



MARCH 29, 2024
7:30PM

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.



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www.fumcaustin.org

GATHERING BENEATH THE CROSS

Asterisks () indicate an invitation to stand as you are able.*

CENTERING WORDS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

In this holy week, on this holy night,
we come to be present with Jesus in his suffering.

With the glory of Palm Sunday behind us
and the victory of Easter not yet come,
we gather with our breaking and broken hearts.

In this world that is at once holy and tragic,
we seek to be present with all who suffer.

When sorrow threatens to overwhelm,
we long for a brave and sacred space—
a space where we can listen and sing and pray,
a space to sit with our grief and our questions.

Let us be that space for each other tonight
as we remember the story together.

* HYMN 288

Were You There

PSALM READING

Psalm 22

(Selected Verses)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Why are you so far from helping me,
from the words of my groaning?**

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.

**Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted and you delivered them.

**To you they cried and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me;

they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

“Commit your cause to the Lord;

let him deliver—

let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

Yet it was you who took me from the womb;

you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

On you I was cast from my birth,

and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Do not be far from me,

for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Many bulls encircle me,

strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

they open wide their mouths at me,

like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water,

and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax;

it is melted within my breast;

my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,

and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs are all around me;

a company of evildoers encircles me.

My hands and feet have shriveled;

I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;

they divide my clothes among themselves,

and for my clothing they cast lots.

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

SPIRITUAL

He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word

They crucified my Lord,
and he never said a mumbalin' word.
Not a word.
They nailed him to a tree,
and he never said a mumbalin' word.
They pierced him in the side,
and he never said a mumbalin' word.
The blood came trickalin' down,
and he never said a mumbalin' word.
Not a word.

Words and Music: African-American Spiritual

PROCLAIMING THE PASSION STORY

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST, ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Following each reading, there will be a brief silence.

I. John 18:1-11

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Hymn 289

Ah Holy Jesus

Stanzas 1 and 2

II. John 18:12-14

Jesus Before the High Priest

III. John 18:15-18

Peter Denies Jesus

Hymn 289

Ah Holy Jesus

Stanzas 3 and 4

IV. John 18:19-24

The High Priest Questions Jesus

V. John 18:25-27

Peter Denies Jesus Again

VI. John 18:28-32

Jesus Before Pilate

VII. John 18:33-38
Jesus Before Pilate

VIII. John 18:38b-40
Pilate Releases Barrabas

IX. John 19:1-11
Jesus Is Mocked and Flogged

X. John 19:12-16
Jesus Is Sentenced

Hymn 289

Ah Holy Jesus

Stanza 5

XI. John 19:16b-22
King of the Jews

XII. John 19:23-24
Soldiers Cast Lots for Jesus' Clothes

XIII. John 19:25-27
The Beloved Disciple and Mary

XIV. John 19:28-30
It Is finished

XV. John 19:31-37
Jesus' Side Is Pierced

XVI. John 19:38-42
Joseph of Arimathea Buries Jesus' Body

Following the reading, there will be an extended silence.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CRUCIFIED WORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Crucified Lord,

we draw the sword to claim high places for ourselves.

We scourge, mock, and beat you, Jesus.

We prepare a cross for you.

We hang you on it.

We pierce your side with the spear.

We willfully break the fellowship you prayed to be one.

We make scapegoats of people we deem other.

We create or refuse to end malnutrition,

contamination of water,

poverty,

sickness,

inhospitality,

and imprisonment.

Silence.

Jesus, keep us near the cross,

that we may be drawn back to you and be healed.

Amen.

PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS

During this time, as we sing the hymns of the passion, you are invited to pray in your pew, or you may come forward, whenever you feel moved to do so, to kneel at the rail to pray. Or you may come into the chancel to kneel around the cross. You may want to touch the cross, or even to rest your head upon it, as a way of thanking Jesus for what he has done for you or as a way of giving to him burdens that you are carrying, believing that "by his wounds, we are healed."

Hymn 286

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Hymn 287

O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done

* PRAYER

Jesus, we wait here by your tomb

carrying our grief;

the grief of the betrayer,

the grief of the denier,

the grief of the crucifiers.

We carry the grief of the lost,

the heartbroken, the bereft.

Upon you was laid the grief of us all.

It is finished.

God of endings,

God of darkness,

God of the tomb,

God of dark days and great loss,

be with us now as we wait with Jesus.

ALL LEAVE IN SILENCE

There is no benediction or dismissal on Good Friday in recognition of the fact that this act of worship is not complete until the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Those who wish may stay to pray and meditate in the quietness of this moment. Whenever you are ready, please leave the church in complete silence.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists: Reverend Taylor Fuerst, Reverend Cathy Stone, and Dr. Brad King

Music: Scott Davis

Soloist: Rosemaria Martinelli

WORSHIP LITURGY

Written by Hans Holznagel

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

In worship we often sing songs and hymns of the Black Church. Songs of African descent are the parent of rock-n-roll, an American cultural phenomenon, and this music is among the building blocks of what is known today as American music.

This music, born in slavery and containing the rhythms, call and response of communities native to Africa began as a way of communicating messages of hope and perseverance, and even secretly communicating information about the underground railroad.

Today we share music from these traditions, including gospel and spiritual songs and hymns, to lift up this witness of hope, determination, inspiration, perseverance, and eternal life. We do so seeking to honor the style and context in which it originated and acknowledging that many of these songs have sustained the spirits of people of color as they endured pain that was inflicted or worsened by white churches.

Most songs from Black Church traditions were not published until after the names of their creators were long forgotten. In recognition of this, whenever we sing gospel and spiritual songs and hymns, we will begin the practice of contributing 'royalties' in an offering that will support the development of young Black musicians.

Currently, that offering will go to support the Gloria Quinlan Endowed Scholarship fund at Huston-Tillotson University. Huston-Tillotson University is a Historically Black Universities located right here in Austin and is affiliated with both the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. Dr. Quinlan grew up in Houston and began sharing her musical gifts with churches there in her youth. Throughout her career Dr. Quinlan remained committed to the church and worked as the Minister of Music at Ebenezer Baptist.

To contribute to this offering, please use the envelope provided in the pew or give online and select "Other Designated" in the drop down menu. Please write or type in the memo: Spirituals Offering.