# **GOING OUT TO SERVE**

#### **BIRTHDAY BLESSING**

Let us pray:

God, our gracious Creator,
we give you thanks for the gift of life
to these who celebrate their birthdays in January.
Grant that they may make this new year in their lives
an offering that will enrich your world and give you glory.
Cause them to grow in wisdom and grace
and strengthen their trust in your goodness
all the days of their lives;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979, alt.

#### \* BENEDICTION

\* **HYMN** 248 On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Stanzas 1, 3, and 4

**VOLUNTARY** 

Piae Cantiones: Personet Hodie

**CHANCEL FLOWERS** 

The flowers are placed by Reverend Lizzie Wright, Executive Director of Austin Region Justice for Our Neighbors, in honor of the approximately 400,000 children born into a refugee life each year.

# **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst Liturgist: Reverend Cathy Stone Music Director/Organist: Scott Davis

#### **WORSHIP MUSIC**

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Words: West Indian carol

Music: The Virgin Mary - West Indian carol

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# 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 Lawyers Association garage at the southwest corner of 13th and Lavaca Streets or at open meters around the church.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00-10:45AM

#### **ADULTS**

Our classes offer adults a wide selection of age groups, study topics, and learning styles. Many classes are meeting in person and online. To find class contact information, visit fumcaustin.org/sundayschool.

#### YOUTH

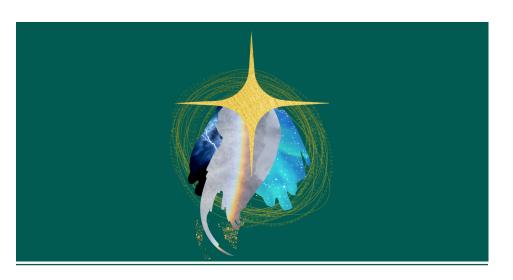
Sunday School for 6th through 12th grade begins in the Great Hall of the Family Life Center. We gather for announcements and then split into middle school and high school groups. Learn more at fumcaustin.org/youth.

#### CHILDREN

In 2023, Sunday School will begin at 10:00AM and parents may take their children directly to their classrooms after getting a guardian sticker and their child's name tag from one of our check in stations.

# **GIVING**

Cash or checks will be received during the offertory. We offer three convenient ways to give online: (1) through the FUMC App on your smart phone; (2) make an online donation at fumcaustin.org/giving; and/or (3) text FUMCAUSTIN (all caps) to 73256 on your smartphone and follow the prompts. Once your number is registered, future gifts are easier to make.



# EPIPHANY SUNDAY January 8, 2023 11:00AM

## **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 and other materials for children are available at the back of the Sanctuary. Our Family Room in the balcony offers rockers, books, toys, and a diaper change station for parents with infants and toddlers. Childcare is available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in EDU Room 104.



First United LEARN MORE AT Www.fumcaustin.org

# 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, With Beams So Bright

Michael Praetorius

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

Soften our nearts

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.



#### 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,

"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