

BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Let us pray:

**God, our gracious Creator,
we give you thanks for the gift of life
to these who celebrate their birthdays in December.
Grant that they may make this new year in their lives
an offering that will enrich your world
and give you glory.
Cause them to grow in wisdom and grace
and strengthen their trust in your goodness
all the days of their lives; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979, alt.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 202 People, Look East

CLOSING MUSIC

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CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed by Davis Covin in honor of Trevor Harper's birthday.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist

Reverend Cathy Stone

Music Director/Organist

Scott Davis

Handbell Director

Shirley Derryberry

Soloist

Albert Garcia

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.

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.

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.

ONLINE GIVING

We offer two convenient ways to give online: (1) make an online donation at 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.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 9, 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

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

Let us prepare,
for God is drawing close.
The light of the world will dwell among us.
Let us keep watch!
For we know not the day nor the hour.
In ways and places unexpected, Christ appears.
Let our hearts not be weighed down.
Even in the hardest hours,
when nations rage against nation,
and all of heaven and earth trembles,
let us raise our heads and proclaim,
the Kingdom of God is near!

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* **HYMN 211** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 6

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Our homes and our world are under siege with information:
television and telemarketing, blogs and texting.
So much information often bearing too little wisdom.
Angry voices compelling hate;
quiet voices counseling complacency;
mechanical voices offering “deals”–
too much information, too little wisdom!
Confusion surrounds us;
truth gets lost.

We call out in our confusion:

Where is your Wisdom, O God?
Where is the Word that leads to life?

We remind our selves of our ancient story:
John, Zechariah’s son, out in the desert at the time,
received a message from God.
He went all through the country around the Jordan River
preaching a baptism of life-change leading
to forgiveness of sins,
as described in the words of Isaiah the prophet:
“...prepare God’s arrival!
Make God’s road smooth and straight!”

**Let us light this second candle of Advent,
a candle of Peace.**

In its light,
let us think about what voices
of true life-change and forgiveness
are speaking in our world right now.

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

Let it remind us to enter times of quiet and peace
in order to listen,
through the noise of our lives,
for the call to prepare for the Holy One.

Amen.

Luke 3: 2-4: adapted from *The Message* © 2002 Eugene H. Peterson
(Reproduced with permission.)

ANTHEM Comfort Ye / Every Valley George Frideric Handel
(MESSIAH)

Comfort ye my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,
and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished,
that her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be exalted,
and every mountain and hill made low:
the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

Isaiah 40: 1-4

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 1:57-80 New Testament, page 54

HYMN 210 All Earth is Waiting
Stanzas 1 and 2 sung seated as the children come forward.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

HYMN 210 All Earth is Waiting
Stanzas 3 and 4 sung seated as the children return to their seats.

SERMON Zechariah

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

In our prayers, the Pastor calls and we respond together:
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER 895

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.

OFFERING Manger Lullaby Hart Morris

* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

As we sing the following, those with birthdays in December are invited to come forward for a prayer of blessing.

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