



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 16, 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

MISSION EMPHASIS MOMENT

Christmas Offering

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, rejoice!

The Spirit of God is in this place.

We are held in the embrace

of the One who will make all things new.

Even when nations rage and uncertainty abounds,

the source of our joy is unshakable!

Let our worship resound with all of creation:

Glory to God! Glory to God!

* HYMN 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We move from one task to another,

from one responsibility to another.

The holidays may wear us out with worries

about preparations,

about family relationships,

about money,

about presents!

We are scattered and busy about too many things.

We call out in our fatigue:

Where is your joy, O God?

Where is your gift of presence in our lives?

We remind our selves of Paul's ancient advice:

Celebrate God all day...revel in God!

Help everyone see that the Master is about to arrive!

Don't fret or worry.

Instead of worrying, pray.

Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers,
letting God know your concerns.

Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness,
everything coming together for good,
will come and settle you down.

It is wonderful what happens
when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

**Let us light this third candle of Advent,
a candle of Joy.**

In its light,

let us turn our worries into prayers:

May God be present to us now,

as we prepare for the coming of Christ.

Let this candle of Advent Joy
shine in our hearts all week
to remind us to pray and praise
and place Christ at the center this season.

Amen.

Philippians 4: 4-7 adapted from *The Message*

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

In baptism,

God names us as God's own beloved children;

God promises to be our God

and welcomes us into the family of Christ;

God makes Christ's death and resurrection for us
present to us and at work in us.

The baptism of believers' children especially makes visible
the prevenient nature of grace—
that God reaches out to, and accepts, us
before we reach out to, and accept, God.

At the same time, in baptism,

we acknowledge for ourselves and our children

the gift and claim of God's grace,

and we commit ourselves and our children

to live out of God's grace as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Thus, baptism marks the birth, at any age,
of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

PRESENTATION

Who is presented for baptism?

Isabelle Ann Polenz

Daughter of Jonathan and Alexa Polenz

PARENTS' RE-AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Because the role of parents and the church is crucial
to a child's experience of grace,
we ask you to re-commit yourselves
to the vows of the baptismal covenant:

Do you re-affirm your renunciation of sin
and your confession of faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior,
putting your whole trust in his grace,
and promising to serve him as your Lord,
by loving others as Christ loved you
and resisting evil, injustice, and oppression?

We do.

Do you commit yourself to work for God's reign on earth
through the church, which Christ has opened to all people,
participating actively in its ministries
with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

We do.

Will you nurture your child in Christ's Church,
that by your teaching and example,
she may grow to know the grace of God,
profess her faith in Christ openly,
and live as a faithful disciple of Christ's church?

We will.

CONGREGATION'S RESPONSE

Do you as Christ's church reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture this child in the Christian faith and life,
praying for her, teaching her, and leading her
in acts of service and mission?

We will.

BAPTISM WITH THE LAYING OF HANDS

ANOINTING WITH OIL

Following the biblical custom of anointing prophets (I Kings 19:36), priests (Exodus 29:7) and kings (I Kings 1:39), candidates are anointed at their baptism as a reminder that all Christians share in the royal, prophetic, priestly ministry of Jesus Christ.

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

A candle, lighted from the Paschal Candle, is presented to the newly baptized to signify that the light of the One who overcame the darkness of sin and death now shines in his or her life.

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Isabelle,

**we give thanks that God has claimed you
with an everlasting love that will never, ever let you go;
and we will never let you forget that!**

**We rejoice to welcome you as our sister
in the family of Christ.**

Our story is now your story:

**you have ridden in the ark with Noah;
you have passed through the sea with Moses;
Christ's death and resurrection for you is at work in you,
transforming you into the image of God.**

Grow with us in grace,

**confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his royal priesthood.**

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 1:26-38

New Testament, page 53

SERMON

The Angels

RESPONDING IN FAITH

ADVENT CAROLS: WITHIN OUR HEARTS BE BORN

Christ Is Nigh
Victoria Tijerina

Old Scottish Tune / Arr. Mark Schweizer

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding;
“Christ is nigh,” it seems to say,
“Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day.”
Wakened by the solemn warning
let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, our Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.
He comes down like fragrant showers,
raining on the fruitful earth,
love and joy and hope,
like flowers springing on his path to birth:
see before him on the mountains
Peace, the valiant herald, go;
righteousness, in flowing fountains,
from the hills to valleys flow.
King and monarchs bow before him,
myrrh and gold and incense bring;
for all nations shall adore him,
laud and praise, their offering;
unto him shall prayer unceasing,
with our daily vows ascend;
his great kingdom still increasing,
kingdom that shall have no end.
Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from Heaven;
let us haste, with tears of gladness,
one and all to be forgiven.
Honor, glory, might, and blessing be to God:
the Father, Son; and the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

William Monk and James Montgomery, alt.

Peace be to you and grace from him
 who freed us from our sins,
 who loved us all and shed his blood
 that we might saved be.
 Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
 who was and is and is to come;
 sing holy, holy, Lord!
 Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
 rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
 for Christ is coming soon!
 E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
 and night shall be no more;
 they need no light, nor lamp, nor sun,
 for Christ will be their All!

Revelation 22, alt.

