



Confirmation

**APRIL 7, 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

Christ Is Alive

Psalmodia Evangelica

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Words: Brian Wren

Music: *Truro*, Psalmodia Evangelica

* CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day to walk in the light.

This is the day to share signs of peace.

This is the day to believe where we have not seen.

This is the day to embrace what we cannot touch.

Come! Let us worship the Lord of life

* HYMN 304

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God,

through your only Son you overcame death
and opened to us the light of eternity.

Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts

with the presence of your Spirit,

that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge

in the reading of the scriptures,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SERMON

RESPONDING IN FAITH

* HYMN

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -
 cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 Je - sus, no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

Words: Anon.

Music: Assam, Anon.; Arr. Eugene Thomas

Arr. © 1986 Word Music

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THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The liturgy can be found on pages 33-39 in the hymnal.

Nathan Barnard

Britain Bayliss

Ava Buchanan

Tanner Ramberg

Jack Stafford

Thomas Story

Haddie Thurman

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. The next class is Sunday, April 14, at 12:15PM in the FLC Garrison Chapel. To sign up, fill out the Connections Card and place it in the offering basket or go online at fumcaustin.org/firststeps.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

Child of God

Mark A. Miller

No matter what people say or think about me, I am a child of God.
No matter what people say or think about you, you are a child of God.
No matter what the world says or thinks about me, I am a child of God.
No matter what the church says, decisions, pronouncements on you, you are a child of God.
And there is no thing or no one who can separate you from the truth that you are someone,
you are family, you are meant to be a child of God!
You are a child of God!

Words and Music: Mark A. Miller © 2014 Choristers Guild

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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! Christ is ris - en! 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! Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Thomas Ken; adapt. by 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

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

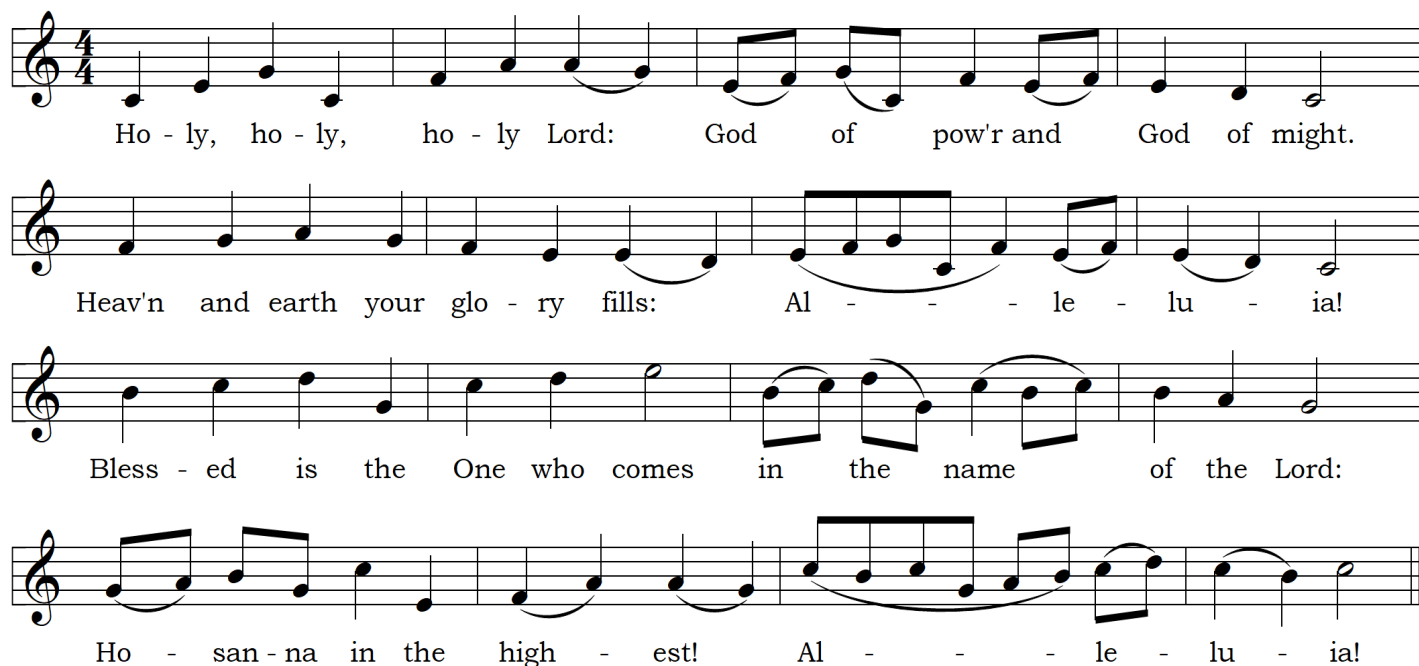
We lift them up to the Lord.

