

WELCOME

Pastor Beth Snarr

PRELUDE

Maggie Tran

CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Morris

Easter people, no matter the bends and curves in our path, Jesus does not leave us alone on this journey of faith.

God gives us the Spirit, our Advocate and Helper.

The Spirit lives in and among us, pointing us all toward the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus.

God gives us the Spirit, our Guide and Guardian.

The Spirit draws us into God's story, showing us how to cooperate in writing God's dream into reality.

God gives us the Spirit, our Dream-Giver and Story-Keeper.

Easter people, God's story abides in you, calling you to live as co-creators of love and abundant life.

Let us worship in Spirit-filled grace and gratitude.

HYMN UMH 384

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

- ¹ Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
- ² Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
- ³ Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
- ⁴ Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Despite the witness of Scripture and early Church tradition, we know that too often we have failed to recognize the Divinity of Christ in women. Therefore, today, let us as the Church affirm:

We believe God, our Divine Creator, is mothering us, cradling us in infinite grace and love.

We believe, like Eve, we are partners with humanity and creation.

We believe, like Deborah, we are gifted with Holy Wisdom as we seek God's guidance.

We believe, like Tamar, we are much more than the worst things done to us.

We believe, like Esther, we are called to step out in faith, taking risks for the good of others.

We believe, like Ruth, we are meant to love others selflessly.

We believe, like Mary, we can bring to life Divine hope for the world.

We believe, like the woman caught in adultery, we are forgiven.

We believe, like Martha and Mary, we are invited to be disciples of Jesus.

We believe, like Mary Magdalene, we are called to proclaim the Good News of resurrection, no matter how unbelievable.

We believe, like Lydia, we are gifted with resources meant to be generously shared.

We see the Divine's goodness, courage, faithfulness, and resilience reflected in women throughout Scripture and in our world today. We believe we are called to follow their lead. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

RECEIVING GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Who at My Door is Standing?"
K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir

CALL TO PRAYER FWS 2193 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

WE WELCOME AND AFFIRM THOSE OF EVERY RACE, ETHNICITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION,
GENDER IDENTITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION, FAMILY STRUCTURE,
AND MENTAL OR PHYSICAL ABILITY INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE LIFE OF THIS CONGREGATION.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Harold Henderson

LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

GATHERING SONG FWS 2233 "Where Children Belong"

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping throng. Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: this is where children belong.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SERMON

Fear<Less
Jesus is Permanent
John 14:15-21

Pastor Beth Snarr

HYMN UMH 61

"Come Thou Almighty King"

- 1 Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise! Father all glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!
- 2 Come, thou incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend! Come, and thy people bless, and give thy word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend!
- 3 Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour. Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power!
- 4 To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be, hence, evermore. Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore!

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE W&S 3154 "Draw the Circle Wide"

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone. Standing side by side. Draw the circle. Draw the circle wide.

POSTLUDE

Maggie Tran

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ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by

- Brendan Shortley in honor of biological mothers, those who adopt, and all women who mentor, model, teach, and love on each one of us every day.
- Jim Keaton and Mark Reinhart in celebration of their 41st anniversary.

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have prayers to be lifted up or wish to be part of the team who lifts up prayers, drop an email to prayer@fumcgvn.org or go to <https://fumcgvn.org/PrayerRequest>.

MISSION FOCUS - FAMILY PROMISE

Our ministry focus today is Family Promise of Gainesville who are working towards a community where every family has a home, a livelihood, and a chance to build a better future by providing children and families facing homelessness with life-changing resources like diversion, shelter, and stabilization. Your second-mile gift will help Family Promise in their life-changing mission. Please note "Family Promise" on your gift.

SIMPLE SUNDAY LUNCHES KICKOFF ON PENTECOST

Join us after worship on May 24 as we kick off our monthly Simple Sunday Lunches with a **Pentecost Pancake Palooza!** No RSVP's required, donations will be accepted, and gluten-free option will be available. As an added bonus, we will be sharing updates on the Master's Plan III capital campaign projects.

Volunteers are also needed to make this opportunity for food and fellowship possible! Contact Donna Witts at mejabebe@me.com for more information.

COMMUNION SERVICE AFTER WORSHIP TODAY

A brief Service of Holy Communion will be held in the Shaw Memorial Chapel (located off the Fellowship Hall) immediately after worship today. If you'd like to receive this tangible expression of God's grace, please join us. Everyone is welcome!



WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES



The light of Jesus shines most brightly when our God-given time and talents are shared in service to others. Learn where you can volunteer by using the QR code above or visit fumcgvn.org/ways-to-serve



GIVE BY CHECK

Place in a black offering box, or mail or bring to the Church Office at 419 NE 1st Street Gainesville, FL 32601



Have you considered long-term support of our church ministries through our Legacy Endowment Fund? For more details, contact legacy@fumcgvn.org



GIVE ONLINE

use the QR code above or visit fumcgvn.com/GiveOnline or via the First UMC app