

Word & Eucharist
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Reconciling in Christ 35th Anniversary
Good Shepherd Sunday, April 21, 2024
10:00 am ~ ONLINE & ONSITE



bienvenidos!

everyone is welcome. this means you.

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church. You're invited to fully participate in a community of faith and friendship that gathers for worship, relationship building, personal growth, and service in the community and the world. Following the example of Christ, this congregation welcomes you exactly as you are. We are committed to the work of racial equity, justice, and advocating for marginalized groups. We welcome people in all places on the journey of faith and life. We celebrate differences in age, appearance, economic status, ethnic origin, nationality, race, family configuration, marital or relationship status, political leaning, religious background, and those who are differently abled physically or mentally.

Since 1989, FELC has openly welcomed persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions to full participation in the church and society. We're Lutheran, so that means we believe in grace for everyone. The good news of Jesus Christ, who brings us the love and mercy of God as a gift, liberates us to love as we are loved, serve as we are served, and give as we have been given much. We rejoice in the diversity that has nurtured and enriched the whole church. Whether you're from another faith tradition, a seeker and questioner looking for more to life and a place to explore, or even a lifelong Lutheran, we're glad to have you.

At First English, **we strive to use language** for God, Christ, and humanity **that is inclusive and diverse.** Our use of feminine, non-gender, and masculine names and metaphors for God, both biblical and contemporary, helps us to experience God more fully. Languages that include persons of all gender identities, sexualities, ethnicities, and color, helps us better reflect God's expansive love and diversity.

Land Acknowledgement

The ELCA's Truth & Healing Movement is an opportunity for the church to increase our understanding of our impacts on Indigenous people in the past and present. We believe that the truth, and our knowing and embracing it, is a first step toward healing for all of us.

All Gender Restrooms with changing tables are in the left side hallway as you face the front of the sanctuary.

If this is one of your first times to connect with FELC, WELCOME! **Use the online Welcome Visitors information form** and provide feedback on your visit: <http://www.felcaustin.org/forms/visitors>.

We ask everyone to respect each individual's safety needs and desires.

Hearing assistance devices are available for use in the sanctuary. Two options are available: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids. Please connect with an usher if you would like a hearing assistance device.

We welcome children in this worship service with a Spirit Space. Children with adults are invited to a space in the Chapel of the Saints for quiet play and reading, including a rug, floor pillows, soft blocks, coloring supplies, lap desks, Bible story books, and other interactive items. Adults have places to sit while worshipping with children. Children and adults can remain in the Spirit Space following the sermon, and then return to the pews for the remainder of the liturgy—or remain in the Spirit Space. We welcome children by encouraging them and celebrating the joy and livelihood they offer.

We welcome your generosity in person and online. The reign of God is not something that we can point to and say, “There it is!” Yet, in moments of waiting on the Spirit, we discover God’s presence among us. In our gathering of gifts, food, silence, song, scripture, prayer, and ourselves, we are encountering the living power of Jesus – a leader who truly cares for people and knows our pain and our beauty. In the amazing and extravagant love that he shows us, we find strength to love others.

Music, in a rich diversity, is an important part of our ministry and witness at First English, including the outstanding acoustics of our nave. As we grow our music ministry, we are embarking on a significant restoration campaign for our valued and aged pipe organ.

In an effort to connect with the broadest number of people, **we livestream and archive our services and events for broadcast on the internet.** Your attendance at an event constitutes your consent to be included in filming, photographing, audio recording, or broadcast and for any other use in whole or in part, including promotion. If you prefer to avoid being filmed, please use a back pew.

✝ al congregarse gathering ✝

Everyone is welcome here! This means you.

We continue praying for and supporting the people and leaders of Ukraine as conflict continues. We light a candle in the chancel with the colors of the Ukrainian flag. We rightly pray for the people and land in all places of war and conflict.

Information about the Easter season is found on the back pages of this bulletin.

Gathering Music

“Pastorale” from Messiah (HWV 56)

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Reconocimiento de Tierras

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the presence of God having existed before this region’s conquest in ages past, on land once belonging to the Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Tonkawa, and Jumanos peoples; land where we now live, move, and have our being, striving to honor the land and lifting up histories beyond our own.

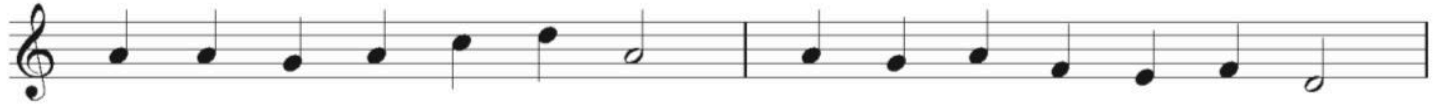
The assembly stands, as willing and able, for the gathering song.

The assembly offers acclamations and songs printed in bold.

