



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 16, 2018
9:00 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

MISSION EMPHASIS MOMENT

Christmas Offering

ENTERING THE HOLY

* 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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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.

Gabriel's Blessing

Richard Shephard

Brad Heckler and Christina Whitford

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

INVITATION TO THE FAITH JOURNEY

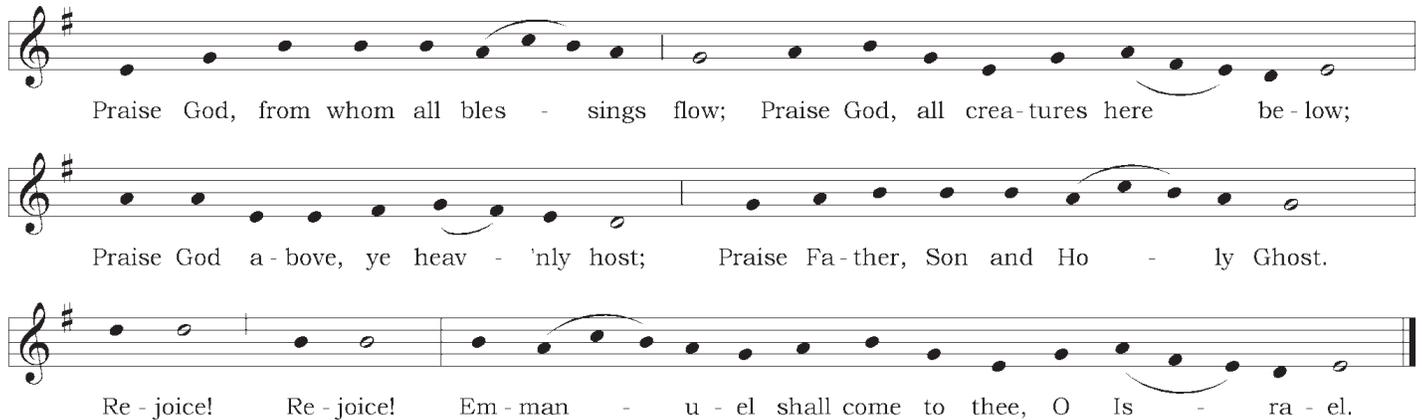
Are you interested in joining FUMC? Prior to joining, we ask all to participate in a First Steps Class to learn about Methodist beliefs and the ministry of FUMC, meet the pastors and other members, and ask questions. To sign up, fill out the Connections Card during worship and place it in the offering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

FEASTING AT THE TABLE OF GRACE

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

How can we thank you, O God?

For sun and moon and stars,

for breath and life and all things good,

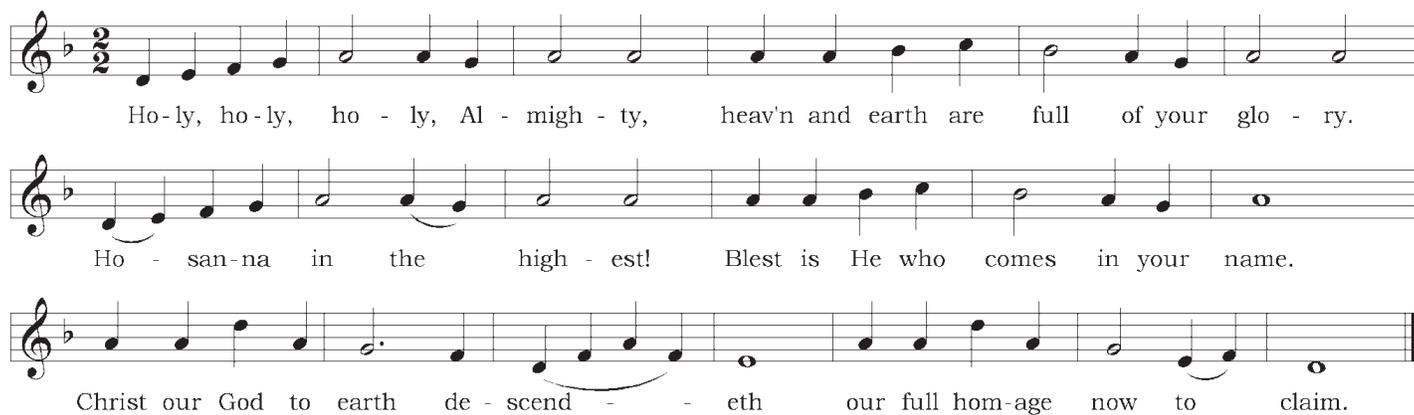
for your steadfast promise and your faithful love,

for the day that is surely coming

when all things will be made new.

With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation,

we join the ancient and eternal hymn:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Al - migh - ty, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san-na in the high - est! Blest is He who comes in your name.
 Christ our God to earth de - scend - - eth our full hom-age now to claim.

Please be seated.

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus,
 who came to be your living Word,
 to baptize us with Spirit and fire,
 to feed the hungry,
 to humble the mighty,
 and to announce the good news
 of your coming realm.

With thanksgiving, we remember how,
 on the night in which he gave himself up for us,
 he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
 gave it to his disciples, and said:
 "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
 Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
 gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
 "Drink from this, all of you;
 this is my blood of the new covenant,
 poured out for you and for many
 for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
 in remembrance of me."

With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you,
 sharing this holy meal,
 remembering Christ's dying and rising,
 and proclaiming the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain in glo - ry.
 Now he gives to all the faith - - - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us—
 this bread, this cup, these people—
 Christ's body and blood,
 given in love for the world.
 Make us one in the Spirit,
 one in the church,
 and one with Christ our Lord.
 Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people,
 serving our neighbors, worshipping you alone.
 Keep us in the peace of Christ
 until you gather us at your table in glory.
 Even now, a voice is crying in the wilderness:
 prepare the way of the Lord!
 Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
 now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men, as the light of light de - scend - eth,
 that the powers of hell may van - - - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.

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.**

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

Liturgist

Reverend Cathy Stone

Music Director/Organist

Scott Davis

Associate Choir Director

Mario Contreras

COMMUNION MUSIC

Text: Traditional and Liturgy of St. James; trans. Gerard Moultrie

Music: PICARDY - French carol melody

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.