

## 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. All gifts left on the rail will go to our Christmas Offering, dedicated to Austin Region Justice for Our Neighbors and our apportionments that support the United Methodist Church.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

Hymn                      What Feast of Love                      See Insert

216                      Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

184                      Of the Father's Love Begotten

## PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

## GOING OUT TO SERVE

### \* BENEDICTION

\* HYMN 209              Blessed Be the God of Israel

## CLOSING MUSIC

+      +      +

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed by the family of Curtis Higgs in celebration of his 91st birthday.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

*Preacher*

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

*Liturgists*

Reverend Cathy Stone

Pete Meeker

*Advent Wreath*

Ben, Daniella, Patrick, and Katie Thoma

*Music Director/Organist*

Scott Davis

## SUNDAY PARKING

The church parking lot is reserved for mobility-impaired individuals. All able-bodied members are asked to use the free parking available on Sundays in the Texas Trial Lawyer's Association garage at the southwest corner of 13th and Lavaca Streets and at open meters around the church.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00-10:45 A.M.

### ADULTS

Sunday School is the place where people learn about Christian faith in a loving, supportive environment. Our classes offer adults a wide selection of age groups, study topics, and learning styles. Learn more at [fumcaustin.org/sundayschool](http://fumcaustin.org/sundayschool).

### YOUTH

Youth from 6th through 12th grades are invited to wake up with fellowship, study, and donuts! We gather in the Great Hall of the Family Life Center for music and announcements, then split into middle school and high school groups to awaken to God's word. Learn more at [fumcaustin.org/youth](http://fumcaustin.org/youth).

### CHILDREN

For children ages 3 through 5th grade, we offer weekly guided Christian education, led by volunteer church members. Children are grouped by age and grade. Children's classes are located on the first floor of the Education Building. Learn more at [fumcaustin.org/children](http://fumcaustin.org/children).

## ONLINE GIVING

We offer two convenient ways to give online: (1) make an online donation at [fumcaustin.org/giving](http://fumcaustin.org/giving) and/or (2) text FUMCAUSTIN (all caps) to 73256 on your smartphone and follow the prompts. Once your number is registered, future gifts are easier to make.



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 2, 2018

11:00 a.m.

### OUR INVITATION

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 participate fully in the life of this church.

### OUR MISSION

First United Methodist Church exists to build a community where all people are invited to know God's love and sent to join God in transforming the world.

### OUR VALUES

*Justice.* Working to eradicate injustice for the excluded and marginalized. *Bridge-Building.* Nurturing multigenerational friendships and community partnerships. *Storytelling.* Sharing our stories of faith and of growth. *Active Learning.* Pursuing knowledge and understanding of God. *Service.* Seeking mutually empowering service opportunities. *Constructive Disruption.* Disrupting systems of power to create positive change.

### OUR FAMILIES

We love children in worship. Activity clipboards for children are available in the Sanctuary Foyer. Our Family Room in the balcony offers rockers, books, toys, and a diaper change station for parents with infants and toddlers. Childcare is also available for children through age 5 in EDU Rooms 102-104.



**LEARN MORE AT**  
[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 Connections Card.*

*Response:* I was glad when they said to me,  
**“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”**

Psalm 122:1

## ENTERING THE HOLY

**INTROIT** Of the Father’s Love Begotten Plainsong, Mode V

Of the Father’s love begotten,  
ere the worlds 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.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; trans. by John Mason Neale

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

People of faith,  
prepare for the coming reign of Christ!  
**As we gather to pray and sing and listen,  
a spirit of anticipation and hope fills us.**  
The days are surely coming, says Our God,  
when justice and righteousness will prevail.  
**May our worship illuminate our hearts and minds,  
freeing us to respond joyfully to God’s call  
in the days to come.**

\* **HYMN 203** Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

#### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

These are fearful days:  
Words of hate  
Acts of terror  
Welcomes withheld  
Truths denied.

**Anxiety is a constant companion;**

**Hope feels like a stranger.**

We call out in our anxiety:

**Show us how you work, God;**

**school us in your ways.**

**Take us by the hand;**

**lead us down the path of well-being.**

**You are our Savior, aren’t you?**

We remind ourselves of God’s ancient promises:

Justice is coming!

Love is on the way!

Lift up your heads and watch for the signs!

**Let us light this first candle of Advent,  
a candle of Hope.**

In its light,

we look for signs of God at work in our lives  
and in our world right now.

**Let this candle of Advent Hope  
shine in our hearts all week.**

Let it remind us to lift up our heads and open our eyes  
to watch all around us for signs of the Holy One.

**Amen.**

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Guide us, O God,  
by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
that in your light we may see light,  
in your truth find freedom,  
and in your will discover peace;  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 2:1-5 New Testament, page 55

**SERMON** Caesar Augustus

## 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 United Methodist beliefs and the ministry of FUMC, meet the pastors and other members, and ask questions. To sign up, fill out the Connections Card during worship and place it in the offering plate or email Trevor Harper at [trevor@fumcaustin.org](mailto:trevor@fumcaustin.org).*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Creator,

you call us to rejoice in your promise of the birth to come,  
but we are afraid.

**You invite us into a world  
where justice and righteousness prevail,  
but we turn away in fear.**

We long for an easy path  
into your promised world,  
but you warn us that there is no easy way.

**Birth new life within us,  
that we may abide in your perfect love—  
the love that casts out fear.**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God’s mercy and steadfast love endure,  
strengthening our hearts and overcoming our fears.

God will remove every obstacle

that keeps us from being the body of Christ.

**Amen.**

**OFFERING** There Shall a Star from Jacob  
Come Forth

Felix Mendelssohn  
(CHRISTUS)

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,  
and a scepter from Israel rise up;  
and dash in pieces princes and nations.

As bright the star of morning gleams,  
so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams  
of light and consolation!

Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting,  
truth imparting, gives salvation;  
thine be praise and adoration!

Christian Karl Josias von Bunsen

Philipp Nicolai

#### \* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING



Praise God, from whom all bles - sings flow;



praise God, all crea - tures here be - low;



praise God a - bove ye heav - - - nly host;



praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. Re-joice! Re-joice!



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, alt.; 9th Century Latin

Music: VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL - plainsong, Mode 1

## FEASTING AT THE TABLE OF GRACE

#### \* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

See Insert

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** 895

#### 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 bread and cups are available at the left (north) side station. As you approach the servers, please indicate that you would like to receive gluten-free.*