



**THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**
December 17, 2017
9:00 and 11:00 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 www.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. This will allow our church parking lot to be used by visitors and those needing access to the handicap entrance and elevator on the north side of the Education Building.

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

God has called us to gather here.

We enter this place to worship.

We bring with us our fears.

We bring our tears and our laments for the world.

We yearn to hear a word of hope.

We are listening for a song of joy.

Listen! God opens our ears to hear—

We worship expectantly, for God is making all things new!

* HYMN 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me and holy is his name.’”

Luke 1:46-49

Today we remember Mary,

innocent and powerful, sacred and scared,

worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb.

She sings boldly when she might be meek;

she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior;

she is the beginning of a mighty revolution

as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

Today we give thanks for the Marys among us,

who step out of the roles society has planned;

unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks;

fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith,

and beckoning us to do the same.

On this third Sunday of Advent,

we light this candle as a symbol of Mary,

mother of God, bearer of the Way.

PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR MARRIAGE (11:00 a.m. only)

Mary Kathryn and Patty Kane

Mary Kathryn and Patty,
as members of the family of First United Methodist Church
and participants in our shared ministry,
we celebrate that you united in marriage on December 2nd,
through the sharing of vows and exchange of rings before a gathered congregation.
We celebrate the love you share for God,
the life you share together,
and the witness that your covenant relationship will be to all those around you.
Though we grieve that you are unable to wed in your own Sanctuary,
by the authority of your own pastors,
we claim with hope that God's blessing knows no limits.
We come today with joy to pray God's richest blessings on your life together.

Let us pray:

Most gracious God,
we give you thanks for your tender love in making us a covenant people
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Send your blessing upon Mary Kathryn and Patty,
that they may keep their marriage covenant,
and continue to grow in love and godliness together.

**Grant that their love for each other
may reflect the love of Christ for us
and grow from strength to strength
as they faithfully serve you in the world.**

Defend them from every enemy.

Lead them into all peace.

Let their love for each other
be a seal upon their hearts,
a mantle about their shoulders,
and a crown upon their heads.

**Bless them in their work and in their companionship;
in their sleeping and in their waking;
in their joys and in their sorrows;
in their lives and in their deaths.**

Fill them and us with grace and strength
to be witnesses of your unending love
for all of your beloved children.

**Watch over them in the coming years,
and bring them to the feast of eternal life.**

All this we ask through Christ our Lord,
who taught us to pray, saying...

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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

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.

Rev. Andy James

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 126

Pew Bible, Old Testament, page 548

SERMON

Shouts of Joy:
Echoes From the Future

* HYMN 210

All Earth is Waiting

Verses 1 and 4

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Carols and Lullabies
(*Christmas in the Southwest*)

Conrad Susa

I. ¡Oh, mi Belén! (Biscayan)

Oh, Bethlehem!
Blest is the hour the Savior comes to you.
Light from your city shines so bright;
burns like a beacon guiding us safely
straight on our way,
in dark and day light.
Oh, Bethlehem!

II. El Desembre Congelat (Catalonian)

On December's frozen ground,
fear and doubt denying.
April wears a flower crown,
all the world admiring,
from a garden filled with love
springs a blossom from above
with a flower so lovely,
comes the blessed hour.
God the Father made the night,
all in darkness shrouding.
Hiding from all human sight,
worry, fear and doubting.
Shining through the midnight clear,
brightest light of all the year
with a light so bright,
with a light outpouring,
heaven stands adoring.
Blooming at our humble feet,
winter's chill defying,
springs a lily pale and sweet,
fragrant and inspiring.
All the world can feel its power,
shining on our darkest hour,
all the sweetest fragrance,
bless us with your radiance.

III. Alegría (Puerto Rican) Brad Heckler / Mario Contreras

Walking slowly unto Bethlehem,
Holy Mary, with her husband;
traveling with them though in secret,
is the Savior of all nations.
Alegría a placer! (Joy and pleasure!)
For the Virgin passes by us
with her husband unto Bethlehem.
When to Bethlehem they had traveled,
they were searching for a haven,
all the innkeepers refused them,
dressed so poor and heavy laden.
As they see Mary and Joseph,
all the songbirds of the forest
serenade them with their singing;
precious gifts come from the poorest.

IV. Campana sobre Campana (Andalucian)

Bell after bell after bell is heard,
gathering all who are able!
Come to the window and hear the word;
you'll see a child in a cradle.
Oh, ring the bells of Bethlehem,
what are the angels singing,
what news do they bring?
Now that all your flock is gathered,
tell me shepherd, what's the matter?
We shall carry to the manger cheese and wine
and sweetest butter.
Stars in the heavens are shining,
shepherd, where will you go tonight?
Run, quickly run to the baby,
watch him slumber so sweetly.

V. En Belén Tocan A Fuego (Castilian)

Chelsea DeLorenz / Chrissy Whitford / Albert Garcia

There's a fire in Bethlehem,
in the stable see the flames!
For they say that born of a Virgin
from heaven to earth He came!
Fish in the river are glistening and dancing,
dancing and leaping to celebrate his birthday.
In Bethlehem's humble stable
there's a lovely white carnation,
it will grow into a purple Lily.
Greet the Savior of the nations!
Virgin Mary, by the river
hangs the swaddling clothes of Jesus,
all the birds around her are singing
and the river flows rejoicing.

VI. El Noi de la Mare (Catalonian)

Wendi Olinger / Jaimie Lowe / Albert Garcia / Brad Heckler

What shall we give to the child of the Mother?
What can we bring that will give him delight?
Bring to him raisins in kingly abundance,
bring him the offerings he richly deserves.
What shall we bring to child of the mother?
What shall we bring to the beautiful boy?
Raisins and honey and olives and walnuts,
raisins and honey and figs that are ripe.
What shall we do if the figs do not ripen?
What shall we do if the figs are still green?
Gifts that we offer the Child must be perfect;
mild for a baby, yet fit for a King.

