Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 24, 2019
12:00 P.M.

First United Methodist Church
AUSTIN
Transformation Happens Here

www.fumcaustin.org
GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

Asterisks (*) indicate an invitation to stand as you are able.

OPENING MUSIC

*CALL TO WORSHIP

If you are like Joseph,
and you are seeking truth,
there is room here for you.
If you are like Mary,
and you are seeking rest,
there is a seat here for you.
If you are like the wise men,
and you are looking for a sign,
these candles are here for you.
If you are like the angels,
and you cannot help but sing,
there is a melody here for you.

Come in.
You are in God’s house.
Love was born tonight,
and there is love here for you.
Let us worship the God of love.

*OPENING CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words: John Francis Wade; translation by Frederick Oakeley and others
Music: ADESTE FIDELES; present form of melody attributed to John Francis Wade; harmonization The English Hymnal, 1906
LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

OPENING PRAYER

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

LUKE 2:1-7
In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

All sing:
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

LUKE 2:8-14
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see– I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

All sing:
Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

LUKE 2:15-20
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON
God Can’t Wait
INVITATION TO THE TABLE

You are invited to meet the Christ Child in this Holy Feast and therein to have your deepest hunger satisfied. Everyone, without exception, is invited to come to the Lord’s Table. You don’t have to be a member of a church to come; all are welcome!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of kings and shepherds,
    God of teenage mothers and step-parents,
    God of angel choruses and starlight—
    we confess to waiting.
We have waited to extend grace.
We have waited to say, “I love you.”
We have waited to apologize.
We have waited to seek justice,
    choosing comfort and convenience over the needs of our neighbors.
We have waited—
    waited for someone else to make a move,
    waited for a sign,
    waited until it was our issue.
You ask us to be the body of Christ,
    but in many ways, we have waited.
Forgive us.
Change us.
Remind us of your love for this world, which can’t wait.
In your name we pray.
Amen.

Prayerfully sing:

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks
Music: ST. LOUIS - Lewis H. Redner
OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

To our guests: Your presence today is itself a gift to God and to this church. Please do not feel obligated to make an offering. We believe that all we have and all we are is a gift from God, and so we give joyfully to participate in God’s good work in the world. If you would like to support the ongoing ministry of First United Methodist Church, simply place your offering in the plate as it is passed. If you would like to join our Christmas Offering to support a full renovation of our Family Life Center Kitchen, be sure to write “Christmas Offering” on your gift.

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter

* PRESENTATION SONG  Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Words: Thomas Ken and William C. Dix, alt.
Music: GREENSLEEVES - 16th cent. English melody

* 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.

The pastor gives thanks for the gift of the Christ Child and the mystery of the Incarnation.
And so,
we bow in holy splendor before the wonder of your incarnation
and join with the heavenly host in their unending hymn,
praising and glorifying you, singing:

Words: Unknown origin, revised by Daniel Benedict and Dean McIntyre
Music: GLORIA - French carol melody
2004 The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, Center for Worship Resourcing (www.uncworship.org)
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The congregation may be seated.

The pastor gives thanks for the Lord’s Supper, invokes the Holy Spirit upon this meal, prays for others, and concludes:

All this we pray in Christ’s name,
through whom, with whom, in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen.
All sing:

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.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

We will commune by “intinction” i.e., the minister will place the bread in your open hand, saying, “The body of Christ given for you,” to which you respond, “Amen.” You will then pass on to the server with the cup, dip the bread lightly in the cup, and eat.
Silent Night, Holy Night

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
   round yon virgin mother and child.
   sleep in heavenly peace,
   Christ the Savior is born.

2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
   glories stream from heaven afar.
   sleep in heavenly peace.
   Christ the Savior is born.

3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light;
   radiant beams from thy holy face.
   Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
   Christ the Savior is born.

4. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
   with the angels let us sing.
   with the dawn of redeeming grace,
   Alleluia to our King;

   Holy infant, so tender and mild,
   heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Words: Joseph Mohr, alt. stanzas 1, 2, 3, translated by John F. Young; stanza 4 translated unknown
Music: STILLE NACHT - Franz Gruber

240       Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

GOING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING CAROL 246       Joy to the World

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst
Liturgist: Dr. Brad King
Piano: Susannah Willms
Violin: Evelyn Gullatt