



June 23, 2024
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 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

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 by scanning this QR code with your smartphone or use the printed version found in the pew in front of you. To let our pastors know about a prayer request for you or someone you love, use the QR code found on page 8 of this bulletin or place your card 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

I Will Sing

Max Dyer

I will sing a song unto the Lord.
Alleluia, glory to the Lord.
We will come as one before the Lord.

Words: Max Dyer

Music: *Pulkingham*, Max Dyer

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* CALL TO WORSHIP

We see light, hope, and joy;
we bring heart, soul, mind, and body;
we share blessings and fears;
we bring faith and doubt.

With all that we are and all that we have,
let us worship God.

Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, “Hold Fast to What Is Good”

(Used with permission.)

* HYMN

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here

1. Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for love were
 2. We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and cho - sen
 3. Great God, in Christ you call our name, and then re - ceive us as your
 4. Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and call us

made; your liv - ing like - ness still we bear, though
 wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains, by
 own; not through some mer - it, right, or claim, but
 friends; suf - fer and serve till all are fed, and

marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed; we come, with all our heart and
 so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by powers and sys - tems close con -
 by your gra - cious love a - lone; we strain to glimpse your mer - cy
 show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre - a - tion

mind, your call to hear, your love to find.
 fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man kind.
 seat, and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Words: Brian Wren

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Music: *Old 113th*, Attr. Matthäus Greiter

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Introduction

In baptism,

God names us as God's own beloved children;

God promises to be our God and welcomes us into the family of Christ;

God makes Christ's death and resurrection for us present to us and at work in us.

The baptism of believers' children

especially makes visible the prevenient nature of grace—

that God reaches out to, and accepts, us

before we reach out to, and accept, God.

At the same time, in baptism,

we acknowledge for ourselves and our children

the gift and claim of God's grace,

and we commit ourselves and our children

to live out of God's grace as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Thus, baptism marks the birth, at any age,

of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Presentation

Today, we present Chloe Jo Jargo for baptism.

Daughter of Travis and Amy Jargo

Parent's Re-Affirmation of Faith

Because the role of parents and the church

is crucial to a child's experience of grace,

we ask you to re-commit yourself

to the vows of the baptismal covenant:

Do you re-affirm your renunciation of sin

and your confession of faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior,

putting your whole trust in his grace,

and promising to serve him as your Lord,

by loving others as Christ loved you

and resisting evil, injustice, and oppression?

We do.

Do you commit yourselves to work for God's reign on earth

through the church, which Christ has opened to all people,

participating actively in its ministries

with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

We do.

Will you nurture your child in Christ's Church,

that by your teaching and example,

she may grow to know the grace of God,

profess her faith in Christ openly,

and live as a faithful disciple of Christ's church?

We will.

Congregation's Response

Do you as Christ's church reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture this child in the Christian faith and life,
praying for her, teaching her, and leading her
in acts of service and mission?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround Chloe
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that she may grow in her trust of God,
and be found faithful in her service to others.**

**We will pray for her,
that she may be a true disciple
who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Baptism with the Laying of Hands

Anointing with Oil

*Following the biblical custom of anointing prophets (I Kings 19:36), priests (Exodus 29:7)
and kings (I Kings 1:39), candidates are anointed at their baptism as a reminder that
all Christians share in the royal, prophetic, priestly ministry of Jesus Christ.*

Presentation of the Baptismal Candle

*A candle, lighted from the Paschal Candle, is presented to the newly baptized to signify that the
light of the One who overcame the darkness of sin and death now shines in their life.*

Welcome of the Newly Baptized

**Chloe,
we give thanks that God has claimed you
with an everlasting love that will never, ever let you go;
and we will never let you forget that!**

**We rejoice to welcome you as our sibling
in the family of Christ.**

**Our story is now your story:
you have ridden in the ark with Noah;
you have passed through the sea with Moses;
Christ's death and resurrection for you is at work in you,
transforming you into the image of God.**

**Grow with us in grace,
confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his royal priesthood.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, Word made flesh,
let us come to this word open to being surprised.

**Silence our agendas;
banish our assumptions;
cast out our casual detachment.**

Confound our expectations;
clear the cobwebs from our ears;
penetrate the corners of our hearts with this word.

**We know that you can,
we pray that you will,
and we wait with great anticipation.**

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:7-21

New Testament, page 223

HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love
Stanza 1 sung seated as the children come forward.



1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord, we are
2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand, we will
3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side, we will



one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all
walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand, and to- geth- er we'll
work with each oth-er, we will work side by side, and we'll guard hu- man



u- ni- ty may one day be re- stored: And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our
spread the news that God is in our land:
dig- ni- ty and save___ hu- man pride:



love, by our love; yes, they'll know___ we are Chris-tians by our love.

Words: Peter Scholtes

Music: *St. Brendan's*, Peter Scholtes

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TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love
Stanza 2 and 3 sung seated as the children return to their seats.

SERMON

Love, the Heart of Everything

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we pray, please join in the response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, July 28, 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/firststeps.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

All Things New

Elaine Hagenberg

Light after darkness, gain after loss,
strength after weakness, crown after cross;
sweet after bitter, hope after fears,
home after wandering, praise after tears.
Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end,
he is making all things new,
springs of living waters shall wash away each tear.
Sight after mystery, sun after rain,
joy after sorrow, peace after pain;
near after distant, gleam after gloom,
love after loneliness, life after tomb.

Words: Frances Havergal; Adapt. from Revelations 21:5-6

Music: Elaine Hagenberg

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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

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

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GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 89

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are placed by the Downtowners Sunday School Class in honor of class member, Dr. Karen Smith, becoming a UMC Deaconess.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist: Reverend Cathy Stone

Music: Scott Davis

PRAYER REQUEST

