



May 12, 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

Welcome

Mark A. Miller

Choir

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,
to be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace,

All Sing Refrain, Stanza 1

1,2. Sing - ing wel - come, wel - come to this place. You're in - vit - ed to
3. Cry - ing

come and know God's grace. All are wel - come the love of God to share

'cause all of us are wel - come here;

all are wel - come in this place.

Choir

Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,

All Sing Refrain, Stanza 2

Choir

Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
where mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice!
All Sing Refrain, Stanza 3

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Forty years ago, LGBTQ+ United Methodists decided to set a new table.
Our siblings created the Reconciling Congregations Program
so that congregations and clergy could take a public position
to affirm, equip, and advocate for those who are LGBTQ+
and those who work for justice in our denomination.
And even when we were silent,
the rocks and stones cried out.

At every general conference gathering,
God has worked through us and our spiritual ancestors
to revise the roles, decide the share, and divide the power.
For so long, we have worked and prayed for change,
only to face disappointment after disappointment
when our denomination failed
to affirm the belovedness and giftedness of all of God's children.
And as we wandered in the wilderness,
our hearts cried out:
How long, oh Lord? How long?

But, beloveds, we never wandered alone.
Even when we wept in pain,
ripped our clothes in grief,
and walked away from the community that had failed us:
God was with us.
God wept in pain alongside us,
even in the stillest moments of the night.
Weeping may endure in the night,
but joy comes in the morning!

And look upon this fresh morning!
Today we celebrate the hard-won decisions of our postponed 2020 General Conference.
We celebrate the call of our LGBTQ+ siblings.
We celebrate the deletion of punitive measures
that punished those who would demonstrate God's expansive inclusion.
We celebrate our denomination's decision to remove discriminatory language and policies
that forced separation when God asked us to draw close to one another.
Today we celebrate and affirm our call to continue the work of inclusion.
We give thanks that you make all things new.

We pray that the decisions of the General Conference
will be the start of a new thing:
a new Church where all are beloved.
**May we become instruments of your divine body
as we continue the work of creating a more just and loving world.
Amen.**

* HYMN

Sing a New World Into Being

1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
 2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der, class and race
 3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home,
 4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry

Find a tune for sil - ent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
 brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
 where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled in God's sha - lom;
 for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;

dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.
 where the lines that once di - vid - ed form in - stead the ties that bind.
 where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and ven - geance cease.
 when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
 Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
 Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
 Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

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.

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-23

New Testament, page 110

HYMN

I Dream of a Church
*Stanza 1 sung seated
as the children come forward.*

1. I dream of a church where ev - 'ry-one is wel - come, I dream of a
2. O God, fill our hearts to reach out in wel - come, make us to
place we all can call home. I dream of a world where jus - tice is
see your vi - sion once more. Let's dream of a world where our hands are
flow - ing with hope and peace grow - ing, where God's will is done.
your hands, we of - fer our - selves, O God, make it so.
Make it so, make it so! We pray for that
day, make it so. We dream of a world where Love reigns a -
mong us and your will is done, O God, make it so.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

HYMN

I Dream of a Church
*Stanza 2 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 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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Love that will not let me go,
 I rest my weary soul in thee;
 I give thee back the life I owe,
 that in thy ocean depths
 its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through the pain,
 I cannot close my heart to thee;
 I trace the rainbow through the rain,
 and feel the promise is not vain
 that morn shall tearless be.

* 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!

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN

Draw the Circle Wide

Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle

The first system of music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G, a quarter note A, and a quarter note B. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment with quarter notes G, A, and B.

wide. No one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by side. Draw the

The second system continues the melody. The treble staff has a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a quarter note C. The bass staff continues with quarter notes G, A, and B.

1 2
cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the wide. Draw the cir-cle wide, draw it

The third system includes first and second endings. The treble staff has a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a quarter note C. The bass staff continues with quarter notes G, A, and B.

wid-er still. Let this be our song: no one stands a-lone. Stand-ing

The fourth system continues the melody. The treble staff has a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a quarter note C. The bass staff continues with quarter notes G, A, and B.

1
side by side, draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the

The fifth system concludes the piece with a first ending. The treble staff has a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a quarter note C. The bass staff continues with quarter notes G, A, and B.

2

wide. Draw the cir - cle draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle

wide. No one stands a-lone,we'll stand side by side. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-le

wide. Draw the cir-cle wide, draw it wid-er still. Let this be our song: no one

stands a - lone. Stand - ing side by side, draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle

to repeat Repeat as desired to end

wide. Draw the Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle

molto rit.

wide. Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide.

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are placed by Ted Batey, Breann Bruton, and Evelyn Batey in loving memory of Ted's mother and Evelyn's grammy, Alice Batey.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist: Dr. Brad King

Music: Scott Davis and Lewis Worthington

WORSHIP MUSIC

Welcome

Words: Laurie Zelman / Mark A. Miller

Music: Mark A. Miller

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Sing a New World Into Being

Words: Mary Louise Bringle

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Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven; Arr. Edward Hodges

I Dream of a Church

Words and Music: Mark A. Miller

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O Love

Words: George Matheson

Music: Elaine Hagenberg

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Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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

Draw the Circle Wide

Words: Gordon Light

Music: Mark A. Miller

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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.

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.



The Promise of a More Inclusive Church

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church concluded last week, and it was an historic one. By removing harmful language throughout the UMC Book of Discipline that targeted the LGBTQ+ community, we are now a more inclusive and affirming denomination. While we lament that it has taken far too long for these changes to be made by the UMC, we remember with gratitude all who have advocated for inclusion, and we celebrate the many gifts of our LGbTA+ community. First Church rejoices that all are truly welcome here!

Below you will find several ways to learn more about General Conference and to lean in with love for our LGBTQ+ community.

GENERAL CONFERENCE WRAP UP

SUNDAY, MAY 19 | 10:00-10:45AM | SANCTUARY

Pastor Taylor Fuerst and Rachel Wright will host a brief opportunity to learn more about the work of the postponed 2020 General Conference, which they attended as delegates from the Rio Texas Conference. Get more information about the decisions to remove the harmful language toward the LGBTQ+ community, to regionalize the worldwide church, to adopt new Social Principles, and more.

LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY LUNCH

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 | 12:15PM | LOCATION TBA

First Church is hosting a June LGBTQ+ community lunch on Sunday, June 9, after the 11:00AM worship service ends. Enjoy this opportunity to get to know one another in a casual setting. We will also take some time for conversation and planning about other upcoming events including First Church's participation in the August Pride Parade and Festival. Please RSVP by Friday, June 7, at fumcaustin.org/lgbtq-community-lunch so that we have an accurate count for the restaurant. Location TBD. If you are unable to attend this event, but want to be included in future gatherings, contact Rose Martinelli at rosemaria.martinelli@yahoo.com.

AUSTIN PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL

Pride begins in June and is celebrated citywide in Austin in August with a parade and festival. First Church is making plans and building a team to spearhead our participation in both opportunities. If you are interested in being a part of that, email Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@fumcaustin.org.

