



Service of Worship

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Making Disciples in Three Centuries

September 25, 2022 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Welcome to First United Methodist. From the earliest days of the Church, worship has always been one of the most essential elements of the life of faith and discipleship. As Christians, we know that worship is a part of who we are and how we live out our faith. We pray this time of worship is a blessing to you.

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Præludium in C Major*

Felix Mendelssohn

GREETING

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Please stand, as able, at points marked †.

† HYMN 139 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Be seated.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00 a.m.)

Emerson Jane, child of James and Melissa Carroll

Pastor to congregation:

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this family, now before you, in your care? **With God's help we will proclaim the Good News and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this family with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *all sing*

Emerson Jane, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

We this day do all agree, a child of God you'll always be.

Emerson Jane, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers; the moon and stars suspended in space. Oh, what is man, that you are mindful of him? You have given man a crown of glory and honor, and have made him a little lower than the angels. You have put him in charge of all creation: the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea. But what is man that you are mindful of him? O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of your name transcends the earth and fills the heavens. O Lord, our God, little children praise you perfectly, and so would we. Alleluia! The majesty and glory of your name.

OUR SHARED LIFE

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Barbara Orr by the Bottcher family.

PRAYER AND 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.

Children are invited to come forward during the last verse for the children's sermon.

† HYMN 430 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take a moment and record your attendance on a card located in the blue folders in the pews. Place the card in the offering plate. You can also give and register your attendance by texting FUMCBR to (225) 465-0770.

OFFERTORY *Ain't a that Good News*

Arranged by Charles Lloyd, Jr.

I got a crown up in a that kingdom. Ain't a that good news! I'm gonna lay down this world. Gonna shoulder up my cross. Gonna take it home to my Jesus. Ain't a that good news! I got a robe up in a that kingdom. Ain't a that good news! I got a Savior in a that kingdom. Ain't a that good news! I got a home up in a that kingdom. Ain't a that good news!

† DOXOLOGY **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

† PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

† GOSPEL LESSON Luke 16:19-31

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have

mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.’²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house—²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON *Is Your Heart Fit for Heaven?*

Reverend Whitton

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 436 *The Voice of God Is Calling*

SENDING FORTH

† BENEDICTION *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* (11:00 a.m.)

Peter Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift his countenance upon you; and give you peace, the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Paul Manz

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Preaching	Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Liturgist	Taylor Bacon, <i>Director of Children’s Ministry</i>
Musicians	Richard Hobson, <i>Baritone</i> ; Charles Lloyd, Jr., <i>Piano</i> Chancel Choir (11:00 a.m.); Holden Miller, <i>Associate Director of Music and Organist</i> Lamar Drummonds, <i>Director of Music and Worship</i>
Children’s Sermon	Eric Lockridge
Lay Reader	Amanda Spain (8:30 a.m.); Terry Preis (11:00 a.m.)
Soundboard	Rebecca Mitchell (8:30 a.m.); Rick Waldrop (11:00 a.m.)

Welcome to First United Methodist Church

- Childcare is available during all services for children ages 6 weeks through Kindergarten. Check-in is located in the Conference Center.
- FUMC offers Sunday morning groups for children and youth from 9:40-10:40 a.m. Let us assist you in finding a group by visiting the Check-in table located in the Conference Center.
- New to First Methodist? Stop by Café 930 in the Ory Parish Hall for coffee and tea, and meet people who have a genuine love for the church. Ask an usher for directions. Café 930 is open every Sunday from 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Events and Mission Opportunities

We believe the Christian faith and life are most fully lived out as part of a community of faith, and invite you to consider making First United Methodist your official church home. Those wishing to join are invited to participate in *Believe & Belong* on either October 6 or October 9. To register, contact Sonia Fealing, *Director of Inviting and Welcoming*, at sfealing@firstmethodist.org.

Looking for a small group that is open to newcomers and members alike? Join Cherri Johnson and Cindy Mann for *Experiencing God in Everyday Life* at 9:45 a.m. in Room 105 in the Adult Building. Each week's conversation stands alone and is inspiring and enlightening. No prior study or reading is required.

If you would like to be a part of our **Funeral Ministry** at FUMC, contact Rebecca Mitchell, *Director of Care Ministry*, at Rebecca@firstmethodist.org. We are looking to expand this ministry and involve persons to greet before funerals and help with the visitation receptions.

Visit the **Resource Table** in the narthex at the rear of the sanctuary where you will find books to inspire your life with God: *John Wesley: Holiness of Heart & Life; Good & Beautiful God; and Making Sense of the Bible*.

Would you be interested in assisting acolytes prior to worship once a month (helping children robe and light a taper as they enter the sanctuary)? If so, please contact Lamar Drummonds, *Director of Music and Worship*, at lamar@firstmethodist.org.

FUMC is forming a group for men who are approaching retirement or recently retired. Participants will learn from each other's experiences, share celebrations and struggles, and encourage one another through deep listening and friendship. To join or for information, contact Pattye Hewitt at phewitt@firstmethodist.org, or by calling (225) 383-4777, ext. 255.

Make plans to attend the next **Senior Adult Program and Lunch** on Wednesday, October 12 for *Between the Bible and the Blues* with Walter Jr. The program begins in the Conference Center at 10:30 a.m. Lunch served in the gymnasium following the program for \$8.00. To make reservations, call (225) 383-4777, ext. 229.

Todd Rossnagel will be leading the Good News Sunday School Class in an informational discussion about "**What Is Happening in the United Methodist Church**" starting Sunday, October 16 through October 30 in the Aldrich Chapel at 9:45 a.m. If you are interested in learning more about this subject, join us.

————— *Music Shelters the Soul* —————

One of the goals of renovating the historic sanctuary was not only to improve worship experiences, but also create an environment inviting and engaging for musicians and musical organizations in the Baton Rouge community. The organ and sanctuary, with its improved acoustics, has garnered acclaim and is becoming a destination for community engagement through music. Below are three concerts you will want to attend. Concerts are a gift to the community and are free of charge. Invite a friend to join you.

Fall Concert presented by choral ensembles from the **Baton Rouge Magnet High School** on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m.



Rise, Heart: A concert celebrating Ralph Vaughan Williams on Sunday, October 9 at 4:00 p.m.

The combined choirs of **First United Methodist and St. James Episcopal** will collaborate on a concert celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of one of the most pivotal composers of church music. The choirs will celebrate Vaughan William's legacy through anthems, hymns, and organ works showcasing the genius of this giant of western music.

In concert: Robert Grayson, Organist, Pianist, and Tenor, on Sunday, October 16 at 3:00 p.m. Works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Verdi, and Rodgers and Hammerstein.