

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







'cause all of us are wel - come here;



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.



# **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.

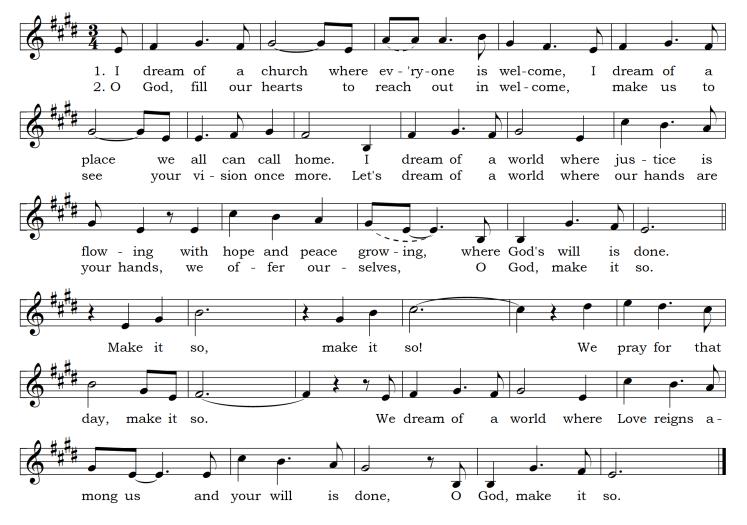
**SCRIPTURE** 

John 20:19-23

New Testament, page 110

HYMN

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



#### 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.

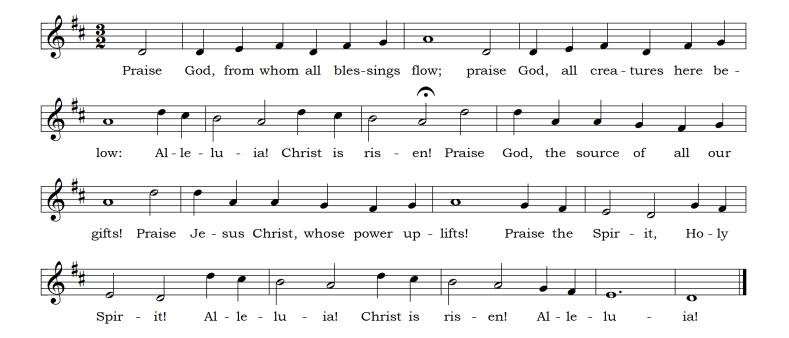
#### INVITATION TO THE FAITH JOURNEY

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



# **GOING OUT TO SERVE**

## \* BENEDICTION





#### **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 © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

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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 © 2016 GIA Publications, Inc.

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O Love

Words: George Matheson Music: Elaine Hagenberg © 2016 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

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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.