



*December 11, 2022
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

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 from 8:45AM-12:15PM for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in EDU Room 104.



LEARN MORE AT
www.fumcaustin.org

GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

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

GATHERING VOLUNTARY

Comest Thou Jesu,
from Heaven to Earth Now Descending?

Johann Sebastian Bach

(BWV 650)

GREETING

All are invited to greet those around them and fill out the communication 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

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night,
your people’s everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.
Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.
To God Creator, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might and glory be
from age to age eternally.

Words: Conditor alme siderum, Latin 9th Cent.; trans. The Hymnal 1982

© 1985 The Church Pension Fund

Music: Conditor alme siderum Mode IV

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Our souls magnify the Lord.
Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!
**We come today with eager hope,
awaiting God’s new revelation.**

The mighty One has done great things!
God’s mercy covers generations.
**We come today with ready peace,
trusting with anticipation.**

The One who lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry,
dwells with us.

**We come today with fervent joy,
we worship with great expectation.**

* HYMN 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Stanzas 1, 2, 6, and 7

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

SUNG RESPONSE

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Pre pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord,
and all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the response, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Words: Isaiah 40:3, 52:10

Music: Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taizé © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé; admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

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ANTHEM

Sure On This Shining Night

Morten Lauridsen

Sure on this shining night of star made shadows round,
kindness must watch for me this side the ground,
on this shining night.

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.

Words: James Agee, Permit Me Voyage: Description of Elysium

Music: Morten Lauridsen, Nocturnes

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HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord,
your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.
Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love,
and strength to follow on the path you set before us;
through Jesus Christ
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:2-11

New Testament, page 10

ANTHEM

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

John Gardner

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play,
to call my true love to my dance:
sing O my love;
this have I done for my true love.
Then was I born of a virgin pure,
of her I took fleshly substance;
thus was I knit to man's nature,
to call my true love to my dance:
sing O my love;
this have I done for my true love.
In a manger laid and wrapped I was;
so very poor this was my chance,
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
to call my true love to my dance:
sing O my love;
this have I done for my true love.
Then afterwards baptized I was;
the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
my Father's voice heard from above,
to call my true love to my dance:
sing O my love;
this have I done for my true love.

Words: Trad. English Carol

Music: John Gardner, Op. 75 No.2

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ANTHEM

The Little Drummer Boy

Harry Simeone/Katherine Davis/Henry Onorati

Arr. Harry Simeone

Come, they told me,
our newborn King to see.
Our finest gifts we bring,
to lay before the King.
So to honor him, when we come.
Baby Jesu, I am a poor boy, too.
I have no gift to bring,
that's fit to give our King.
Shall I play for you, on my drum?
Mary nodded, the ox and lamb kept time.
I played my drum for him;
I played my best for him.
Then he smiled at me,
me and my drum.

Words and Music: Harry Simeone / Katherine Davis / Henry Onorati; arr. Harry Simeone

Arr. © 1958 Mills Music, Inc.; Delaware Music Corp.; Shawnee Press, Inc. arr. agent.

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TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

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

**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 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. Lunch will be provided. The next class is today at 12:15PM in the FLC Garrison Chapel. To sign up, fill out the Connections Card and bring it with you to class.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all people,
to make music from the heart.

Words: Howard Thurman

© 1985 A Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations: The Work of Christmas; Friends United Press

Music: Dan Forrest

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* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Praise God, from whom all bles - sings flow; Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low;
Praise God a - bove, ye heav - 'nly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, alt.; 9th cent. Latin

Music: VENI VENI EMMANUEL - plainsong, Mode 1

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 December.
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 218

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

VOLUNTARY

Sinfonia: Cantata 29 (We Thank Thee, God)

Johann Sebastian Bach

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in celebration of Tom Ausley's 80th birthday by his wife, Robbie Ausley, and his children and grandchildren.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist

Dr. Brad King

Music Director/Organist

Scott Davis

FUMC Choir

Mario Contreras

Lewis Worthington

Pianist

Susannah Willms

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

9:45-10:45AM

CHILDREN

Sunday School for children ages three through 5th grade begins at 9:45AM on the 1st Floor of the Education Building. For more information, email children@fumcaustin.org.

10:00-10:45AM

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 to awaken to God's word through fellowship and study. Learn more at fumcaustin.org/youth.

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. Many classes are meeting in person and online. To find class contact information, visit fumcaustin.org/sundayschool.

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.