

Christmas Eve



*December 24, 2017
8:00 and 11:00 p.m.*



First United
Methodist Church
A U S T I N

www.fumcaustin.org

GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

Asterisks () indicate an invitation to stand as you are able.*

OPENING MUSIC

INTROIT

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the world's began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source,
the ending he of the things that are,
that have been and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore. Amen.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, trans. John Mason Neale and Henry W. Baker

* CALL TO WORSHIP

On this night,
Christ is born!

Now the Savior has appeared!

On this night,
the heavenly chorus resounds!

All creation rejoices!

On this night,
the church throughout the world joins their cry:

Glory to God in the highest!

Alleluia!

* OPENING CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O
 2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O sing, all ye
 3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, Je - sus, to
 come ye, to Beth - le - hem. Come and be - hold him, born the King of
 cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the
 thee be all glo - ry given. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap -
Refrain
 an - gels; O come, let us a - dore him, O come let us a -
 high - est;
 pear - ing:
 dore him, O come let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade; translation by Frederick Oakeley and others

Music: ADESTE FIDELES; present form of melody attributed to John Francis Wade; harmonization The English Hymnal, 1906

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

“While they were there,
the time came for her to deliver her child.
And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in bands of cloth
and laid him in a manger.”

Luke 2:6-7

Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies;
well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love;
animals and shepherds crowd in tight,
glowing with adoration,
while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

**Tonight we give thanks for every child among us.
Each new birth – regardless of circumstances –
reminds us of the preciousness of life,
the potential of tomorrow,
the promise of God.**

On this Christmas Eve,
we light the Christ candle for the child-King,
the infant-Redeemer,
the lowly-Lord.

And now we know...
He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

OPENING PRAYER

**Holy God of Love,
there is light in our lives
because of the abundance of your steadfast love.
A love so vast, so deep, so real,
that you became one of us.
May we live within the power of this love.
And may we share its light with a world
where too many dwell in darkness. Amen.**

Joanna Harader

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
Truly he taught us to love one another;
his law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

John Sullivan Dwight

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

LUKE 2:1-5

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

All sing:

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

LUKE 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

All sing:

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

LUKE 2:8-12

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see— I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

All sing:

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

LUKE 2:13-14

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

All sing:

**Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

LUKE 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

All sing, standing:

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found.**

WELCOME

SERMON

Christmas Bells

Taylor Fuerst

FEASTING AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Tonight you are invited to meet the Christ Child in the Holy Feast and there to have your deepest hunger satisfied. Everyone, without exception, is invited to come to the Lord's Table. You don't have to be a member of this church to come, but no one should feel pressured.

PRAYER

Then all prayerfully sing:



O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and
en - ter in, be born in us to - day. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the
great glad ti - dings tell; O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks

Music: ST. LOUIS - Lewis H. Redner

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

To our guests: Your presence today is itself a gift to God and to this church. Please do not feel obligated to make an offering. We believe that all we have and all we are is a gift from God, and so we give joyfully to participate in God's good work in the world. If you would like to support the ongoing ministry of First United Methodist Church, simply place your offering in the plate as it is passed. If you would like to join our Christmas Offering to support the Lydia Patterson Institute, be sure to use the "Christmas Offering" envelope located in your pew or write "Christmas Offering" on your gift.

OFFERTORY

Angels' Carol

John Rutter

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?

Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
to the humble shepherds who have waited long?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,
like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night.
He is come in joy like the sun at morning,
filling all the world with radiance and with light.

He is come in love as the child of Mary,
in a simple stable we have seen his birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing "Peace on earth."

He will bring new light to a world in darkness,
like a bright star shining in the skies above.
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
when he comes to reign in purity and love.

Let the earth rejoice at the Savior's coming,
let the heavens answer with the joyful morn!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing "Christ is born."

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*** PRESENTATION SONG** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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 cent. English melody

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks for the gift of the Christ Child and the mystery of the Incarnation.

And so, we bow before the wonder of your incarnation
and join with the heavenly host in their unending hymn,
praising and glorifying you, singing:

Intro (first time only) *All*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts, all praise be given!
 Bles-sed is the one who came, bring-ing love and light di - vine.

All your glo - ry fills the earth; all your pow - er fills the heavens. Glo - - - -
 Bles-sed is the king who comes in the bread and in the wine.

- - - - ri-a, in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - - - - -

- ri-a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Words: Unknown origin, revised by Daniel Benedict and Dean McIntyre

Music: GLORIA - French carol melody

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The congregation may be seated. The pastor gives thanks for the Lord's Supper, invokes the Holy Spirit upon this meal, and concludes:

**Through your Son Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
 all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,
 now and forever.**

Amen.

All sing:

Intro *All*

Glo - - - - - - - - - - ri-a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - - - - - - - - - - ri-a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

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.**

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

We will commune by "intinction," i.e., the minister will place the bread in your open hand, saying, "The body of Christ given for you," to which you respond, "Amen." You will then pass on to the server with the cup, dip the bread lightly in the cup, and eat.

There will be four serving stations at the front. Those in the two center sections will come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Those in the far right and left sections will come by the side aisle and return to their seats by the aisle along the windows. You may kneel for prayer at the altar rail or return to your seat. Those unable to come to the front may have the sacrament brought to them. Please signify this desire to an usher.

COMMUNION HYMNS

240	Hark! the Herald Angels Sing	
242	Angels We Have Heard on High	Stanzas 2, 3, and 4
228	He Is Born	
221	In the Bleak Midwinter	
219	What Child Is This	
229	Infant Holy, Infant Lowly	
230	O Little Town of Bethlehem	Stanzas 2 and 3

SPREADING THE LIGHT

* CLOSING PRAYER

O God,

you have made this night radiant

with the splendor of the true Light, Jesus Christ.

May the Light of Him who was born the Prince of Peace

shine in our lives and keep us in his perfect peace,

tonight and always. Amen.

* CLOSING CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.

Words: Joseph Mohr, alt. stanzas 1, 2, 3, translated by John F. Young; stanza 4 translated unknown

Music: STILLE NACHT - Franz Gruber

After the pastors carry the light out, the congregation may leave quietly. As we leave tonight, we carry the light of Christ into the world with songs of faith on our lips and love of God in our hearts.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgists

Reverend Michael Mumme

Reverend Cathy Stone

Music Director/Organist

Scott Davis

8:00 Soloist

Albert Garcia

11:00 Cantor

Wendi Olinger

NEXT SUNDAY

First Sunday After Christmas

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Preacher

Reverend Michael Mumme

Sermon

The Cosmic Christ

Scripture

Colossians 1:9-23a