

As we sing the following, those with birthdays in December are invited to come forward for a prayer of blessing.

HALLELUJAH!

Hallelujah!
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
And He shall reign forever and ever.
King of kings, and Lord of lords.
Hallelujah!
Revelation 19:6,11:15,19:16

* BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Let us pray:
God, our gracious Creator,
we give you thanks for the gift of life
to these who celebrate their birthdays in December.
Grant that they may make this new year in their lives
an offering that will enrich your world
and give you glory.
Cause them to grow in wisdom and grace
and strengthen their trust in your goodness
all the days of their lives; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979, alt.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 246 Joy to the World
Children may return to their parents.

CLOSING MUSIC

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Skillfully arranged, by Vernon M. Whaley, for children and youth voices, "Christmas Messiah for Young Voices" provides children with a practical opportunity to experience the joy of performing one of the world's greatest choral masterpieces with orchestral and Orff instrumentation.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher
Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgists
Reverend Michael Mumme
Reverend Cathy Stone

Children's Ministry Director
Lara Greene

Music Director/Organist
Scott Davis

Associate Music Director
Wendi Olinger

Music Makers Director
Sallie Novinger

Narrator
Maddie Greene

Isaiah
Abby Buchanan

Haggai
Tom Strandwitz

Luke
Will Strandwitz

Malachi
Karsten Ivey

Zachariah
Devon Cato



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2016
9:00 and 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 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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

All creation holds its breath.

The time is almost here.

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

Excitement is all around us.

Prepare our hearts.

The grace of God takes on human form.

Good news!

Emmanuel, God-with-us, comes to us.

We gather to make ready our hearts

for the coming of Christ, our hope.

* HYMN 196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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.

MESSIAH FOR YOUNG VOICES

PREPARE IN THE DESERT

Prepare in the desert a way for the Lord.

Clear the road for our God.

Fill every valley.

Smooth every mountain.

The hills will be flat, the rough places plain,
the Glory of God will be shown.

Isaiah 40:1-3

AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together:

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

Isaiah 40:5

BEHOLD

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign;

behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son,

and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

O THOU THAT TELLEST GOOD TIDINGS TO ZION

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,

arise, shine, for thy light is come;

and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Isaiah 40:9;60:1

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

For unto us a child is born,

unto us, a Son is given,

and the government shall be upon His shoulder;

and His name shall be called Wonderful,

Counselor,

the Mighty God,

the everlasting Father,

the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, Lord.

Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,

the hoping, the longing,

the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.

Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,

and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

* GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:18-25

New Testament, page 1

SERMON I Wonder What God Could Do...

OFFERTORY

Pastoral Symphony

Allandale String Quartet

THERE WERE SHEPHERDS

Ava Olinger, Eleanor Purdy, and Scout Wheat, soloists

There were shepherds abiding in the field,

keeping watch over their flock by night.

Luke 2:8

AND LO! THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

Peyton Ivey, soloist

And lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them,

and the glory of the Lord shone round about them,

and they were so afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not:

for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,

which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David

a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:9-11

AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL

Olivia Greene, soloist

And suddenly there was with the angel

a multitude of the heavenly host

praising God, and saying:

Luke 2:13

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth, peace, goodwill towards men.

Luke 2:14

PROCESSION OF THE ANIMALS

Children may come forward and sit next to the choir children during this time.

COME UNTO HIM

Hart Black, soloist

Come unto Him, all ye that labor,

come unto Him, ye that are heavy laden,

and He will give you rest.

Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him,

for He is meek and lowly of heart,

and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11:28,29