

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

242 Love Came Down at Christmas

251 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

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 Offering in support of the Lydia Patterson Institute.

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 strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 117 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

CLOSING MUSIC

+ + +

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher

Reverend Michael Mumme

Liturgist

Reverend Cathy Stone

Cantor

Michael Carrillo

Pianist

Susannah Willms

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers are placed by George Gaston
in celebration of Merianne Gaston's retirement.



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2017

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

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

John 1:1-4

* HYMN 240 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

OPENING PRAYER

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God,
may our hearts be open to receive this day
that which has been hidden
since the foundation of the world,
so that our lives might bear fruit
for the saving of the world.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE Colossians 1:9-23a New Testament, page 188

SERMON The Cosmic Christ

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN 399 Take My Life, and Let It Be

A COVENANT PRAYER IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION

I am no longer my own, but thine.

**Put me to what thou wilt,
rank me with whom thou wilt.**

**Put me to doing,
put me to suffering.**

**Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low by thee.**

**Let me be full,
let me be empty.**

**Let me have all things,
let me have nothing.**

**I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.**

**And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine,
and I am thine.**

So be it.

**And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.**

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE FAITH JOURNEY

Are you interested in joining FUMC? Prior to joining, we ask all to participate in a First Steps Class to learn about Methodist beliefs and the ministry of FUMC, meet the pastors and other members, and ask questions. To sign up, fill out the Communication Card during worship and place it in the offering plate.

OFFERING The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy West Indian Carol

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they say that his name is Jesus.

He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh yes, believer!
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.

The angels sang when the baby born,
and they say that his name is Jesus.

The shepherds came where the baby born,
and they say that his name is Jesus.

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* 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 - 16th cen. 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.**