Gathering Song

Christ the Lord is Risen Again

based on Victimī Paschalī Laudes (c. 1100)



1 Christ the Lord is risen a - gain! Christ has bro - ken ev - ery chain!
2 He who gave for us his life, who for us en - dured the strife,
3 He who bore all pain and loss com - fort - less up - on the cross



Now through all the world it rings that the Lamb is King of kings.
takes our sin and guilt a - way that with an - gels we may say:
is ex - alt - ed now to save, wrest - ing vic - tory from the grave.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia!



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, our Pas - chal Lamb in - deed,



Christ, to - day your peo - ple feed. Al - le - lu - ia!

Saludo

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The abundant grace of Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God,
and the everlasting communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
And also with you.

Oración del Día

Prayer of the Day

Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep,
you welcome us all and guide us into your fold.
Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole.
Make us one with you, and one with your whole creation,
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Les damos la Bienvenida!

Welcome!

If this is one of your first times to connect with FELC, WELCOME!
<http://www.felcaustin.org/forms/visitors>

La asamblea se sienta. / The assembly is seated.

The singing bowls sound throughout the liturgy, calling us to focus our prayer.

Primera Lectura**Acts 4:5-12**

New Revised Standard Version - English Updated

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly remains seated and sings the response.

This hymn reflects the themes of Psalm 23, appointed for today, and of creation care as we commemorate Earth Day.

Respuesta


O God, within the Psalms

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2024

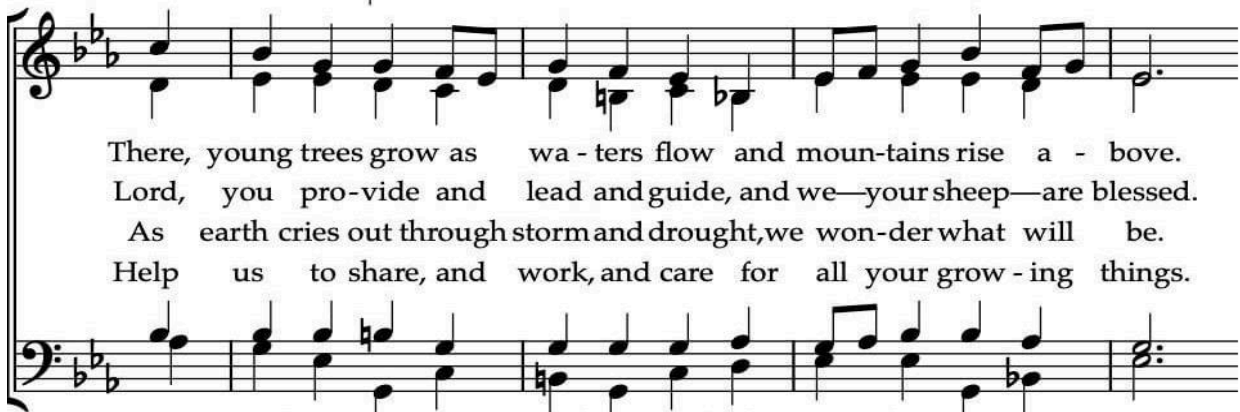
Terra Beata

Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915;

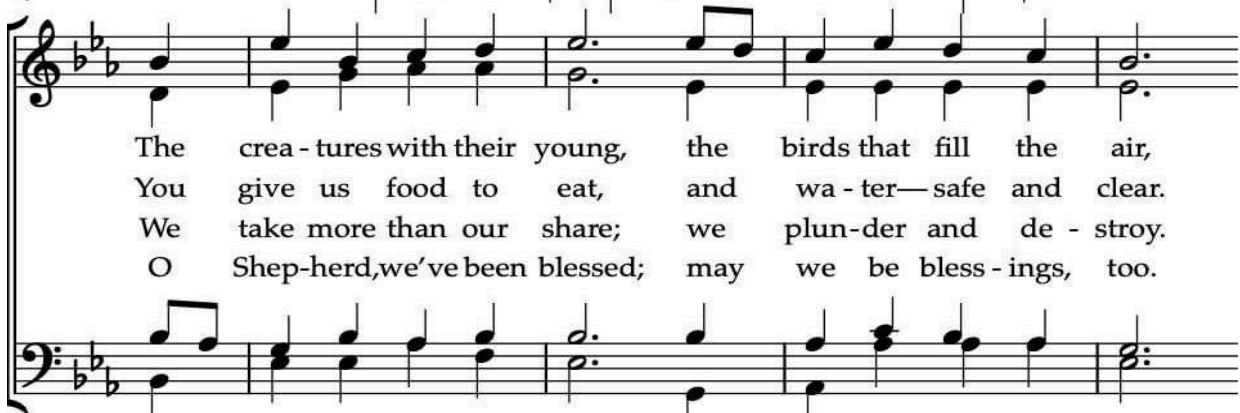
harm. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1926, alt.



