

*** Greeting** Responsive, led by Becky Mitschke
The heavens herald your glory, O God, and the skies display your handiwork.
Day after day they tell their story, and night after night they reveal the depth of their understanding.
Without speech, without words, without even an audible voice, their cry echoes through all the world, and their message reaches the ends of the earth.
Holding you in awe, Lord, is purifying; it endures. Your decrees are steadfast, and all of them just.
They are more precious than gold, than the purest of gold, and sweeter than honey, than honey fresh from the comb.
In them your faithful people find instruction; there is great reward in keeping them. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn** All
"It Is Well with My Soul" UMH 377 vv 1,4
(*Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.*)
Words: Horatio G. Spafford
Music: Philip Bliss
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Morning Prayer All, led by Becky Mitschke
Holy God,
Whose glory touches and transfigures the mind and the material,
Whose intimate, gentle Spirit embraces our vulnerability and fills our empty spaces with hope,
may we know the deep calm that only You can give.
Amen.

Children's Time Izzy Lopez
After Children's Time, children age 4 – 3rd grade are invited to go to Room 103 while children 4th – 5th grade are invited to stay in the Sanctuary and follow along with their activity-filled bulletin.

Prayers of the People Rev. Marchbanks

The Prayer of Jesus All, led by Rev. Marchbanks
Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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.

Words of Life Matthew 4:1-11 Becky Mitschke

Message for Today Rev. Randy Knighten
"Awe: Meaning

*** Response** All
"A Wilderness Wandering People"
(*Lyrics are on the screen.*)

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Offertory Prayer All, led by Becky Mitschke
God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. With these offerings, we give of ourselves. May we live with generous hearts and with open hands. Amen.

Offertory Jones Handbell Choir

"Carillon Festiva: Decisivo"
Composed by Cathy Moklebust
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*** Song of Thanks** All
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"
(*Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.*)

UMH 94
Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira;
Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams
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*** We Continue Our Worshipful Work** Rev. Knighten

*** Sending Hymn** All
"Amazing Grace" UMH 378 vv 1,3,4
(*Lyrics are on the screen and in your hymnal.*)

Words: John Newton
Music: 19th Cent USA melody; harm. by Edwin O. Excell
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*** Benediction** Responsive, led by Rev. Marchbanks

*** Sharing the Peace of Christ** Rev. Marchbanks

*** Postlude** Jones Handbell Choir
"Carillon Festiva: Largo"

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* You are invited to rise in body or spirit.

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UMH denotes "United Methodist Hymnal".

TFWS denotes "The Faith We Sing" hymnal.

W&S denotes the "Worship & Song" hymnal.



Sanctuary Flowers

Due to the solemnity of the Lenten season, we refrain from placing flowers in the sanctuary.

To sign up to provide sanctuary flowers after Easter, please email Rebecca Witte at rebecca@stjohnsaustin.org.

We are creating a community ...

Access Friendship Book, Guest Form, and More



Scan this QR Code for links to the Friendship Book and Guest Form, prayer requests, giving online, bulletin, newsletter, and website. You can get to the same links by going to stjohnsaustin.org/connect.

Church Council & Charge Conference, Tue, Feb 4

Church Council will meet Tue, Feb 24 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Portions of this meeting will be a charge conference. We will look at strategic plan updates, vote on the budget, and approve pastor salaries. All full members have voice and vote on charge conference items.

Faithful Resistance: Witness for Immigrant Justice

On Wed, Feb 25, several United Methodist agencies are participating in worship and witness in Washington, D.C. calling for the humane treatment of immigrants. First UMC of Austin, 1201 Lavaca, has invited us to participate in an Austin-area witness that day beginning with worship in their sanctuary at 9 a.m. followed by a peaceful march to the State Capitol for prayer. This is an opportunity to show solidarity with immigrants and call upon Christians everywhere to live out Christ's call on all of us to "welcome the stranger." See the newsletter for more details about parking, etc.

CROP Hunger Walk, Sun, Mar 1, 2 p.m., Camp Mabry

All ages are invited to walk as part of our Saint John's Team on Sun, Mar 1, at Camp Mabry. We'll gather at 2 p.m. Last year, Saint John's raised over \$7000 with a team of 65 walkers and we're hoping for an even stronger showing this year! Register to join the Saint John's team at bit.ly/sjcropwalk2026. Even if you don't plan to walk with the team, you can contribute financially via the February Communion Rail Offering at stjohnsaustin.org/giving/ or by mail, designating your gift for "Communion Rail Offering." For more information, contact Kim Watts at mkwatts@sbcglobal.net.

Lenten Contemplative Retreat, Sat, Mar 7, 9 a.m.