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
 from tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming
 as seers of old have sung.
 It came a blossom bright,
 amid the cold of winter,
 when half spent was the night.
 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
 the Rose I have in mind,
 with Mary we behold it,
 the Virgin Mother kind.
 To show God's love aright,
 she bore to us a Savior,
 when half spent was the night.
 O Flower, whose fragrance tender
 with sweetness fills the air,
 dispel in glorious splendor
 the darkness everywhere;
 true man, yet very God,
 from sin and death now save us,
 and share our every load.

Stanzas 1 and 2, 15th century German; translation Theodore Baker and Harriet Spaeth

Stanza 3 © 1940, 1943, renewed 1971 Church Hymnal Corp.

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Gabriel's Blessing
Brad Heckler and Christina Whitford

Richard Shephard

In the sixth month,
the Angel Gabriel was sent from God
unto a virgin espoused to a man
whose name was Joseph;
and the virgin's name was Mary.

Gabriel:

“Hail thou that art highly favored
the Lord is with thee;
blessed are thou among women.
For behold - thou shall bring forth a son
and shall call his name Jesus.”

Mary:

“How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?”

Gabriel:

“The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee
and the power of the Highest
shall overshadow thee;
for with God nothing shall be impossible.”

Mary:

“Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it unto me according to thy word.
My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his name;
and his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy
hath hoplen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed forever.”

Choir:

What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son, of Mary.
Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Luke 1: 26-38, 46-55

What Child is This: William C. Dix

* Hymn

Prepare the Way, O Zion

1. Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2. He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen; translation composite; adaptation Charles P. Price

Music: *Bereden vag for Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*

Ave Maria (Angelus Domini)
Mario Contreras and Michael Wolfe

Franz Biebl

The angel of God visited Mary,
and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Mary said, "See the servant of the Lord.
May it happen to me according to your word."
And the Word became flesh and lived among us.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
Holy Mary, pray for us now
and in the hour of our death.
Amen.

The Jesus Gift
Chelsea DeLorenz

Gilbert M. Martin

Shall I gather emeralds, shall I bring him gold?
Shall I shower diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold?
Shall I spangle jewels like stars above?
Give him laughter, bring peace-filled laughter,
offer him warm laughter and love.
Simplest of gifts, gentlest of hearts;
kindness he'll use as he leads.
So, give him these gifts, offer your hearts,
honor his birth and you'll need
no emeralds nor rubies, silver nor gold;
niether bright diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold.
Spangle not rich jewels like stars above;
you'll have laughter, sweet peace-filled laughter,
simple warm laughter and love.

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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 are 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

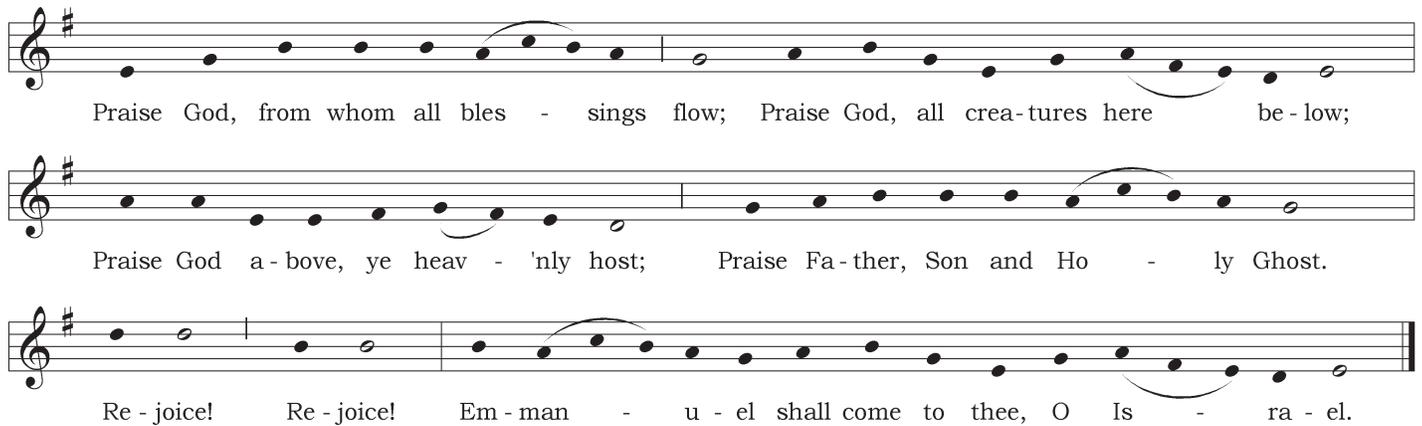
Are you interested in joining FUMC? Prior to joining, we ask all to participate in a First Steps Class to learn about Methodist beliefs and the ministry of FUMC, meet the pastors and other members, and ask questions. To sign up, fill out the Connections Card during worship and place it in the offering plate or email Trevor Harper at trevor@fumcaustin.org.

OFFERTORY

Greensleeves (Four Carol Preludes)

Richard Purvis

* 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.

Music: VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL - plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th century

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 218

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CLOSING MUSIC

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed by Laura Velez in honor of her mother, Billye Jean Townes, on her 93rd birthday.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgists: Reverend Michael Mumme and Reverend Cathy Stone

Advent Wreath: Susan Blain

Music Director/Organist: Scott Davis

Associate Choir Director: Mario Contreras

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.