

GOING OUT TO SERVE

CLOSING LITANY

By love, and for love,
God has freed us.

God gives us a new way and a new life.

The Path to Freedom is before us,
and Jesus leads the way.

**We walk in faith that beyond death,
there is new life.**

In the days ahead, the journey will be difficult,
but through the waters and to the cross,
we will follow God

* HYMN 292 What Wondrous Love Is This

CLOSING MUSIC

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ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers are placed on the altar by Cathy Stone in loving
memory of her mother, Billye Stone.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgists

Reverend Michael Mumme

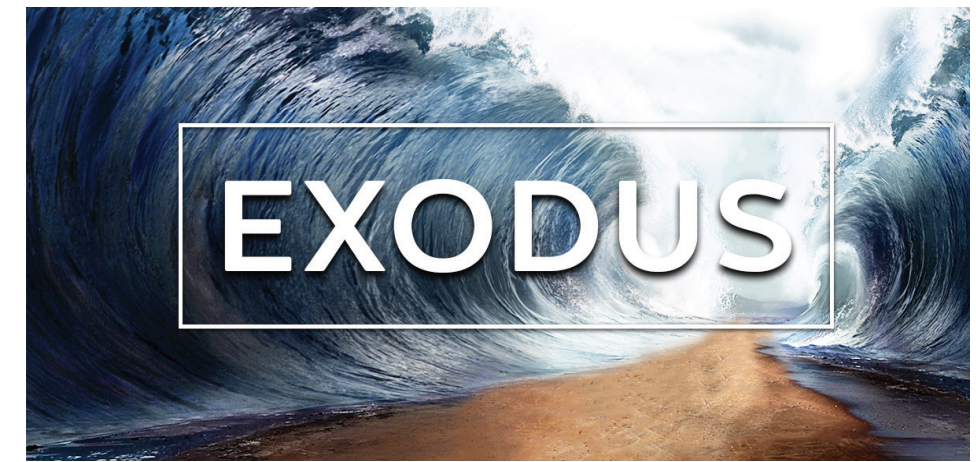
Reverend Cathy Stone

Music Director/Organist

Scott Davis

Children's Choir Director

Roxie Garza



PALM SUNDAY
March 25, 2018
9:00 a.m.

WELCOME

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 attend, join, and participate fully in the life of this church. For a description of our worship services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays and at 6:30 a.m. on Thursdays, visit our website at fumcaustin.org.

FAMILY ROOM

For parents with infants and toddlers, our Family Room, located in the balcony, offers rockers, books, toys, and a comfortable place for diaper changes. Childcare provided by our well-trained childcare staff is also available in Room 103 and 104 of the Education Building. Please ask an usher for assistance.

SUNDAY PARKING

For mobility-impaired individuals as well as those needing close-in parking, reserved handicap and accessible parking spaces are designated by signage along the wall of the Trial Lawyers' building. All able-bodied members are asked to use the free parking in the Trial Lawyer's garage at the southwest corner of 13th and Lavaca Streets and at open meters around the church.

Making Disciples...Making a Difference
www.fumcaustin.org

GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

Asterisks () indicate an invitation to stand as you are able.*

OPENING MUSIC

Fanfare for Palm Sunday “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

GREETING

All are invited to greet those around them and to fill out the Connections Card. During Lent you are invited to write prayers for new life for yourself, for others, for our world on the paper butterflies available in the pews. Place your Connections Card and butterflies in the offering plate.

ENTERING THE HOLY

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Just like the Israelites in Egypt,
we, too, are enslaved by powers beyond ourselves.
As we remember their passage through the sea,
we look ahead and anticipate the freedom
God has won for us:
freedom from sin
freedom from death
freedom from the evil in this world.
Behold, today, Jesus rides in to Jerusalem,
to walk the path to freedom for us.
Let us not sit by, but welcome him with joy,
and join him on his way to the cross.

* HYMN 280 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM Bring Palm Branches

Cindy Berry

Jesus is coming!
Jesus is coming today!
Bring palm branches to lay before the King.
Lift them high as you celebrate and sing.
Lay palms before him,
love and adore him.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna,
we celebrate the King.
He’s coming to Jerusalem today.
Riding on a donkey, entering the city,
as joyful crowds line the way.

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HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Courage,
be in our speaking.
Be also in our listening,
and speak to our souls’ deep understanding.
In Christ’s name we pray.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE Exodus 14:21-31 Old Testament, page 59
Mark 11:1-11 New Testament, page 45

SERMON The Path to Freedom

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we pray, please join in the following response:
God of the Exodus, God of the cross,
lead your people to Freedom.

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 joining FUMC? Prior to joining, we ask all to participate in a First Steps Class to learn about Methodist beliefs and the ministry of FUMC, meet the pastors and other members, and ask questions. To sign up, fill out the Connections Card during worship and place it in the offering plate or email Trevor Harper at trevor@fumcaustin.org. The next class is April 15 at 12:15 p.m. in Garrison Chapel of the Family Life Center.

OFFERING We Sang Our Glad Hosannas John D. Horman

We sang our glad hosannas and waved our branches high,
but some were silent, frowning, as Jesus rode on by.
They sought a royal Savior, but did not understand
a king could rule by loving instead of by command.
We heard an angry Jesus in Temple courts declare,
“Be gone, you money changers!
This is a house of prayer.”
Though many came for healing and stayed to hear his word,
still others, hostile, plotted and thus his death assured.
We served him at the table with wine, unleavened bread.
“The one who will betray me now eats with me,” he said.
His friends would not believe him,
but one by one that night,
as soldiers came to take him,
they scurried out of sight.
We saw a suffering Jesus alone, without a friend,
and heard the voices shouting abuse until the end.
We wept as we stood watching Love’s light
grow dim and die, and cried,
“Why did this happen? God, tell us why!”

Mary Nelson Keithahn © 1998 Abingdon Press

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* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought; bless
thou the work our hearts have planned. Ours
is the faith, the will, the thought; the
rest, O God, is in thy hand.

Words: Samuel Longfellow

Music: DEUS TUORUM MILITUM - *Grenoble Antiphoner*; adapt. by Ralph Vaughan William