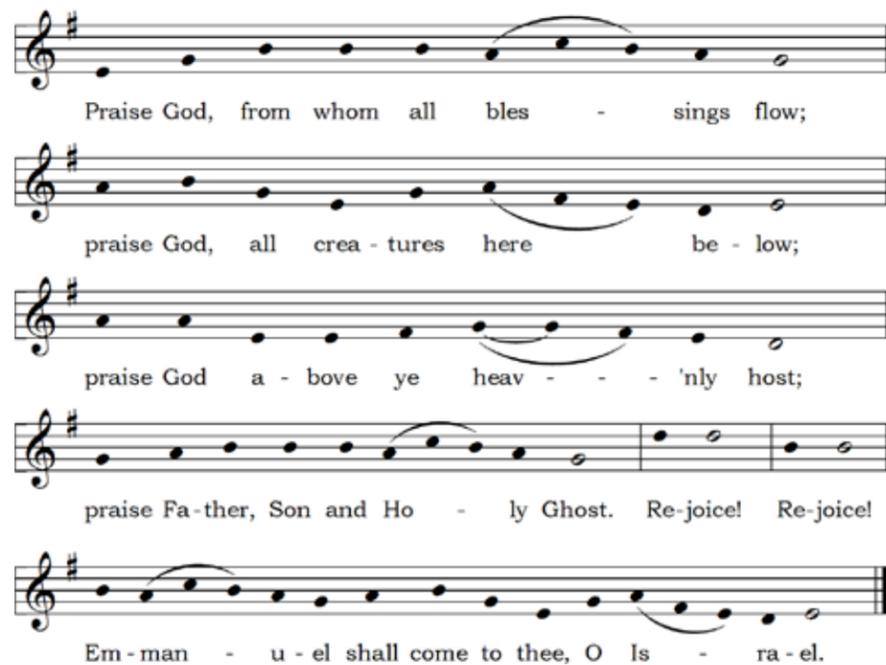


* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING



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

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

See Insert

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.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

We commune by intinction, i.e., by dipping the bread lightly in the cup. After you have communed, you may return directly to your seat or kneel at the rail for prayer and then return.

If you would like to be served in your seat, please let an usher know that, or ask someone sitting near you to communicate that to the servers.

Gluten-free wafers and cups are available at the left (north) side station. As you approach the servers, please indicate that you would like to receive a wafer.

COMMUNION HYMNS

617 I Come With Joy
Hymn Light Dawns on a Weary World See Insert
Hymn Wonder of Wonders See Insert

COMMUNION RAIL OFFERING

It is a United Methodist custom to receive a freewill love offering, over and above our regular giving, at the communion rail. Today, all gifts left on the rail will go to our Mobile Loaves & Fishes Ministry.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way,
called us to turn,
and fed us with your body and blood.
Now send us forth
to live your way in word and deed,
and so help make the world ready
for your final coming.
Amen.**

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 210 All Earth is Waiting

+ + +

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher
Reverend Taylor Fuerst
Liturgists
Reverend Michael Mumme
Reverend Cathy Stone
Pete Meeker
Tom Watkins
Communion
Kathleen Jones
Pete Meeker
Matt and Terri Purdy
Tom Watkins
Music Director/Organist
Scott Davis
Associate Music Director
Wendi Olinger

COMMUNION MUSIC

Words: Traditional, alt. and Liturgy of St. James
Music: PICARDY - French Carol



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 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.

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

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 register attendance on the Communication Card as a way of offering our presence to God.

Response: I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

Psalm 122:1

ENTERING THE HOLY

INTROIT

Wild and Lone
the Prophet’s Voice

David Ashley White

Wild and lone the prophet’s voice
echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice;
bidding us to do God’s will:
“Turn from sin and be baptized;
cleans your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sin you prized,
yeild your life to God’s control.”

With such preaching stark and bold
John proclaimed slavation near,
and his timeless warnings hold
words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John -
to behold the Lamb of God.

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

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* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to prepare the way;
The way for Christ –
the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ –
to enter our world,
to enter our hearts.

We cry out together in the wilderness:
The kingdom of heaven has come near.
We come to be part of the light–
the light that shines in the darkness.

Joanna Harader

* HYMN 209 Blessed Be the God of Israel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader 1:

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

Reader 2:

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

Reader 1:

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Reader 2:

Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage.

All:

**We light these candles
as a sign of the coming light of Christ.**

HYMN RESPONSE

206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Stanza 1

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

* **GOSPEL READING** Matthew 3:1-12 New Testament, page 2

LITANY OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS

We look for light but find darkness,
for brightness, but walk in gloom.
We grope like those who have no eyes;
we stumble at noon as in the twilight.

If I say, “Let only darkness cover me,
and the light about me be night,”
even the darkness is not dark to you,
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

**Blessed be your name, O God, for ever.
You reveal deep and mysterious things;
you are light and in you is no darkness.
Our darkness is passing away
and already the true light is shining.**

SERMON I Wonder If I Can Really Change...

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.

FEASTING AT THE TABLE OF GRACE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In The United Methodist Church, everyone is welcome at the Lord’s Table. It does not matter whether you are a member of this or any church. We welcome all, regardless of age or situation in life.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Even so, come, all you who love Jesus.
Come, give thanks.
Come, receive him.
Come, get ready.
Turn from sinful ways.
Turn to God.
And make peace with one another.

CONFESSION

God who has come and is coming,
we stop.
We turn.
We wait for you, God.
We’ve sinned.
We’ve relied on our reputations
or our accomplishments
as cover.

Uncover what we’ve hidden, Lord.

We’ve said we’re sorry,
but then we didn’t change a thing.
Help us truly repent, Lord.

We want to bear good fruit,
to be a church that longs for your coming,
ready for you.
Cleanse our hearts, Holy Spirit.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news.
The axe is laid at the foot of the tree.
The winnowing fork is at hand.
God cuts down sin’s power in our lives,
and sweeps away our guilt.
We are forgiven!
We are forgiven!
Glory to God!

OFFERTORY

There Shall a Star
from Jacob Come Forth

Felix Mendelssohn
(Christus)

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,
and a sceptre from Israel rise up,
and dash in pieces princes and nations.
As bright the star of morning gleams,
so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams
of light and consolation!
Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting,
truth imparting, gives salvation;
thine be praise and adoration!

Numbers 24:17; Psalm 2:9

Philipp Nicolai