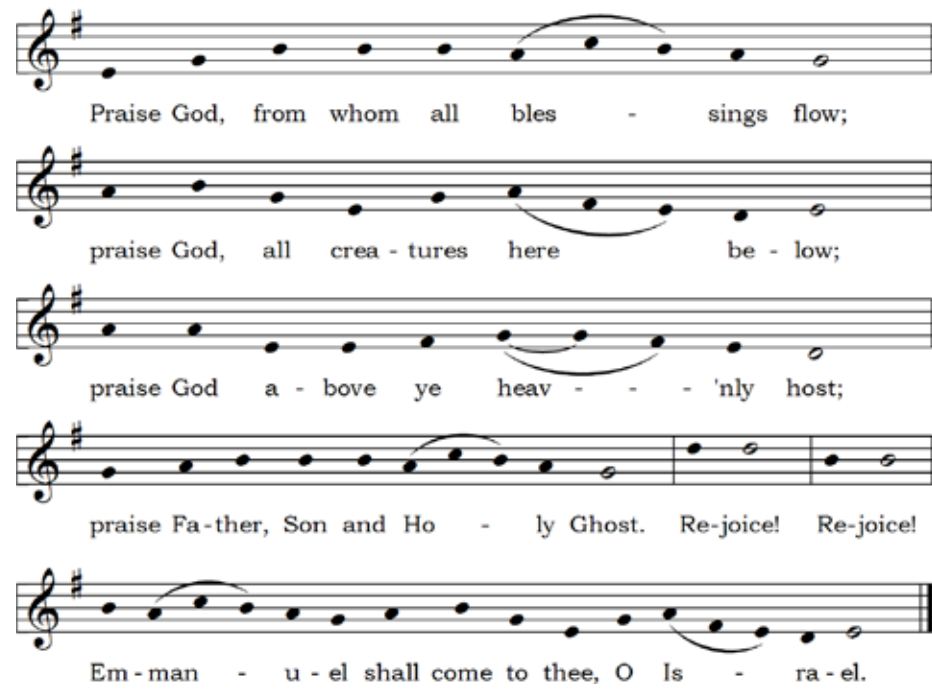


## \* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING



Praise God, from whom all bles - sings flow;  
praise God, all crea - tures here be - low;  
praise God a - bove ye heav - - - 'nly host;  
praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, alt.; 9th century Latin

Music: VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL - plainsong, Mode 1

## GOING OUT TO SERVE

### \* BENEDICTION

\* HYMN 202 People, Look East

### CLOSING MUSIC

+ + +

### WORSHIP LEADERS

*Preacher*

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

*Liturgists*

Reverend Michael Mumme

Reverend Cathy Stone

Ben Thoma

*Music Director/Organist*

Scott Davis



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 27, 2016

11:00 a.m.

## WELCOME

Because we believe that every human being is a beloved child of God, on a journey to God, with God, we welcome ALL persons, *without exception*, to attend, join, and participate fully in the life of this church. For a description of our worship services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays and at 6:30 a.m. on Thursdays, visit our website at [fumcaustin.org](http://fumcaustin.org).

## FAMILY ROOM

For parents with infants and toddlers, our Family Room, located in the balcony, offers rockers, books, toys, and a comfortable place for diaper changes. Childcare provided by our well-trained childcare staff is also available in Room 103 and 104 of the Education Building. Please ask an usher for assistance.

## SUNDAY PARKING

For mobility-impaired individuals as well as those needing close-in parking, reserved handicap and accessible parking spaces are designated by signage along the wall of the Trial Lawyers' building. All able-bodied members are asked to use the free parking in the Trial Lawyer's garage at the southwest corner of 13th and Lavaca Streets and at open meters around the church.

**Making Disciples...Making a Difference**  
[www.fumcaustin.org](http://www.fumcaustin.org)

## GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

*Asterisks (\*) indicate an invitation to stand as you are able.*

### OPENING MUSIC

#### GREETING

*All are invited to greet those around them and to sign in the attendance cards as a way of offering our presence to God.*

*Response:* A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
**“Prepare the way of the Lord!”**

Luke 3:4

## ENTERING THE HOLY

#### INTROIT

I Believe In the Sun

Mark Miller/Scott Davis

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.  
I believe in love even when there is no one there.  
I believe in God even when he is silent.  
I believe through any trial,  
there is always a way  
but sometimes in this suffering  
and hopeless despair  
my heart cries for shelter  
to know someone’s there.

A voice rises within me,  
saying hold on my child, I’ll give you hope.  
Just stay a little while.  
May there some day be sunshine.  
May there some day be happiness.  
May there some day be love.  
May there some day be peace.

Anonymous

Written during World War II, on a cellar wall, by a Jew in the Cologne concentration camp

### THE LONE VOICE

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

The world is enveloped in darkness.  
**How can we prepare the way when we cannot see?**  
All around us children are starving,  
nations are at war,  
and hatred runs rampant.  
**We wonder if the world can be saved.**  
God dares us to hope for light.  
**We long for light; we cling to hope.**  
God promises that light is coming.  
**We dare to wonder; we dare to believe.**

\* HYMN 211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Stanzas 1-4

### OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul O. Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him  
who freed us from our sins,  
who loved us all and shed his blood  
that we might saved be.  
Sing holy, holy to our Lord,  
the Lord, Almighty God,  
who was and is and is to come;  
sing holy, holy, Lord!  
Rejoice in heaven,  
all ye that dwell therein,  
rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
for Christ is coming soon!  
E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,  
and night shall be no more;  
they need no light, nor lamp, nor sun,  
for Christ will be there all!

Revelation 22, alt.

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit,  
upon these words we hear,  
and upon our minds and hearts as we hear them.  
Breathe your truth into us,  
blow away all that is false,  
and fill us with the love  
that sets the universe ablaze.  
**Even so, come, Holy Spirit.**  
**Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5 Old Testament, page 600  
Matthew 24:36-44 New Testament, page 26

HYMN 206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*Stanzas 1 and 2, sung seated, as the children come forward.*

#### TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES: LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In Isaiah chapter 9, verse 2 the prophet promises,  
“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.”  
Jesus said, “I am the light of the world;  
the one who follows me will not walk in darkness  
but have the light of life.”  
**We light this candle as a sign of hope  
in the coming light of Christ.**

HYMN 206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*Stanza 3, sung seated, as the children return to their seats.*

SERMON I Wonder If the World Can Be Healed...

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

#### 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 THE FAITH JOURNEY

*Worship leads us to make commitments to God. All are called by God to give generously in response to God’s generosity and to support the work God is doing through the Church. If your response involves taking a first step to become a follower of Christ and/or a member of this church, fill out a Communication Card and place it in the offering plate.*

OFFERTORY Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Joseph Parry

Watchman, tell us of the night,  
what its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, o’er yon mountain’s height,  
see that glory-beaming star.  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray  
aught of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,  
promised day of Israel.  
Watchman, tell us of the night,  
higher yet that star ascends.  
Traveler, blessedness and light,  
peace and truth its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone  
gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Traveler, ages are its own;  
see, it bursts o’er all the earth.  
Watchman, tell us of the night,  
for the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,  
doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, let you wanderings cease;  
hasten to your quiet home.  
Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace,  
lo, the Son of God is come!

John Bowring, alt.