**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.

Music: Dan Forrest © 2014 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

Words: Howard Thurman A Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations Friends United Press (All rights reserved. Used by permission OneLicense.net #A705700.)

### \*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING 94

## **GOING OUT TO SERVE**

- \* BENEDICTION
- \* **HYMN** 611 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

## **VOLUNTARY**

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in honor of Barbara Ruth's birthday by her family.

### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Preacher
Reverend Taylor Fuerst
Liturgists
Reverend Cathy Stone
Dr. Brad King
Music Director/Organist
Scott Davis

## 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.



# January 15, 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.



LEARN MORE AT www.fumcaustin.org

## GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

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

### **GATHERING VOLUNTARY**

#### **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 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord Nikolaus Decius

To Jordan came the Christ, our Lord, his Father's will obeying, and was baptized by John, there came a voice from heaven saying, "This is my dear beloved Son upon whom rests my favor." And till God's will is fully done he will not bend or waver. for he is Christ the Savior. He came by water and by blood to heal our lost condition; he cleanses, reconciles to God, and gives the Great Commission. Then let us not heed worldly lies nor rest upon our merit, but trust in Christ who will baptize

that we may life inherit.
Words: Martin Luther; para. F. Bland Tucker
Music: Allein Gott in der Höh, att. Nikolaus Decius

with water and the Spirit

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Through the waters of baptism,

God calls us to wade into the way of the Sacred.

In community,

we are claimed as beloved and invited into new life.

The waters are sometimes calm, flowing slowly and easily.

They remind us of who we are, together.

The waters are sometimes moving swiftly.

They lead us in the direction of justice, with urgency and peace.

The waters are sometimes raging.

They beckon us to live courageously,

to choose practices of radical Love even as evil looms.

Through all of life's changes and challenges, the promises of God uphold us.

We are claimed, eternally, as kin in Christ.

@enfleshed

\* HYMN

When Jesus Came to Jordan

See Insert

### **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.

SCRIPTURE

Amen.

Matthew 3:13-17

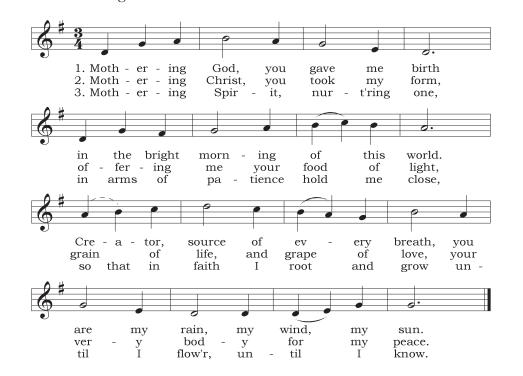
New Testament, page 3

\* **HYMN** 608 This Is the Spirit's Entry Now Sung seated as the children come forward.

#### TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

\* HYMN

Mothering God
Sung seated as the children return to their seats.



Words: Jean Janzen, based on the writings of Juliana of Norwich (15th cent.)

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Music: English folk tune

## SERMON

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

### REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

See Insert

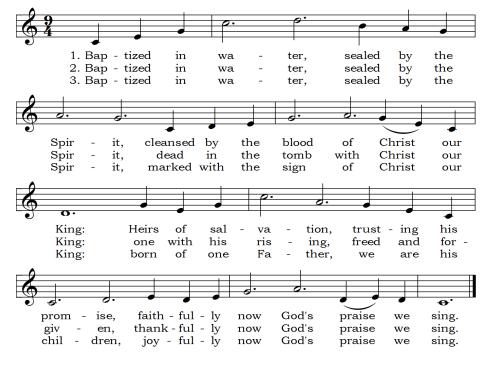
THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

## REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

See Insert See Insert

## Baptized In Water



Words: Michael Saward, alt.

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Music: Bunnessan, Gaelic melody

### 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.

### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION