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GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

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

GATHERING VOLUNTARY Kings of Orient

GREETING All are invited to greet those around them and to fill out the Connections Card included in your bulletin.

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 What Star Is This, Michael Praetorius
With Beams So Bright

What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
‘Tis sent to announce a newborn King,
glad tidings of our God to bring.
‘Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
“From Jacob shall a star proceed”;
and lo! the eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord’s command.

Words: Charles Coffin, trans. John Chandler
Music: Puer nobis nascitur - adapt. Michael Praetorius

\* CALL TO WORSHIP
O come, let us worship the Lord
and consider what wondrous things God has done:
The Magi who study the heavens
follow a guiding star!

O come, let us worship the Lord
and consider what wondrous things God has done:
The peoples who live in the shadows
see a glorious light!

O come, let us worship the Lord
and consider what wondrous things God has done:
The Christ who embodies the Word
unveils the hidden plan,
making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation
through the gospel!

O come, let us worship the Lord,
for God has done wondrous things!

\* HYMN 254 We Three Kings

OPENING PRAYER

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Wondrous Spirit,
gather our minds
that they may be one with you.
Open our ears
that they may hear your Word.
Soften our hearts
that they may receive your wisdom.
Speak to us
for we, your servants, are listening.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 New Testament, page 1

\* HYMN The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy
Stanza 1 sung seated as the children come forward.

Musical score for the hymn "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" (Stanza 1). The score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of 12 staves of music. The lyrics are: 1. The virgin Mary had a baby boy, the Wise Men came where the baby was born, the virgin Mary had a baby boy, and they say that his name is Jesus. He come from the glo - ry, he come from the glo - rious king - dom. He come from the glo - ry, he come from the glo - rious king - dom. Oh, yes! be - liev - er! Oh, yes! be - liev - er! He come from the glo - ry, he come from the glo - rious king - dom.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

\* HYMN The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy
Stanza 2 sung seated as the children return to their seats.

SERMON

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
As we pray, please join in the response:
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER 895

INVITATION TO THE FAITH JOURNEY
Are you interested in joining First Church? 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. The next class is Sunday, February 12, at 12:15 p.m. in the FLC Great Hall. To sign up, fill out the Connections Card and place it in the offering plate; go online at fumcaustin.org/firststeps; or email Amy Wink at amy@fumcaustin.org.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING Wexford Carol Irish Carol
Arr. Catherine Bennett

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.
Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep,
to whom God’s angels 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 in a manger bed,
a princely babe, sweet Jesus born.”
With thankful heart and joyful mind,
the shepherds went, the babe to find,
and as God’s angels had foretold,
they did our Savior Christ behold.
Now let our songs and praises be
unto Christ’s heavenly majesty;
and evermore amongst our mirth,
remember our Savior’s birth.

Words and Music: Trad. Irish Carol
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\* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING 94