

## 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.*

## 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 enable the local and worldwide connectional ministries of the United Methodist Church.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

218 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

## PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

## 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 and Reverend Michael Mumme

*Cantor:* Michael Carrillo

*Vocal Ensemble:* Victoria Grogan, Jan Morris, and Rhett Perry

*Piano:* Susannah Willms

*Violin:* Evelyn Gullatt

## 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.



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
December 23, 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](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.

## ENTERING THE HOLY

### \* 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 213 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

### 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

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Micah 5:2-5a Old Testament, page 820

SERMON The Innkeeper

## 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).*

OFFERING O Come, Divine Messiah French Noël  
Arr. Healey Willan

O come, Divine Messiah,  
the world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph,  
and sadness flee away.  
Dear Savior, haste! Come to earth.  
Dispel the night and show your face,  
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.  
O come Desired of nations,  
whom priest and prophet long foretold,  
will break the captive fetters,  
redeem the long-lost fold.

Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin; trans. S. Mary of St. Phillip

## \* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heaven - ly host; praise Fath - er, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and  
an - gels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the  
babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: Thomas Ken and William C. Dix, alt.

Music: GREENSLEEVES - 16th century English melody

## FEASTING AT THE TABLE OF GRACE

### \* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

See Insert

### 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.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**