

## 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.

#### 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 HYMN

245 The First Noel

#### 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 2018 Christmas Breakfast for the Homeless.*

#### PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

## GOING OUT TO SERVE

### \* BENEDICTION

\* HYMN 248 On This Day Earth Shall Ring

#### CLOSING MUSIC

+ + +

#### WORSHIP LEADERS

##### Preacher

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

##### Liturgists

Reverend Michael Mumme

Leonard Reese

##### Cantor

Michael Carrillo

##### Piano

Susannah Willms

##### Violin

Evelyn Gullatt



**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**  
January 7, 2018  
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](http://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](http://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

Arise, shine! Your light has come.

**The glory of the Lord shines like the sun.**

Behold, the nations have come to witness God's light.

**Kings have come to behold Christ's brightness.**

Lift up your eyes and look around.

**The glory of the Lord is all around.**

Arise, shine! Your light has come.

\* HYMN 254 We Three Kings

### OPENING PRAYER

God of starlight,

disperse the darkness of our lives,  
that we may behold the light of your love  
shining in every corner of our world.

Guide our footsteps in the paths of righteousness,  
that justice may flourish and peace may abound.

Help us follow the kings of old,  
that through our own journeys of faith,  
we may behold the mystery made known  
through the coming of your glory in the infant Jesus.

Amen.

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, source of all light,

by your Word, you give light to the soul.

Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
that our hearts and minds may be opened  
to know your truth and your way.

Amen.

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

New Testament, page 1

### SERMON

Scandal Already!

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

### 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 or email Trevor Harper at [trevor@fumcaustin.org](mailto:trevor@fumcaustin.org). The next class is February 4 at 12:15 p.m. in Garrison Chapel of the Family Life Center.*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God,

following only a star in the sky,  
kings of old left their families and their lands  
to find a child whose birth was so profound  
it was proclaimed in the heavens above.

Far too often,

we would rather sit comfortably in our homes  
than make spiritual pilgrimages of our own;  
our hearts are shut to those in need,  
and in our greed we withhold your gifts.

At this season of light,

help us shine your light in the darkness  
to honor the King of kings.

Let not the ancient gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh

be the last gifts offered to the one  
who brings light into our lives.

Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news:

the power that brought light and salvation  
to the kings of old is at work in the world today,  
granting eternal life to those who turn to God.

In the name of Jesus Christ,

you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ,**

**you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God!**

Amen.

### OFFERING

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 seem 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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### \* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Musical score for the offering, featuring a melody in G major and 6/8 time. The lyrics are: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

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

Music: GREENSLEEVES - 16th cen. English melody