



ORDER OF WORSHIP
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AUSTIN, TEXAS

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 11, 2020

WE ARE GATHERED AS THE CHURCH

OPENING MUSIC

Lux Benigna

John B. Dykes / Arr. Susannah Willms

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are invited to greet those around them and to fill out an Online Connections Card at fumcaustin.org/attendance.

Response: I was glad when they said to me,
“**Let us go to the house of the Lord!**”

Psalm 122:1

MUSICAL INTROIT

When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike in work and prayer, to Jesus I repair:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

In heaven's eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Words: Katholisches Gesangbuch; Stanza 1 trans. by Edward Caswall and Stanza 3 trans. by Robert S. Bridges

Music: LAUDES DOMINI - Joseph Barnby

CALL TO WORSHIP

Through Moses, God said,
“Let my people go.”

In scripture, the law declares:
“In the seventh year, you must cancel all debts.”

With grace, Jesus said:
“Give one coat away.”

With honesty, Jesus taught:
“Sell what you have, give that money to the poor.”

Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free,
dropping our nets, giving to others, and following.

**So in this hour of worship,
may we release that which binds us.
May we worship with open, untamed, and porous hearts,
so that we can walk freely with God.**

Let it be so.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Guide Me, O though Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me still I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Words: William Williams; trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and the author

Music: CWM RHONDDA - John Hughes

OPENING PRAYER

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 15:1-11

Response:

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Release

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that on the first day,
God released love and creativity over a void;
and that void became mountains and rivers, sunsets, and starry nights.

We believe God released
God's people from the grips of slavery,
liberating us day in and day out.

We believe God laid down with death
and was released from its grip,
knowing suffering and freeing us from this fragile life.

And we believe God invites us—
day in and day out—
to release our fears,
let go of assumptions, tear down walls,
throw open the doors, and walk closer to love.

May it be so.
Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAYER With a Shepherd's Care

With a shepherd's care, God leads us,
with a father's strength, God guides us.
With a mother's love, God nurtures us,
and cradles us in gentle arms.

When we are lost, and cannot find the way,
God cares for us and keeps us safe.
For God is our light and our faithful guide,
and leads us with a shepherd's care.

When we are weak, and cares press all around,
God strengthens us to face each day.
For God is our rock and our saving help,
and guides us with a father's strength.

When we are scared, and feel so all alone,
God loves us and is by our side.
For God is our hope and our constant friend,
and nurtures with a mother's love.

With a shepherd's care, God leads us,
with a father's strength, God guides us.
With a mother's love, God nurtures us,
and cradles us in gentle arms.

Words and Music: James J. Chepponis

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we pray, please join in the following response:

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts;

Lord, hear our prayer.

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 DISCIPLESHIP

Are you interested in joining FUMC? Prior to joining, we ask all to participate in a First Steps Class to learn about United Methodist beliefs and the ministry of FUMC, meet the pastors and other members, and ask questions. To learn more, email Trevor Harper at trevor@fumcaustin.org.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

Jesus, We Know Your Love in This

Jesus, we know your love in this:

You gave your life to save us all.

You died so we would all be blessed,

and in this gift, we hear your call:

What are you willing, Church, to do?

How will you love as I've loved you?

We are weighed down by what we own,
while those who lack the world's goods die;

even in places near to home,

poor, hungry people daily cry:

What are you willing, Church, to do?

How does God's love abide in you?

Teach us, O Lord, your way to live;
serving your world means sacrifice.

Loving means we will freely give -

sharing our goods, our skills, our lives.

Make us a church that's bold and new -
dying to self, to live for you.

Words: Henri Frederick Hemy, ST. CATHERINE

Music: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

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WE GO FORTH TO FOLLOW CHRIST

CLOSING HYMN

Freely, Freely

God forgave my sins in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you,
to share his love as he told me to.

He said, "Freely, freely you have received,
freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live."

All power is given in Jesus' name,
in earth and heaven in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you,
to share his power as he told me to.

He said, "Freely, freely you have received,
freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live."

Words and Music: Carol Owens

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BENEDICTION

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever he may send you;
may he guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm;
may he bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown you;
may he bring you home rejoicing,
once again into our doors.**

Amen.

Shane Claiborne and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

CLOSING MUSIC

Lenox

Louis Edson / Arr. Susannah Willms

+ + +

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist: Reverend Cathy Stone

Scripture Reader: Tom Ausley

Affirmation of Faith: Melissa Biegert

Cantors: Chelsea De Lorenz and Chrissy Whitford

Piano: Susannah Willms

Violin: Evelyn Gullatt