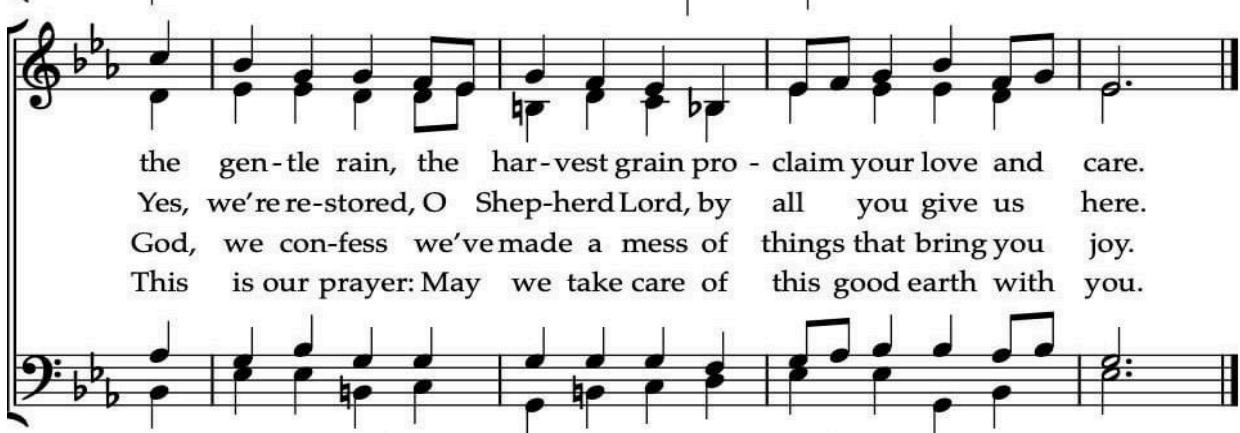
1. O God, with-in the Psalms are pic-tures of your love:
2. And in the Psalms we see a Shep-herd's love ex-pressed.
3. Yet as we look a-head, we fear the things we see.
4. We see with-in the Psalms a world where na-ture sings.



There, young trees grow as wa-ters flow and moun-tains rise a-bove.
Lord, you pro-vide and lead and guide, and we—your sheep—are blessed.
As earth cries out through storm and drought, we won-der what will be.
Help us to share, and work, and care for all your grow-ing things.



The crea-tures with their young, the birds that fill the air,
You give us food to eat, and wa-ter—safe and clear.
We take more than our share; we plun-der and de-stroy.
O Shep-herd, we've been blessed; may we be bless-ings, too.



the gen-tle rain, the har-vest grain pro-claim your love and care.
Yes, we're re-stored, O Shep-herd Lord, by all you give us here.
God, we con-fess we've made a mess of things that bring you joy.
This is our prayer: May we take care of this good earth with you.

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a person in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before God ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and God knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from God whatever we ask, because we obey God’s commandments and do what pleases God.

²³And this is God’s commandment, that we should believe in the name of Jesus Christ and love one another, just as God has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey this commandments abide in God, and God abides in them. And by this we know that Christ abides in us, by the Spirit that is given to us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Fe de los Niños

Faith of a Child

Children and families are invited to gather near the baptismal font for a time of welcome, water, wonder, and worship.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for your beautiful world, for Jesus’ love, for church friends and family, and for making me, me. Amen.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel and all sing the acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation

Zimbabwe

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu,
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.
hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Evangelio

John 10:11-18

NRSV

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as God knows me and I know God. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason God loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermón

Following the sermon, the assembly stands, as able, to sing.

The hymn is found in the red worship book in the pew rack.

Hymn of the Day

Hymn # 789

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Dorothy Thrupp (1779-1847), William Bradbury (1816-1847)

Affirmation of Faith | Apostles' Creed

Let us make public affirmation of our faith before God and embrace the life of the Spirit. If you are not a disciple of Jesus, may this affirmation be a sign of blessing and an invitation to deeper relationships in the life of the Church.

I ask you to profess faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the whole church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them!

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them!

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them!

Using the Apostles' Creed, we affirm the faith that unites us with the whole church, across time, across oceans, across peoples.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, † and the life everlasting. Amen.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Do you intend to live in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Following each intercession: God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through things unknown. **Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠ **comida**
meal ✠

La Paz
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We offer signs and gestures of peace. We are aware of the desire for distance to be maintained and touch to be respected. We are invited to make a comment in the chat or to text someone.

La asamblea se sienta. / The assembly is seated.

Ofreciendo Invitación

Offering Invitation

An offering is gathered for the mission of God in the world through the care of those in need.

Worshippers may give financially online at: www.felcaustin.org/information/giving

Offering Music

“Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring” (BWV 147)

music: J. S. Bach (1685-1750); text: Robert Bridges (1844-1940)

Jesu, joy of man’s desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright;
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned,
Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying round Thy throne.

The assembly stands.

Bread, wine, money, and other gifts are presented, and the altar is prepared.

Presentación de las Ofrendas

Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
word of grace, in strength of which we
then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bid with
and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876) Copyright ©1985, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O living God, through your goodness we offer you this bread:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands.

