

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

*Making Disciples in Three Centuries*

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Lent

March 16, 2025 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

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Jesus continues his resolute journey to Jerusalem. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus faithfully prepares to continue on his way to the city where he will be killed as prophets before him have. Though some Pharisees warn him that Herod is seeking to kill him, Jesus is fearless in his call, trusting the One who desires to gather God's children like a hen gathers her brood under her wing. The Psalmist proclaims God as a refuge, strength, and ever-present help, encouraging trust and peace amidst chaos, even when the earth trembles, and the nations rage.

During Lent we are invited to examine the roots of our Christian discipleship and identify with Jesus's journey to the cross. We will observe Lent in our worship services by adapting our practices for the season. In addition to removing "Alleluias" from the liturgy, blooming flowers are absent from the sanctuary. May these corporate practices, along with our individual Lenten disciplines, shape our journey with Jesus to the cross.

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CHIMES *At the sound of the chimes, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection preparing for today's service.*

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Gammal fäbodpsalm" (Old Swedish Pastoral Hymn)

Oskar Lindberg

GREETING

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

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

Sumner Belen and Sullivan Lawrence, children of Scott and Shannon Haltom

*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:*

(Child's first and middle name), 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.  
(Child's first and middle name), God claims you,  
God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

ACT OF PRAISE 780 Psalm 46, response 2

OUR SHARED LIFE

Today's music is underwritten by Jackie Hoffman in memory of her mother, Patricia Ann Byrom, on what would be her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

CALL TO PRAYER “Children of the Heavenly Father”

Setting by John Ferguson

Children of the heavenly father safely in his bosom gather; nestling bird or star in heaven such a refuge ne’er was given. God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish. From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them. Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne’er forsaketh; his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

PASTORAL 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 for the children’s sermon during the last verse of the hymn.*

† HYMN 108 “God Hath Spoken by the Prophets”

CHILDREN’S SERMON

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An offering is collected to support the work of First United Methodist Church sharing God’s love with the world. 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 when passed to you. Make a secure gift by scanning the QR Code or visit [fumcbr.org/give](http://fumcbr.org/give) to give online.



OFFERTORY

“O rest in the Lord” from Elijah (8:30 a.m.)

Felix Mendelssohn

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him, and he shall give thee thy hearts desires. Commit thy way unto him and trust in him; and fret not thyself because of evil doers.

“Help me, Lord, in my affliction” (11:00 a.m.)

Felix Mendelssohn

Help me, Lord, in my affliction; O be gracious to my cry, for if thou wilt mark transgression, nevermore shall I be free. Shall my pain be everlasting? Shall my foes show scorn for me? Weak and helpless in my grieving, shall I be cast off from thee?

† 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.**

† PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert; as we formed by your word, help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

† GOSPEL LESSON Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way,

because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’<sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!<sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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

SERMON “Finding Refuge in a Troubled World”

Reverend Whitton

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

† HYMN 529 “How Firm a Foundation”

† BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Tocatta on Foundation”

Craig Phillips

#### MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Acolyte	Emmaline Smith (8:30 a.m.); Emelie Graham (11:00 a.m.)
Children’s Sermon	Eric Lockridge
Lay Reader	John Spain (8:30 a.m.); Robert Ezelle (11:00 a.m.)
Liturgist	Pattye Hewitt, <i>Executive Director of Adult Discipleship, Care, and Welcoming Ministries</i>
Musicians	Lindsay Kate Brown, <i>Mezzo-Soprano</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>
Preaching	Reverend Brady Whitton, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Soundboard	Rebecca Mitchell (8:30 a.m.); Jim Hewitt (11:00 a.m.)

### Welcome to First United Methodist Church

A great place to learn more about First United Methodist Church is at the monthly “Discover First” gathering in the Ory Parish Hall. The next gatherings, led by Shan Schatzle, *Discover First Coordinator*, will be on April 6 at 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Registration is not required. For more information, email Shan at [shan@firstmethodist.org](mailto:shan@firstmethodist.org).

**Do you want to become a member of First United Methodist Church?** “Believe & Belong” is where you will learn what it means to believe in Jesus and belong to this community of faith. The next “Believe & Belong” is on March 30 from 9:45–10:45 a.m. in the Conference Center. Childcare and Sunday School for children and youth are available during this time. For more information about joining FUMC, or to register to attend the next “Believe & Belong,” contact Pattye Hewitt at [welcome@firstmethodist.org](mailto:welcome@firstmethodist.org). If you are unable to attend in-person, we will find a time that works in your schedule.

