



**FEBRUARY 25, 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 at the bottom of page 7 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

Come, Celebrate the Call of God

English Melody

Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Come, celebrate the call of God that awakens and renews,
and chooses from us, for our good, the bringers of good news.
The Spirit’s blessing all ordains to show what God has done,
yet brings to focus and contains the many in the one.

* 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.

* HYMN 451

Be Thou My Vision

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God,

help us to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand;
that in understanding, we may believe
and in believing, we may follow in faithfulness and obedience,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 4:1-20

New Testament, page 36

HYMN 156

I Love to Tell the Story
*Stanza 1 and Refrain sung seated
as the children come forward.*

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

HYMN 156

I Love to Tell the Story
*Stanza 3 and Refrain sung seated
as the children return to their seats.*

SERMON

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we pray, please join in the response:

Shine into our lives, Beloved,
that we might light the world.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother,

who is in heaven and within us,

we call upon your names.

Your wisdom come.

Your will be done,

in all the spaces in which you dwell.

Give us each day sustenance and perseverance.

Remind us of our limits as

we give grace to the limits of others.

Separate us from the temptation of empire,

and deliver us into community.

For you are the dwelling place within us,

the empowerment around us,

and the celebration among us,

now and forever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE FAITH JOURNEY

Are you interested in joining First Church? Prior to joining, we ask all to participate in a First Steps Class to learn about United Methodist beliefs and the ministry of FUMC, meet the pastors and other members, and ask questions. To sign up, fill out the Connections Card and place it in the offering plate or go online at fumcaustin.org/firststeps.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

Come, O Thou Traveler

Traditional Scottish Melody

Come, thou Traveler unknown, help me see!

Come, O thou Traveler unknown,

whom still I hold, but cannot see!

My company before is gone,

and I am left alone with thee.

With thee all night I mean to stay,

and wrestle till the break of day.

I need not tell thee who I am,

by misery and sin declare;

thyself hast called me by my name,

look on thy hands and read it there.

But who, I ask thee, who art thou?
 Tell me thy name, and tell me now.
 Yield to me now, for I am weak,
 but confident in self despair!
 Speak to my heart, in blessing speak,
 be conquered by my instant prayer.
 Speak, or thou never hence shalt move,
 and tell me if thy name is Love.
 ‘Tis Love! ‘tis Love! Thou diedst for me,
 I hear thy whisper in my heart.
 The morning breaks, the shadows flee, pure,
 Universal Love thou art.
 To me, to all, thy mercies move;
 thy nature and thy name is Love.

*** PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
 na - ture's won - der, Jes - us' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door.
 Gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - fring up our - selves in praise;
 thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious Do - nor of our days.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*** BENEDICTION**

* HYMN

Sent Forth By God's Blessing



1. We go with God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess-ing, the peo - ple of
2. With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing, the tasks of our



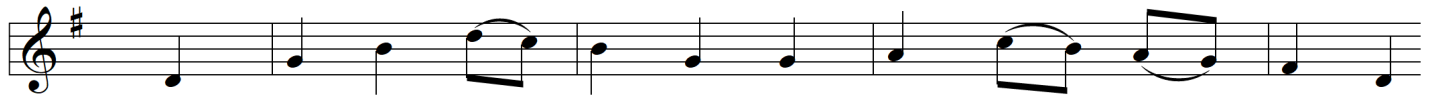
God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice has end - ded. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
ev - 'ry - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er shar-ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of our wor-ship in all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach-ing,
em - brac - ing God's chil-dren of each tribe and race. With your feast you feed us,



re - cep - tive souls reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
with your light now lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for God's king - dom and an - swer God's call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed by Ava Gutierrez and family in loving memory of her great aunt, Holly Hagan, who is always in their hearts.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist

Dr. Becca Edwards

Music

Scott Davis

WORSHIP LITURGY

Call to Worship

Beth Merrill Neel

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The Lord's Prayer

Wilda C. Gafney

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WORSHIP MUSIC

Come, Celebrate the Call of God

Words: Brian Wren © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

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Music: *Kingsfold*, English melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Come, O Thou Traveler

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: *Candler*, Trad. Scottish melody; Arr. Scott Davis © 2023

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God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Words: Robert L. Edwards © 1961 The Hymn Society of America

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Music: *Beach Spring*, Attr. B.F. White

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

Words: Omer Westendorf, alt. © 1964 World Library Publications

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Music: *The Ash Grove*, Welsh folk tune

PRAYER REQUEST



