

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“What Wondrous Love is This?”
arr. Joel Raney

Pastor Beth Snarr
Lynn Sandefur-Gardner
and Maggie Tran
Donna Parrish

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to the weary and the worn.
Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.
Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.
Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.
Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.
Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.
Welcome to the sinners and the saints.
This is God’s house.
You can make yourself at home here.
Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

HYMN

“We Reclaim the Name of Jesus”

¹ We reclaim the name of Jesus; we announce the grace he brought. We believe his love redeems us; we reclaim the things he taught. We know each one bears God’s image; racist words and deeds are sin. We commit to spread the message: God is love and love will win.

² We reclaim the name of Jesus; we’re Christ’s body here on earth. We resist when some would lead us to devalue women’s worth. We see how Christ loved the stranger, tore down barriers, opened doors. We will welcome those in danger; we will love and serve the poor.

³ We reclaim the name of Jesus and we trust the truth he brings. We renounce what some now tell us - that their lies are normal things. We reject the push toward power; we support democracy. We seek ways to work together for a just society.

⁴ We reclaim the name of Jesus; he brought love to all the earth. We protest when people tell us that our country should come first. We are in a time of crisis, so Christ’s church must call out sin. We stand firm for we believe this: God is love and love will win.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence.

I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him.

I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! 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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Mitra Ghozatloo

RECEIVING GOD’S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC

“We Resist”
Mark Miller

Chancel Choir

CALL TO PRAYER

FWS 2025

“As The Deer”

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you. You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you. You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Harold Henderson

LORD’S PRAYER

UMH 895

GATHERING SONG

UMH 156

“I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

SERMON

The Good News Is...
Rooted In Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness
John 8:2-12

Pastor Beth Snarr

HYMN

“Let Us Remember”

- ¹ What is important? What matters more? Human connection or keeping score? In our pursuit of justice and truth, let us remember: we fall short, too.
- ² We’ve been shown mercy all of our lives by the creator of humankind. So when we’re in a position to judge, let us remember: they’re just like us.
- ³ Following Jesus, living in truth. We remain faithful to our roots. When those roots lead us outside the lines, let us remember: faith is alive.
- ⁴ What does the Lord require of us? To remain humble, loving, and just. Keeping the heart of the gospel in mind, let us remember: do what is right.

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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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.



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday
March 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday
April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
April 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Celebration

April 5 at 10:30 a.m.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today’s altar flowers are given by Julie and Doug Ray in celebration of Julie’s mother, Anne C. Williams, on her 90th birthday.

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@fumcgnv.org or go to <https://fumcgnv.org/PrayerRequest>.

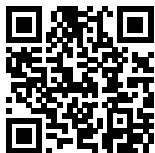
EASTER LILIES

We are decorating our Sanctuary with lilies for Easter! Lilies can be purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones and will add to the beauty of our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 5. Order your lilies after worship at the Welcome Table, via the Church Office during the week, online at <https://fumcgnv.org/lilies>, or from the First UMC app. The cost for each Easter lily is \$15. Orders need to be placed by Monday, March 30.

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 fumcgnv.org/ways-to-serve

GIVE BY CHECK
Mail or bring your check to the Church Office
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@fumcgnv.org

GIVE ONLINE
use the QR code above or visit fumcgnv.com/GiveOnline or via the First UMC app