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.

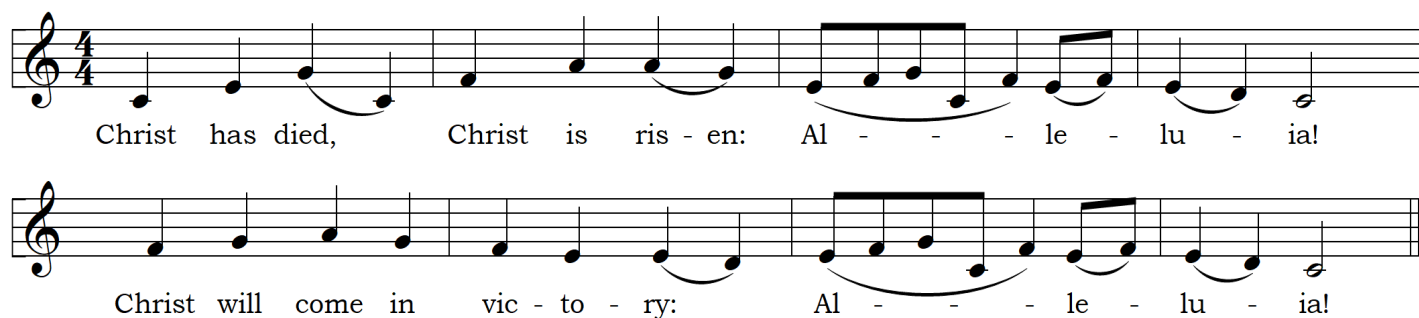
... And so, we gladly thank you,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending praise.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord: God of pow'r and God of might.
Heav'n and earth your glo - ry fills: Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord:
Ho - san - na in the high - est! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

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: Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Christ will come in vic - to - ry: Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Pastor continues leading the prayer, asking God to pour out God's Holy Spirit on us and this meal.

... Lift every voice to sing your Easter glory,
until the day when all stand before your throne,
in eternal communion with one another and with you,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



A - men, a - men, a - men: Al - - - le - lu - ia!

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

HYMNS DURING RECEIVING

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Christ Is Risen

Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

1. Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter his the throne;
2. Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now;
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of Hea - ven, here on earth our food, our stay!
4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, you the Lord of lords we own:

Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone;
Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how:
Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to you from day to day:
Al - le - lu - ia! born of Ma - ry, earth your foot - stool, heav'n your throne:

Hark! the songs of ho - ly Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood;
though the cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty days were o'er,
in - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me,
you with - in the veil, have en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest:

Je - sus out of ev - ery na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.
shall our hearts for - get his prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more?"
where the songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
here on earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

Words: Robert L. Edwards © 1961 The Hymn Society of America
(All rights reserved. Used by permission OneLicense.net #A705700.)
Music: *Beach Spring*, attr. B. F. White

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Crown Him with Many Crowns

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 206**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in honor of the 2024 Confirmation Class as they take the next step in their faith journey.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist: Dr. Brad King

Music: Scott Davis

GREAT THANKSGIVING MUSICAL RESPONSES

Words: International Consultation Council on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), alt.

Music: *Easter Hymn*, *Lyra Davidica*

PRAYER REQUEST



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 Texas Trial Lawyers Association garage at the southwest corner of 13th and Lavaca Streets or at open meters around the church.

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 begins at 10:00AM and parents may take their children directly to their classrooms after getting a guardian sticker and their child's name tag from one of our check in stations. Learn more at fumcaustin.org/children.

GIVING

Cash or checks will be received during the offertory. We offer three convenient ways to give online: (1) through the FUMC App on your smart phone; (2) make an online donation at fumcaustin.org/giving; and/or (3) text FUMCAUSTIN (all caps) to 73256 on your smartphone and follow the prompts. Once your number is registered, future gifts are easier to make.