VII. Chiquirriquitín (Andalucian)

*Chiquirriquitín, ay del chiquirriquitín,
he is laid in a manger bed,
follow us to the manger.
Find them all through the doorway,
there in the stable,
Mary, Joseph and Jesus, their holy baby.
Ox and mule are His guardians
sleeping beside Him,
in the poorest of stables humbly abiding.

*The title word is probably a variant of *chiquero*, meaning “stable,” “manger,” or “sty,” thus, *Ay del chiquirriquitín* probably means, “Oh, in the manger!”

Sure On This Shining Night (Nocturnes)

Morten Lauridsen

Sure on this shining night
of star made shadows round,
kindness must watch for me
this side the ground.
The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.
Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder
wandering far alone of shadows on the stars.

James Agee

INVITATION TO THE FAITH JOURNEY

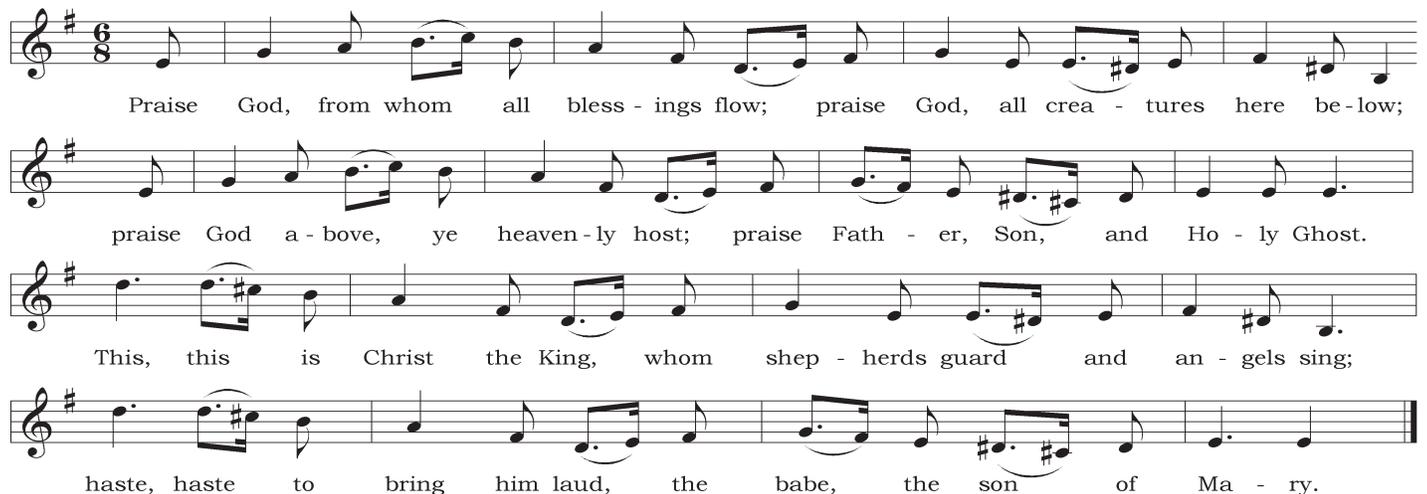
Are you interested in joining FUMC? Prior to joining, we ask all to participate in a First Steps Class to learn about Methodist beliefs and the ministry of FUMC, meet the pastors and other members, and ask questions. To sign up, fill out the Communication Card and place it in the offering plate.

OFFERTORY

Sussex Carol

Traditional English Carol / Arr. Philip M. Young

* 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

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 218

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

CLOSING MUSIC

+ + +

9:00 WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgists: Reverend Michael Mumme, and Reverend Cathy Stone

Advent Wreath: Keefe Boerner, Monica Choi, and Adele Boerner

Music Director/Organist: Scott Davis

Handbell Director: Shirley Derryberry

11:00 WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgists: Reverend Michael Mumme, and Reverend Cathy Stone

Advent Wreath: Alex, Sarah, Catcher, Scout, and Tillie Wheat

Music Director/Organist: Scott Davis

Handbell Director: Shirley Derryberry

MUSIC NOTES

Carols and Lullabies

“About four or five years ago I was asked to write a companion to Britten’s *A Ceremony of Carols*. After several years of me writhing in doubt, a friend showed me a collection of traditional Spanish carols he had sung as a boy in Arizona. Excited, I juggled them around to form a narrative. I noted their many connections with Renaissance music along with their homey, artful simplicity. Finally, the overriding image of a Southwestern piñata party for the new baby led me to compose connective music and totally reconceive the carols. In an often overlooked detail in the Christmas story, the New Baby bawls loudly as the shepherds leave in the final bars of Chiquirriquitín. His parents now must dandle and soothe him to sleep. Tired themselves, they drift off as the angels hover about them in protective adoration.”

Conrad Susa, 1992

Sure On This Shining Night

James Agee’s poem contains everything there is about gratitude, hope, humility, and resignation. “Kindness must watch for me this side the ground” - for isn’t that all we hope for, kindness to see us through? “The late year lies down the north” is about perspective: time is cycling on, like a river that we jump into and then out of, while the years continue with us or without us. “All is healed, all is health” is perhaps the resignation or acceptance that with God, sufferings are a mere drop in the ocean, and everything is as it should be? “High summer holds the earth” - a moment where everything is suspended in the perfection of nature? That perfect moment when the realization that God exists in the beauty of creation and with God, all is well. And then at the end, weeping alone for shadows on the stars. Imagine them as the thoughts swimming through the minds of the shepherds in the fields keeping watch the night Christ was born, when a star shone wonder above all others and led their way.