'All' (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 power and might. might.

Heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Final ◡

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. 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

**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 383**

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Stanzas 1, 2, 3 and 4

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

Music: Scott Davis

Gathering Voluntary: Tim Wilborn

GREAT THANKSGIVING MUSICAL RESPONSES

From Deutsche Messe by Franz Schubert; Adapt. Richard Proulx

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