Blessed be God forever!

Blessed are you, O living God, through your goodness we offer you this wine:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

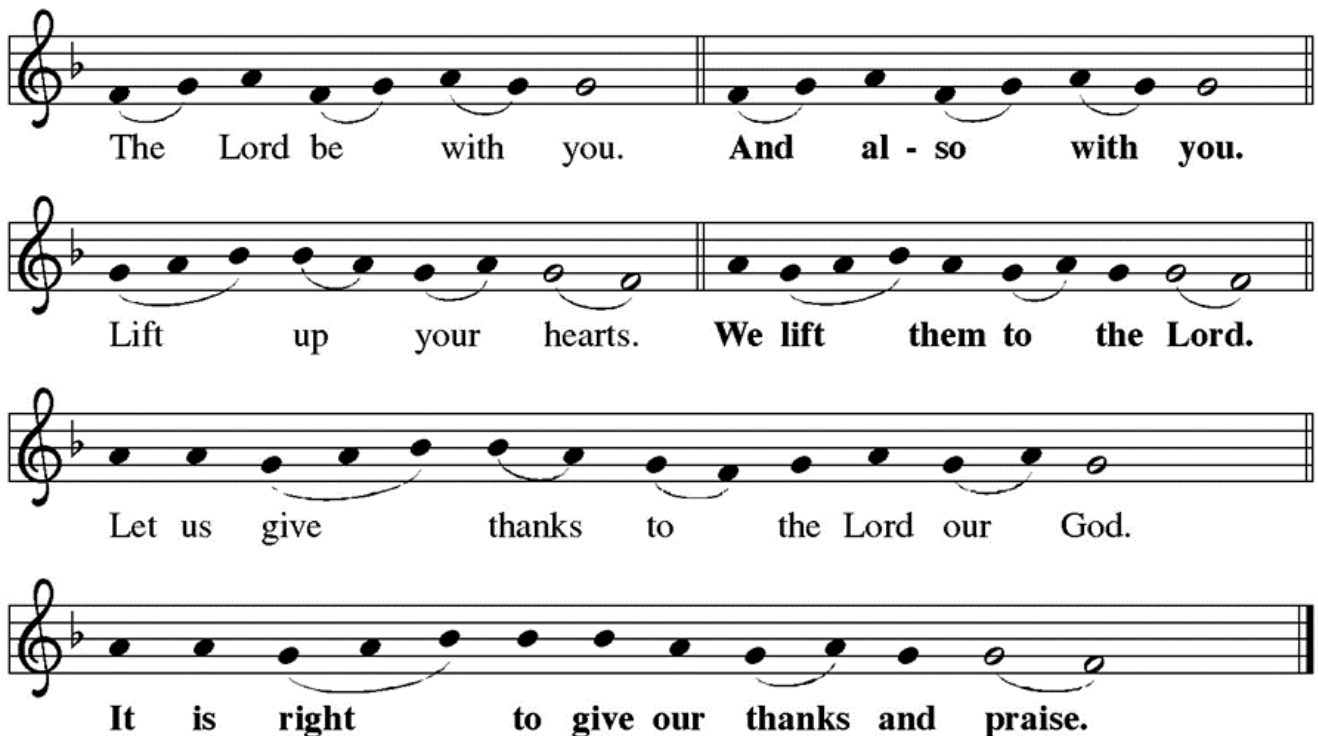
Blessed be God forever!

We praise you, O living God, for you create the fruits of the earth and vine.

Amen.

Gran Plegaria Eucharística

ELW, Setting 1 Thomas Pavlechko (b. 1963)



