

WELCOME

Pastor Harold Henderson

PRELUDE

"Open Thou Mine Eyes"
Benjamin Harlan

Elvis Gomez and
Lynn Sandefur-Gardner

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marlene Udell

Before God spoke the first word of creation, there was love.

Before anyone entered the sanctuary this morning, love was already here.

When we draw our last breath and leave this world, love will be waiting for us.

That love is God.

Then let us worship with love, thanks, and praise.

HYMN FWS 2103

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

¹ We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place, where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God's grace. Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain, searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

² Light breaks through our clouds and shadows, splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word, Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet: Christ with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

³ Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline, we, like Peter, find it tempting to remain and build a shrine. But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess, that our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in the one God, maker and ruler of all things, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength.

We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need.

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

"Then Will the Very Rocks Cry Out"
arr. Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

CALL TO PRAYER UMH 393

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Alan Taylor

LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

GATHERING SONG FWS 2233

"Where Children Belong"

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Sandy Reeves

SERMON

Awakened to Grace
Service

Pastor Harold Henderson

Matthew 17:1-8 and 1 John 4:7-11, 18-21

HYMN UMH 173

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills The Skies"

¹ Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light, Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

² Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee; joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see; till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

³ Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief; fill me, Radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief; more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.



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 anonymously to the Glory of God and to honor Joan Van Winkle. and

in loving memory of Dorothy Carlisle on her birthday by her daughters, Marsha, Patty, and Susie. She would have been 100 years old.

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>.

OUR SERMON SERIES

This is the last Sunday in our sermon series titled "Awakened to Grace". This series invited us to begin the year by rediscovering the simple, transformative practices that open us to God's presence - Prayer, Scripture, Silence, Fasting, Sabbath, and Service. May these practices, made visible in ordinary life and everyday discipleship, continue to open us to extraordinary love.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY CHALLENGE RESULTS

The First UMC Souper Bowl ended last Sunday and we have the results! Just like the Super Bowl, the Seattle Seahawks blew the doors off the New England Patriots with the Seahawks obtaining 199 points and the Patriots with 181 points. The big winner though was the Bread Of The Mighty, a local food bank where we donated 158 cans of soup and \$221 in cash.



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!



One of our Stephen Ministers are present each week at the Service of Holy Communion if you need someone to talk to and/or to pray with you after the service. Our Stephen Ministers are lay persons who share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. Have questions about Stephen Ministry? Contact them at StephenMinisters@fumcgnv.org.

LENT 2026

This season of repentance, reflection, and renewal begins on February 18 with an ecumenical Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 p.m. at **Grace Presbyterian Church** (3146 NW 13th St, Gainesville, FL 32609). During these difficult times when division is too often the norm, this will be a wonderful time of connection and solidarity as Christ followers who are called to "repent and believe the Gospel".



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