December 15, 2019
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

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.
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
The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes,
The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings.

John Brownlie

CALL TO WORSHIP
When the sun rises what shall we sing?
“My soul magnifies the Lord.”
And when chaos and violence echo on the screen?
“My soul magnifies the Lord.”
For our God is a God of justice and peace.
“My soul magnifies the Lord.”
So when all is wrong, or all is right,
“My soul magnifies the Lord.”
Yes, when all is wrong, or all is right,
We will sing with joy and delight,
of the God of justice, love, and peace.
“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

HYMN 203
Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

MISSION EMPHASIS MOMENT
Christmas Offering

Judy Kostura

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Speak to us, Lord.
Speak to us in the waiting,
the watching, the hoping, the longing,
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.
Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming.
Amen.
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.

The Apple Tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
laden with fruit and always green;
the trees of nature fruitless be
compared to Christ, the apple tree.
His beauty doth all things excell;
by faith I know, but ne’er can tell
the glory which I now can see
in Jesus Christ, the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought,
and pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all, but now I see
‘tis found in Christ, the apple tree.
I’m weary with my former toil,
here I will sit and rest a while;
under the shadow I will be,
of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive
it keeps my dying faith alive,
which makes my soul in haste to be
with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.
Anonymous; collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire

Gabriel’s Blessing

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.

What Child is This: William C. Dix
*Hymn*  

**Prepare the Way, O Zion**

**Words:** Frans Mikael Franzen; translation composite; adaptation Charles P. Price  
**Music:** *Bereden vag for Herran,* melody from *Then Swenska Psalmboken*

1. Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
2. He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.  
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior’s rule embrace.

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**I Wonder As I Wander**  

*Appalachian Carol / Arr. John Rutter*  

**Emily Buchanan**

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
how Jesus, the Savior, did come for to die.  
For poor ornery people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.  
When Mary birthed Jesus, ‘twas in a cows’ stall,  
with wisemen, and farmers and shepherds and all.  
But high from God’s heaven a star’s light did fall,  
and the promise of ages it then did recall.  
If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing:  
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing;  
or all of God’s angels in heaven to sing,  
he surely could have had it,  
‘cause he was the King!

John Jacob Niles, *Songs of the Hill Folk*
The Wexford Carol  

Irish Carol / Arr. Howard Helvey

Good people all, this Christmas time,  
consider well and bear in mind what our good God  
for us has done in sending his beloved Son.  

With Mary holy we should pray,  
to God with love this Christmastide.  

In Bethlehem upon that morn,  
there was a blessed Messiah born.  

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
their flock of lambs and feeding sheep;  
to whom God’s angel did appear,  
which put the shepherds in great fear.  

“Prepare and go,” the angels said,  
“To Bethlehem, be not afraid,  
for there you’ll find that happy morn,  
a princely babe, sweet Jesus, born.”  

With thankful heart and joyful mind,  
the shepherds went the babe to find,  
and as God’s angel had foretold,  
they did our Saviour Christ behold.  

Within a manger he was laid  
and by his side a virgin maid,  
attending on the Lord of Life,  
who came on earth to end all strife.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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.

**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 and place it in the offering plate, go online at fumcaustin.org/firststeps, or email Trevor Harper at trevor@fumcaustin.org.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
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

*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING*

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.
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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 Barrett and Carly Criscoe in memory of Barrett’s grandfather, Col. James Boyd Criscoe.

*WORSHIP LEADERS*  
Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst  
Liturgists: Reverend Cathy Stone, Dr. Brad King, and Amy Wink  
Advent Candlelighters: Binford Family  
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.