

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

Anthem Carol of the Epiphany John Bell

I sought him dressed in finest clothes,
where money talks and status grows;
but power and wealth he never chose:
it seemed he lived in poverty.

I sought him in the safest place,
remote from crime or cheap disgrace;
but safety never knew his face:
it seemed he lived in jeopardy.

I sought him where the spotlights glare,
where crowds collect and critics stare;
but no one knew his presence there:
it seemed he lived in obscurity.

Then, in the streets, we heard the word
that seemed, for all the world, absurd;
that those who could no gifts afford
were entertaining Christ the Lord.

And so, distinct from all we'd planned,
among the poorest of the land,
we did what few might understand:
we touched God in a baby's hand.

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623 Here, O My Lord, I See Thee

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 Christmas Eve Breakfast.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God,
We give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world,
in the power of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

* 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 January.
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 He Came Down

He came down that we may have love; he
came down that we may have love; he came down that we may
have love, hal-le-lu-jah for ev-er-more.

Words: Cameroon traditional
Music: Cameroon traditional; trans. and arr. by John L. Bell
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CLOSING MUSIC

+ + +

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher
Reverend Taylor Fuerst
Liturgists
Reverend Michael Mumme
Brooks Schuelke
Communion Servers
Brooks, Heather, Kennedy, and Ryan Schuelke
Cantor
Michael Carrillo
Violin
Evelyn Gullatt
Piano
Susannah Willms



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 8, 2016
9:00 a.m.

WELCOME

Because we believe that every person is a beloved child of God, on a journey to God, with God, we welcome ALL people, *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 fill out the Communication Card.

ENTERING THE HOLY

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Prophet calls,

“Arise, shine for your light has come!”

We are ready for the light from God to light our way.

We see that light in Jesus, God-with-Us, and we recognize that light in our lives, too.

We come to worship to connect God’s light in us to God’s light in Christ, and so illumine the world.

So come let us bring the joys and hardships of life to worship and celebrate that God’s light is already with us and within us.

* HYMN 254 We Three Kings

OPENING PRAYER

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12 New Testament, page 1

SERMON Search Diligently

RESPONDING IN FAITH

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,
we would like to be among those
who saw the coming of the Christ Child,
those who dropped all that they were doing
and traveled to worship the coming of God’s love
into this world.

And yet, merciful God,
we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod.
Whenever we, in our actions or inactions,
are guided more by our own need for control
than the needs of others for health and safety.
Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege,
rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed.
Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents
for the sake of profit, or power,
or because we fear to know, and to change,
the injustices of this world.

We confess our sins against you and one another,
and pray that you will fill us with your light,
that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name,
without counting the cost.
In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way,
we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God’s light is present in this world.
Present in the Christ child,
born to lead us out of darkness.
Present in the star,
in all that guides us to love.
God’s light is in the world,
and the darkness did not overcome it.
God’s grace is in the world,
and our mis-steps will not overcome it.
We are loved,
we are forgiven
Alleluia! 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. The next First Steps class will be Sunday, January 22, at 12:15 p.m.

OFFERTORY

African Noel

André Thomas /
Cathy Mockelbust

* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host; praise Fath - er, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and
an - gels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the
babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: Thomas Ken and William C. Dix, alt.

Music: GREENSLEEVES - 16 cent. English melody

FEASTING AT THE TABLE OF GRACE

* 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.