Gather with us 9 a.m. – noon, Sat, Mar 7, for a time set apart for spiritual renewal and refreshment. Let the noise in your life settle, learn contemplative practices with your breath, your body, your words, and silence. All "levels" of experience with contemplative practices are welcome. Stay for an optional lunch (\$10) following the retreat. Childcare is available by request. Registration is free. Register at bit.ly/contemplate Lent2026.

Churchwide Breakfast, Great Hall, Sun, Mar 8, 10 a.m.

The Saint John's Hospitality Committee invites everyone to a Churchwide Breakfast on Sun, Mar 8, at 10 a.m. (between worship services) in the Great Hall. Join your church family for food, fun, and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

Mobile We Are Blood Rescheduled for Sun, Mar 8

The We Are Blood mobile blood donation drive has been rescheduled for Sun, Mar 8. Donors will receive a free t-shirt! Register at bit.ly/sjbloodmarch8. Questions? Email Saint John's drive coordinator Brooks Barlow at bbarlow7200@gmail.com.

Ways to Give

We offer many ways to give to support Saint John's.

1. Text "SJUMC" to 73256 and follow the prompts.
2. Visit stjohnsaustin.org/giving to make an online donation using a credit/debit card, or bank draft.
3. Church members may log on to their mySaintJohn's account via the web or by the Realm Connect app.
4. Leave a donation in an offering plate as it is passed or in the offering box located in the Gallery, or mail a check.

Participating in Worship Today

Rev. Hilary Marchbanks, Senior Pastor
Rev. Randy Knighten, Outreach Ministries Pastor
Ruby Airhart, Projections Intern (11:00)
Cina Crisara, Director of Music
Mary Foster, Worship Arts Coordinator
Gary James, Sound Technician
Izzy Lopez, Children and Youth Coordinator
Katie McKenna, Director of Communications
Becky Mitchske, Liturgist
Ed Snouffer, Pianist
John Thomason, Bulletin Designer
Shelley Walters, Director of Faith Development
Rebecca Witte, Director of Connections

Connect Team

Chet Henry (9:00)
Robert Elder (11:00)

Liturgy Notes

The Greeting is from Psalm 19 (*The Inclusive Bible*)
The Morning Prayer is from churchofscotland.org.uk.
The Offertory Prayer is from spaciousfaith.com.



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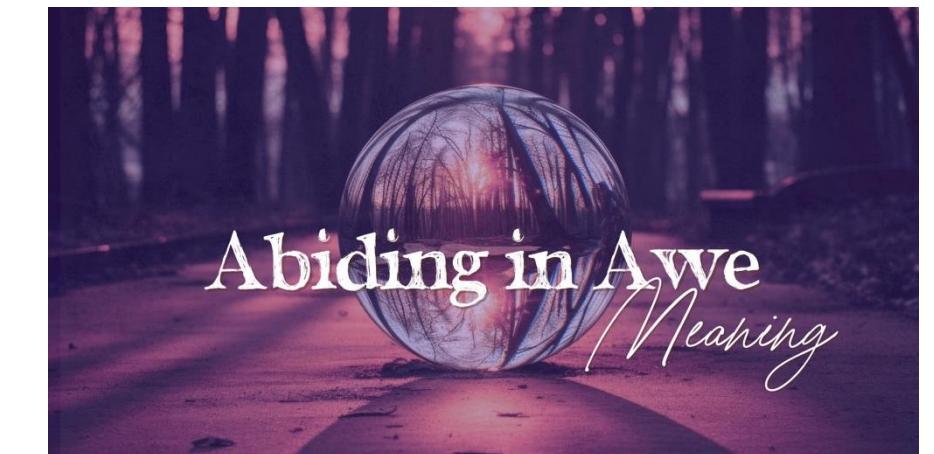
For more information about classes and activities
at Saint John's, see our newsletter at
stjohnsaustin.org/newsletter.

Our Mission

We are creating a community where God's love changes people and God's people change the world.

Saint John's United Methodist Church

*At Saint John's United Methodist Church
we affirm that all persons are of sacred worth,
and we welcome everyone,
without exception, to participate fully
in the church's life and ministry.*



First Sunday in Lent February 22, 2026

Difficulty hearing in the Sanctuary? Please ask an usher for a listening device or see the pew card for information about using the ListenWiFi phone app.

Gathering Music

Cina Crisara, soloist

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself.

Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; he had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley; we have to walk it by ourselves.

Oh, nobody else can walk it for us; we have to walk it by ourselves.

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Welcome

Rev. Hilary Marchbanks

Introit "Carillon Festiva: Moderato" Jones Handbell Choir

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