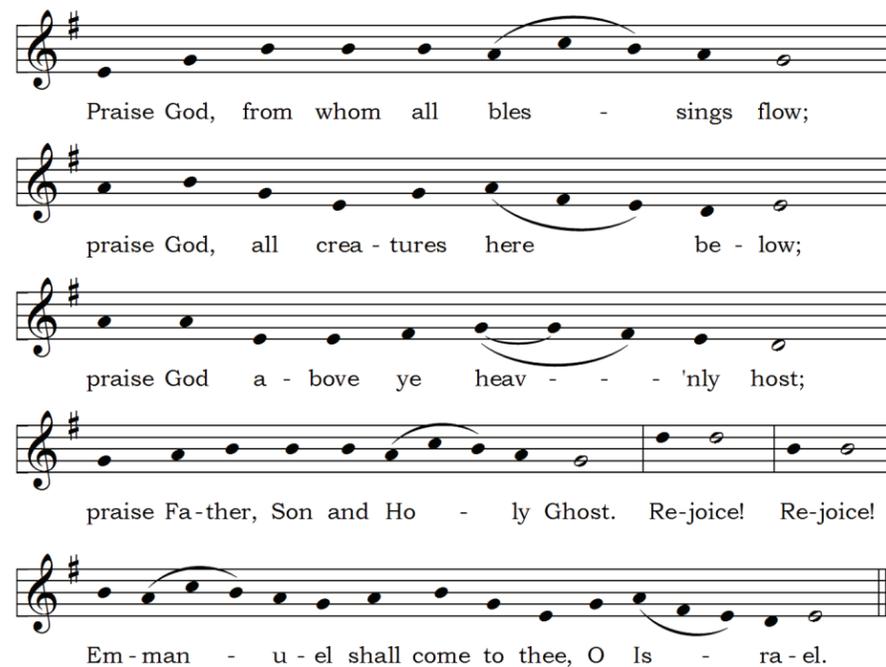


* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING



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 - plainsing, Mode 1

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 248 On This Day Earth Shall Ring

CLOSING MUSIC

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed by Raymond Lewis in loving memory of Nancy Lambert Lewis, 1938 - 2018.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher

Reverend John McMullen

Liturgists

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Reverend Michael Mumme

Reverend Cathy Stone

Music Director/Organist

Scott Davis

Quartet

Christina Whitford

Victoria Tijerina

Albert Garcia

Brad Heckler

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.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 23, 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 Blest Be the King Whose Coming

Blest be the king whose coming
is in the name of God!

For him let doors be opened,
no hearts against him barred!
Not robed in royal splendor,
in power and pomp, comes he;
but clad as are the poorest,
such his humility!

Blest be the King whose coming
is in the name of God!

He only to the humble
reveals the face of God.
All power is his, all glory!
All things are in his hand,
all ages and all peoples,
till time itself shall end!

Federico F. Pagura; trans. F. Pratt Green

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* CALL TO WORSHIP

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God,
and our spirits rejoice in you.

We will praise you as long as we live.

We will sing praises to you our whole lives long.

We will not trust in the powerful of this world,
but will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth,
the One who gives food to the hungry,
the One who enacts justice for the oppressed.

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God,
and our spirits rejoice in you.

* HYMN 250 Once in Royal David’s City

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Who listens to the voices of the poor?
Who shares strength with the powerless?
Who surprises with forgiveness, and makes all things new?
Our Hope is fragile as an infant.

We call out in our longing:
Where is your Power, O God?
Where is the Love that transforms our world?

We remind ourselves of Mary’s ancient song:

Sing out my soul,
sing of the holiness of God
who has delighted in a woman,
lifted up the poor,
satisfied the hungry,
given voice to the silent
grounded the oppressor
blessed the full-bellied with emptiness
and with the gift of tears
those who have never wept
who has desired the darkness of the womb
and inhabited our flesh.

Sing of the longing of God,
sing out, my soul!

**Let us light this fourth candle of Advent,
a candle of Love.**

In its light,
let us think about our world,
about wherever our God is longing to be born
in peace, in joy, in freedom and in wholeness.

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

Let it remind us to be midwives to Christ’s birth
in our work for justice, our practice of peace,
our offering of forgiveness.

Amen.

From Luke 1: 39-55, paraphrased by Janet Morley in *All Desires Known* © 1994

ANTHEM

Wondrous Night

Matthew Armstrong

Wondrous night!
A brilliant star shines a ray of light;
leading us to the humble stall,
where the child, born of Mary,
the virgin mild rests his head
on a bed of straw.

Star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Wondrous night!
A troubled world still seeks thy light.
Seeks the love of the holy boy;
one by one, lead us on to Bethlehem’s throne.
Fill our hearts with heaven’s joy.

John Henry Hopkins; Matthew Armstrong

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HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2-5a

Old Testament, page 820

* **HYMN 213** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
Stanzas 1 and 2 sung seated as the children come forward.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

* **HYMN 213** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
Stanzas 3 and 4 sung seated as the children return to their seats.

SERMON

The Innkeeper

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Hear us as we pray:

We pray for good news, O God.

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

Unto Us Is Born a Son

Piae Cantiones

Arr. David Willocks

Unto us is born a Son,
King of quires supernal;
see on earth his life begun,
of lords the Lord eternal.
Christ, from heaven descending low,
comes on earth a stranger;
ox and ass their owner know,
becradled in the manger.
This did Herod sore affray,
and grievously bewilder,
so he gave the word to slay,
and slew the little childer.
Of his love and mercy mild
this the Christmas story;
and oh that Mary’s gentle child
might lead us up to glory!
O and A, and A and O,
cum cantibus in choro,
let our merry organ go,
benedicamus Domino.

Trans. G. R. Woodward