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

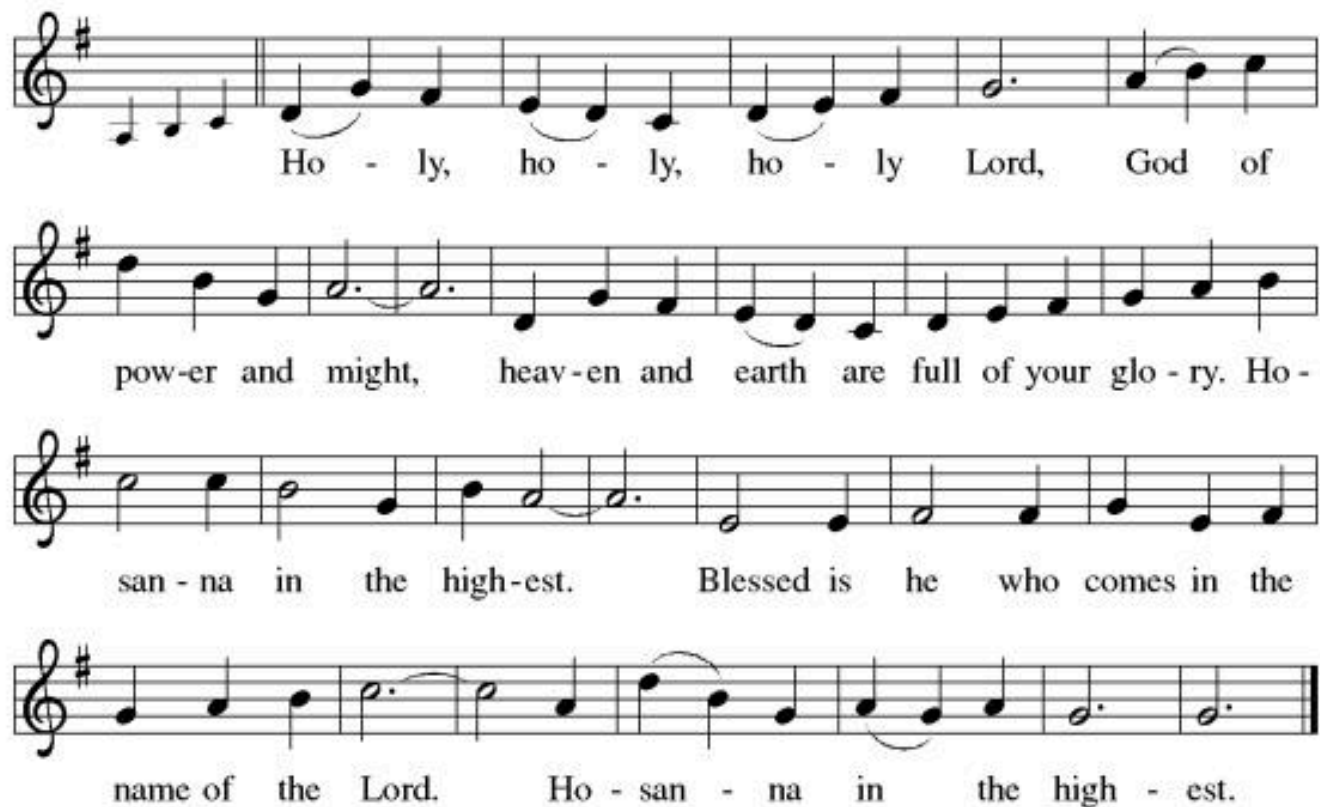
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus: holy, holy, holy

ELW, Setting 1



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, living, and loving God . . .

and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

Remembering, therefore, Christ's life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this hurting and beautiful world.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Breathe your Spirit on us . . . clothed in the new life of Christ.

Through Christ, † with Christ, in Christ, all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in the church and in the world,
both now and forever. **Amen!**

Oración de los Discípulos

Disciple's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray, in our own languages, as Jesus taught us:

**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 and ever. Amen**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed
be your name, your kingdom
come, your will be done, on
earth as in heaven. Give us
today our daily bread. Forgive
us our sins, as we forgive those
who sin against us. Save us
from the time of trial, and
deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours, now and
forever. Amen.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en el
cielo, santificado sea tu
nombre. Venga tu reino.**

**Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra
como en el cielo. Danos hoy
nuestro pan de cada día.**

**Perdona nuestras ofensas
como también nosotros
perdonamos a los que nos**

**ofenden. No nos dejes caer en
tentación y líbranos del mal.**

**Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es
el poder, y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y siempre. Amén.**

**Our Creator in heaven, holy is
your name, your kin-dom
come, your will be done, on
earth as in heaven. Give us
today our daily bread. Forgive
us our sin, as we forgive those
who sin against us. Save us
from the time of trial, and
deliver us from evil. For the
kin-dom, the power, and the
glory are yours, now and
forever. Amen.**

Acclamation

Alleluia! Christ our Paschal Lamb is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

La asamblea se sienta. / The assembly is seated.

Partiendo el Pan

Breaking of the Bread



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Invitación a la Comunión

Communion Distribution

All people, including children, are invited to the Lord's Supper.

We encourage you to participate in a way that is meaningful for you.

Ushers will direct you by the center aisle to a station to receive bread in your hand.

Then you may proceed to a station and receive a small cup, where wine will be poured.

Gluten-free wafers/grape juice are available. Please ask a minister.

Then make your way to your seat by a side aisle.

You are invited to remain seated in prayer, meditation, and singing.

If you are not communing, you are invited to a station where a minister will offer a prayer of blessing. If you desire communion or a blessing at your seat, let an usher or minister know.

Musica de Comunion

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

music: Anthony Showalter (1856-1924); text: Elisha Hoffmann (1839-1929)

As you pass the baptismal font upon entering or leaving the space, and at communion distribution, you are invited to dip your hand in the water and make the sign of the cross. This is an ancient body prayer to remember baptism into the risen Christ. You may touch your hand to your forehead, then to your chest, then from one shoulder to another shoulder.

Following holy communion, the assembly remains seated as we offer our thanks.

