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**April 28, 2024  
11:00AM**

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### **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](http://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

Morning Has Broken

Gaelic Melody / Arr. Alec Wyton

Words: Hymn 145

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

God is with us, right here and now.  
**We open our lives to our creator.**  
God cares for us and gives us glory.  
**We open our hearts to our creator.**  
God appoints us keepers of the earth.  
**We dedicate ourselves to our creator.**

### \* HYMN 62

All Creatures of Our God and King

### OPENING PRAYER

### ANTHEM

Look at the World

John Rutter

Look at the world, everything all around us;  
look at the world, and marvel every day.  
Look at the world, so many joys and wonders;  
so many miracles along our way.  
Praise the thee, O Lord, for all creation,  
give us thankful hearts, that we may see;  
all the gifts we share, and every blessing,  
all things, come of thee.  
Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower;  
look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;  
look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,  
valley and flowing river, field and plain.  
Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer  
bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.  
Everything grows, everything has a season,  
till it is gathered to our Maker's fold.  
Every good gift, all that we need and cherish  
comes from the Lord a token love;  
we are God's hands, stewards of wondrous bounty;  
God is the earth, God's are the heavens above.

Words and Music: John Rutter © 1996 Oxford University Press; Hinshaw Music, Inc., U. S. agent  
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# HEARING GOD'S WORD

## HYMN

Praise the Lord for the Woodland Creatures  
*Stanza 1 sung seated as the children come forward.*



1. Praise the Lord for the wood - land crea-tures, praise the Lord for the gar - den guests,  
2. Praise the Lord for the change of sea - sons, praise the Lord for the gifts they bring,



praise the Lord! By them our lives are blest. Praise the Lord for the  
praise the Lord for the love - li - ness of spring. Praise the Lord for the



scamp - 'pring squir - rels, praise the Lord for the grace - ful deer, praise the Lord for the  
warmth of sum - mer, praise the Lord for the colors of fall, praise the Lord for the



sounds of na - ture we hear. Praise the Lord for the hum - ble wood - chuck,  
beau - ty of it all. Praise the Lord for the cold of win - ter,



praise the Lord for the mouse and mole, praise the Lord for the back - yard vis - its  
praise the Lord ev - ery Ground - hog Day. Praise the Lord! It won't last for ev - er!



that sus - tain the soul. Praise the Lord for the wild - life near us, praise the Lord as we  
That's what sha - dows say! Praise the Lord for the gift of laugh - ter, praise the Lord for a



watch them play praise the Lord; al - ways send a smile their way.  
sil - ly song, praise the Lord, al - ways try to sing a - long.

Words: F. Richard Garland © 2008 F. Richard Garland

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Music: *Praise the Lord*, Natalie Sleeth © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

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## TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

### HYMN

Praise the Lord for the Woodland Creatures  
*Stanza 2 sung seated as the children return to their seats.*

## **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.

## **SCRIPTURE**

Esther 4:12-17

Old Testament, page 436

## **SERMON**

# **RESPONDING IN FAITH**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Our Social Creed

We believe in God, Creator of the world;  
and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
through whom we acknowledge God's gifts,  
and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.  
We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves  
to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.  
We joyfully receive for ourselves and others  
the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.  
We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth,  
young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities;  
to improvement of the quality of life;  
and to the rights and dignity of all persons.  
We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God  
and the good of themselves and others  
and in the protection of their welfare in so doing;  
in the rights to property as a trust from God,  
collective bargaining, and responsible consumption;  
and in the elimination of economic and social distress.  
We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world,  
to the rule of justice and law among nations,  
and to individual freedom for all people of the world.  
We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs  
and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world.  
Amen.

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

### 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](http://fumcaustin.org/firststeps).*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### OFFERING

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Tom Fetteke

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers;  
the moon and stars suspended in space.  
Oh, what is humankind that you are mindful of them?  
O Lord, our God the majesty and glory of your name  
transcends the earth and fills the heavens.  
O Lord, our God, little children praise you perfectly,  
and so would we.  
Alleluia!

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## \* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Musical score for the hymn "Presentation of the Offering". The score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Al-le-lu-ia! Christ is risen! 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 risen! 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

## GOING OUT TO SERVE

### \* BENEDICTION

\* HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

1. Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks -  
2. The law God en - forc - es, the stars in their

giv - ing to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly  
cours - es and sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly

raise; who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and  
shine; the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and

stayed us, by guid - ing us on to the end of our  
foun - tains, the deeps of the o - cean pro - claim the Di -

days. God's ban - ners are o'er us, pure light goes be -  
vine. We, too, should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us

night: till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is  
raise, till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks -

ban - ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
giv - ing; to God in the high - est ho - san - na and praise!

Words: Katherine K. Davis © 1939 E.C. Schirmer Music Co.

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Music: *The Ash Grove*, Welsh folk tune

VOLUNTARY

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are placed by Steve and Dixie Houston in loving memory of her mother, Jerry Hill (April 28, 1926 and died November 9, 2005).

## WORSHIP LEADERS

*Preacher:* Dr. Becca Edwards

*Liturgist:* Reverend Cathy Stone

*Music:* Scott Davis, Roxie Garza, and Susannah Willms

## 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 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.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.