**Café 930** - Enjoy fellowship and a cup of hot coffee or tea from 8:00-11:00 a.m. (Ory Parish Hall) every Sunday morning. An assortment of teas, flavored syrups, and sweeteners are available. All are welcome.

**Resource Table** - Looking to grow your love for God, self, and others? Stop by the Resource Table located in the narthex off the back of the sanctuary and help yourself to a Bible and highly recommended books. These free resources will encourage and inspire you in following Jesus and loving others in his name.

**Families with Children**—Children are always welcome in worship! Childcare is available during all services for children ages 6 weeks through Kindergarten. FUMC also offers Sunday morning groups for children and youth from 9:45-10:40 a.m. Let us assist you in finding a group by visiting the check-in table located across from the welcome desk in the Conference Center lobby. Ask a greeter for directions.

## Events, Missions, and Learning

We welcome **Lindsay Kate Brown**, mezzo-soprano, to worship. Ms. Brown is newly appointed Assistant Professor of Voice at the LSU School of Music. Lindsay holds degrees from Rice University, Houston, TX, and Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY. Lindsay has received a number of awards and distinctions from competitions, young artist programs, and institutions. Recent credits include contracts with The Metropolitan Opera and Houston Grand Opera.

Joining us online during Holy Week (Palm Sunday through Easter)? Pick up an **At-Home Worship Kit**, which contains supplies and communion elements for Holy Week services, today in the Ory Parish Hall. There is also a Holy Week activity for children 3 years old and older.

**Draw closer to God** by attending a service of Holy Communion each Wednesday in Lent from 12:10-12:40 p.m. in the Aldrich Chapel.

**Help adorn the sanctuary on Easter morning** with fresh flowers and Easter Lilies in memory or in honor of someone special to you. By scanning the QR code to the right with your phone's camera, you will be directed to an Easter Lily reservation page. Each plant is \$23. You can also order by visiting [www.firstmethodist.org](http://www.firstmethodist.org) under the "Lent" tab. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 13.



Mark your calendars to attend FUMC's annual **Women's Retreat (March 28-30)**. This retreat will be held at the Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA – a two-hour drive from Baton Rouge and will include single lodging accommodations, meals, and all program materials. Cost is \$325.00 per person. Register by scanning the QR Code. Questions? Contact Pattye Hewitt at [phe Witt@firstmethodist.org](mailto:phe Witt@firstmethodist.org).



The **FUMC Easter Walk** is on Saturday, April 12, and the Children's Ministry is collecting 5,000 candy-stuffed and taped eggs. Empty eggs and bags of candy are also accepted. Please drop off your donations to the "Easter Walk" bins at all entrances by April 6. Event sponsorship opportunities are available, and we are accepting monetary donations. Scan the QR Code to donate.



**10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders**, register by April 1 to hit the trails on an unforgettable adventure with the Wilderness TREK Adventure Trip to Glorieta, NM on July 12-18! TREK is a faith-focused, guided backpacking expedition encouraging new heights in your faith and friendships. Cost is \$725 and includes guide, food, and lodging in transit. Hosted by [wildernesstrek.org](http://wildernesstrek.org). Register at [firstmethodistyouth.org](http://firstmethodistyouth.org). Must have 9 registrants for the trip.

**Vacation Bible School and Mission Day Camp** registrations are open! VBS (June 23-27) is for rising pre-k4 to 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and MDC (July 7-10) is for rising 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders. Invite your friends and sign up at [www.firstmethodistchildren.org](http://www.firstmethodistchildren.org).

**Register now for Youth Summer Mission Trips!** The Sr. High School Trip (May 24-June 1) to Oljato, UT, is for youth who have completed 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, and the Jr. High Mystery Mission Trip (July 22-25) is for youth who have completed 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Visit [www.firstmethodistyouth.org](http://www.firstmethodistyouth.org) to sign up!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

On Sunday, FUMC Baton Rouge has three onsite services as well as a TV broadcast, radio broadcast, and online service. The TV broadcast first aired in 1985.

First United Methodist Church of Baton Rouge

**The reach of worship services at First United Methodist Church is broad.** An average of 800 people view our services online throughout the week. The television broadcast is viewed by an estimated 12,000 households each week. The broadcast ministries are making disciples beyond the walls of the church via radio, television, podcast, Facebook, YouTube, and the church's website. Consider sharing these "viewing" opportunities with friends in the community. **The online and**

**television ministry** is always looking to involve more people and you don't need to have any technical skills to help. If you are interested, email Stephen Loy at [stephen@firstmethodist.org](mailto:stephen@firstmethodist.org).