Oración Después de la Comunion

Prayer after Communion

Living God, thank you for making your home with us in this holy meal.
Empowered by the Spirit, may we wipe away tears,
tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations,
and bring to earth the presence of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord.
Amen.

✠ **envio**
sending ✠

Anuncios

Announcements

Please read your bulletin and view our website for information on ministries.

For those in the building, following the liturgy, we invite you to a time of hospitality.

As we receive God’s protection and blessing, please stand.

Bendición

May the blessing of God, ✠ whose Spirit raised Christ to new life,
strengthen you in faith, enrich you with hope, and fill you for love,
now and forever. **Amen.**

The sending song refrain includes words meaning ‘peace’ from various traditions:
 Shanti (Sanskrit) is pronounced “shahn-tee” and is used in Hindu and Buddhist traditions.
 Pax (Latin) is pronounced “pahks.”
 Shalom (Hebrew) is pronounced “shuh-lohm” and means peace, wholeness.
 Maslaha (Arabic) is pronounced “muhs-lah-hah” and means reconciliation.

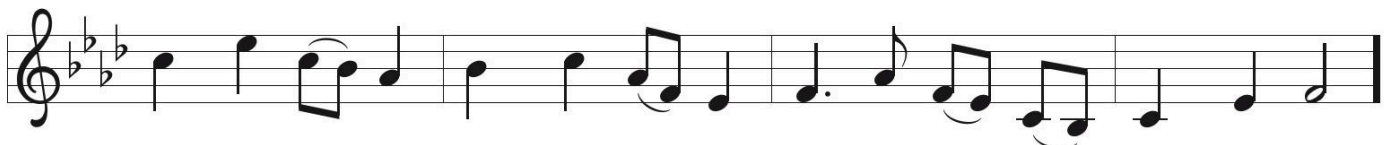
Sending Song

Commonwealth Is God’s Commandment

Mary Louise Bringle (b. 1953); *Restoration*, Southern Harmony, 1835



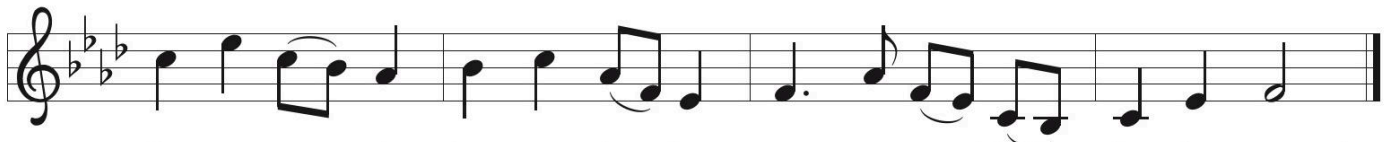
- 1 Com - mon - wealth is God’s com - mand - ment; com - mon goods are meant to share.
- 2 Shar - ing lav - ish gifts and bless - ings, love that not one mite with - holds,
- 3 Gen - ders, rac - es, tribes, and na - tions, hear the Ho - ly One who calls,



Ta - bles set and doors wide o - pen wel - come an - gels un - a - ware.
 stretch out arms to friends and stran - gers: God has sheep of man - y folds.
 bid - ding all to work to - geth - er, bridg - ing lives and breach - ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre - a - tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan - ti, pax, sha - lom, mas - la - ha: com - mon good is ho - ly ground.

Dismissal to Mission

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

The Easter Season

The Easter season is the church's fifty-day celebration of the resurrection of Christ. It is the time of greatest joy as we gather in the good news of God's victory over death and the power to renew our lives in Christ. It is the counterbalance to the forty-day season of Lent that prepared us for such a great celebration. In the tradition of the whole church, it was also the time for the newly baptized to deepen their connection to Christ through sharing in the resurrection meal of communion, and to experience the mystery of new life in Christ as a gift of grace. **A Paschal candle is a central symbol** in the church's worship life. The paschal candle, newly made and lit throughout the Easter season, shines forth with the light of Christ's resurrection, reminding us that we have new life in God's love.

Renewing our Ministry of Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

On April 24, 1989, First English Lutheran Church was designated as a *Reconciled in Christ* congregation. Since that time, the designation has adapted to a more inclusive *Reconciling in Christ* - since we are always in a process of greater welcome, reconciliation, and inclusion. **Today we will celebrate the 35th anniversary (!!!) of this distinction and welcome.** There's an anniversary cake during hospitality time! Next Sunday, April 28, Pastor Alex Darling-Raabe will be our guest preacher. Pastor Alex is the first openly gay and partnered pastor to be ordained in the Southwestern Texas Synod. Throughout this transition year we'll be invited to learn more about how this bold welcome to everyone has been made known and challenged - in our life together *and* in our engagement in the broader community and wider church.

Guest Preacher: Sunday, April 28

The Rev. Alex Darling-Raabe is pastor of a small but spunky Lutheran parish on Long Island. Alex was born and raised in Ohio and graduated from The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Ordained by Bishop Ray Tiemann on June 20, 2015, Alex is the first openly, gay and partnered pastor to be ordained in the Southwestern Texas Synod. Prior to moving to NY, Alex was called as mission developer/pastor of Table of Mercy in Austin from 2014-2017, a worshiping community with focus to young adults that FELC supported and housed. Pastor Alex loves going to Broadway shows, listening to people tell their stories, trying new food and cocktails, and he misses Texas BBQ and tacos nearly every day. This spring he is finishing a Master of Social Work degree from The Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. He is

excited to experience where the Holy Spirit will continue to lead him.

First English Caregiver's Circle: Monday, April 22

Caregiving — it's called loving our neighbors as ourselves. Our neighbors are family members and friends, near and far, who may need our support for the activities of daily living. And FELC caregivers meet to support one another. Join us from 7 to 8:30pm on Monday, April 22 via Zoom (the 4th Monday of each month). Come and be with us.

Annual Chicken BBQ: Saturday, April 27, 4-8pm All are welcome!

Everyone is invited to the longest-running community & social event of FELC (since 1964): our annual chicken BBQ, to be held in our parking lot (weather permitting)! Our pitmasters will start smoking chickens in our outdoor smoker pit in the afternoon, and our potato salad and beans team will be getting the sides ready. **You're welcome to come and visit beginning at 4 pm. BYOB. Dinner will be served around 6 pm**, and includes BBQ chicken, beans, potato salad, drinks, and ice cream. Contact: Randy Baden at towbarcity@yahoo.com

Game Night: moved to Fourth Saturday, April 27

This is an unusual month - we had the solar eclipse, all the hype surrounding the solar eclipse, special eclipse donuts. And now, to make April more unusual, Game Night is moving from the third Saturday **to Saturday, April 27** because of the concert at FELC last evening. Be forewarned - April 27 will not include a potluck. By fortunate happenstance, or perhaps because it was pre-ordained, April 27 is the church's annual Chicken BBQ! As always, everyone is welcome. And once we lick all the BBQ sauce from our fingers, we can play board games! Assuming we're not all in a food coma by then...! Contact: Charlie Boas at charlie@boasfamily.com.

Learning Ministry: Next Sunday, April 28

Children's Faith Formation: Today we continued engaging the bible story of the Prodigal Son from Bailey Barlow. **Next Sunday, April 28**, LaRu Woody will conclude that bible story in children's faith formation.

Adult Faith Formation: Today adults joined Bob Brueck for his last session on the *Dead Sea Scrolls and Metaphysics*. **Next Sunday, April 28**, Pastor Bob Karli will continue his sessions on *The Life Cycle of a Congregation*. Upcoming sessions in May will be announced soon!

Word in Season Devotional Booklets

April, May, June devotional books are available at the main entrance and near the

Second Readings Library in the hallway to the fellowship hall.

Backpack Drive for Micah 6 Ministries: April

We continue to collect backpacks (new or slightly used) for our friends at Micah 6 Ministries. FELC and our friends from the Seventh Day Adventist congregation have already gathered at least a vehicle load! Bring a backpack to the church and place it in a Micah 6 box in the north transept of the sanctuary. Contact: Andy MacLaren at andymaclaren@cs.com. For more information visit <https://www.micah6austin.org>

Update from our Transition Team

Hello from the FELC Transition Team! We are making final edits to a few of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) questions and are also turning our focus to drafting answers to the "Seven Reflections on Ministry and Context" which is an optional component to the MSP that includes seven open-ended questions, allowing us to further describe our ministry site context. We will be coordinating with the Council soon to present the MSP draft for discussion and review. Once accepted by the Council and finalized, the MSP will be submitted to the Southwestern Texas Synod. A copy of the MSP will also be shared with the congregation at that time. Please note that when the MSP is shared with the congregational community, it will be in its final form and accepting no further edits. We will then await pastoral candidate matches from the Synod for discernment and interviews. The Transition Team continues to be grateful for your support, patience, and prayers!

FELCTransitionMinistry@felcaustin.org

Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly: Supporting our neighbors in need

The Synod Assembly of the Southwestern Texas Synod will convene May 3-5 in Corpus Christi. FELC synod assembly voting members Claudia & Paul Barlow will be in attendance. And, this month, there are tangible ways FELC can participate and support friends in need!

This year's assembly offering will support the Lutheran Disaster Response, our ELCA ministry that responds to natural and unnatural disasters in the United States and around the world. If you would like to contribute to the donations to Lutheran Disaster Response you may **share a contribution on Sunday, April 28** (please make checks payable directly to Southwestern Texas Synod, memo Lutheran Disaster Response; cash is also welcome).

Assembly participants are also collecting new or gently used laceless tennis shoes for adults and children to be distributed at the Texas border in response to the crisis there. Please **consider bringing shoes to FELC to donate to the synod assembly**

through Sunday, April 28. Contact: Claudia Barlow at capbarlow@gmail.com

FELC Benevolence Ministry Partners for 2024

Thank you for your input to identify organizations and agencies our community of faith will partner with in 2024. The Benevolence Task Force and Church Council considered organizations that reflect our biblical and congregational values; some that are local and others that are global in their outreach and witness.

Ultimately, we settled on intentional support of our Lutheran organizations, focusing on **LuMin**, the campus ministry at UT working right here in our own backyard, and **Global Refuge** (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services), working nationally/globally. We feel that both organizations have a proven record of reflecting the values of First English and that both are good stewards of their resources. This year, we also want to support our **own FELCDC**. For more information on our partners in ministry, visit our website News section.

For more information about the FELC welcome, worship, community life, learning, and engagement, racial justice and reconciliation ministries, our child development center, and ways to care and serve, visit our website.

Since 1972, **the First English Lutheran Child Development Center** has been serving the community by offering safe, loving, and engaging care for children (infant - 5 years) and families of the Austin area. Our mission is to provide a quality full-day child care experience that helps each child develop cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally, and we're passionate about our work. Visit www.firstenglishcdc.org or call 512-478-5424.

Ministers Serving in Liturgy, Learning, & Hospitality Today

Ministers	All the People of God
Adult Faith Formation	Bob Brueck
Altar Care Server	Margaret Bruesch
Assisting Minister	Nikki Northcutt
Children's Faith Formation	Bailey Barlow
Hospitality Host	Merrily Porter
Lector	Lillian Martinez-Rodriguez
Livestream Minister	Shannon Aguirre
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Nikki Northcutt, Leigh Nortcutt-Benson
Offering Counter	Terry Porter
Preaching Minister	Bryan Rust

Presiding Minister

Robert Karli

Ushers

Randy Baden, Terry Porter

Feasts, Commemorations, & Prayers This Week

Saint Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109, Sunday, April 21, 2024

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to redeem us from all sin.

Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación), Monday, April 22, 2024

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960, Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

Saint Mark, Evangelist, Thursday, April 25, 2024

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

As a faith community, First English prays for...

the citizens, immigrants, and refugees of the United States;

the national, state, local leaders of the United States;

the people of Ukraine, Russia, and the Middle East, and all places of war;

all communities and families, including those living with gun violence;

all in need of safe shelter, nourishing food, & quality care, and for those who offer it;

children, families, and caregivers living with and experiencing child abuse;

those responding to severe weather;

all who offer protection, defense, and advocacy, in this community and in our nation;

all who are LGBTQIA2S+, and for allies who advocate for safety, justice, and equity;

God's guidance for our faith community in this time of transition and renewal;

our staff, congregation council and child development center board of directors,

our child development center students and families;

our care ministers as they meet today;

our benevolence ministry partners: LuMin, Global Refuge, and FELCDC;

David Francis, William Nix, and Aditi Mitra, newly baptized on Easter Day;

all people seeking healing and justice; and all in any need and thanksgiving.

The FELC Prayer Circle gathers faithfully to offer prayer (including confidentially) contact:

bschutz@sbcglobal.net.

Congregation Council

President LaRu Woody
felcpresident@felcaustin.org
Vice President Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Secretary Nancy Baden
Treasurer Allen Jensen
Financial Secretary Gwen Flory
Jerry Don Aguirre Paul Barlow
Charlie Boas Margaret Bruesch
Kristin Mondy Nancy Neuse
Benjamin Rode Mari Ward
Anne Wiebe

Staff

Pastor

In Transition

Cantor Bryan Rust (he/him)

cantor@felcaustin.org

Church Office Administrator

In Transition

Child Development Center Director

Dr. Paulette Clemons (she/her)

director@firstenglishcdc.org

CDC Administration Assistant

Cat Holness (she/her)

asstdirector@firstenglishcdc.org

CDC Staff

Lisa Brown, Lauren Eichhorn,
Silva Molina, Patricia Ortego, Sabrina Paiz,
Alexis Tovar, Shelby Williams

Custodial Care

Teresa del Aguila & family

Child Development Center Board of Directors

CDCBoard@felcaustin.org

President Sig Rydquist, FELCDC Parent
Vice Pres. Merrily Porter, FELC
Secretary Erin McCracken, FELC
Treasurer Monica Lund, FELC
Tim Atkinson (FELC),
Kevin Incorvia (Parent),
Drew Newell (Parent),
Anne Wiebe (FELC)

Transition Ministry Team

FELCTransitionMinistry@felcaustin.org

Tim Atkinson Randy Baden
Allen Jensen Erin McCracken
Nikki Northcutt Lillian Martinez-Rodriguez
Barbara Schutz

FELC is in a transition ministry that began in January, 2023. The transition ministry has two parts: the transition itself and the call process for our next pastor of word and sacrament. This transition is the work of the whole congregation and our partners, to God's glory, and for the congregation and community. For more information visit the *FELC in Transition* page on our website.



God Loves. We Love.
Everyone!
Dios Ama. Amamos.
Todos!

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