



**December 28, 2025
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.

GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

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

GATHERING VOLUNTARY

Good King Wenceslas

Traditional English Carol / Arr. Bruce Greer

GREETING

As you prepare for worship, please greet your neighbors and fill out a Connections Card. You can find the printed version in the pew in front of you or you can use the QR code on the front page of the FUMC Weekly. To let our pastors know about a prayer request for you or someone you love, you can use the printed Connections Card that will be placed in the offering basket when it is passed or you can use the QR code found on the front of the FUMC Weekly.

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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

Good Christian friends,
rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now we hear of endless bliss.

News! News! Jesus Christ was born for this!

He has opened heaven’s door,
and we are blest forevermore.

Christ was born to save!

Words: Latin; Trans. John Mason Neale, alt.

Music: *In Dulci Jubilo*, German Carol

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing for joy!
The light has come into the world!
**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.**

Celebrate the good news of great joy!

**For unto us is born a Savior,
Christ the Lord!**

Come, let us worship the newborn King,
and offer our hearts in praise and thanksgiving!
**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace on earth to all people!**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of light,
shine in our hearts
as your Word is read and proclaimed.
By your Spirit,
guide us in the way of Christ,
that we may live as your faithful people.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

CAROL 251

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
*Refrain, Stanza 1, and Refrain sung seated
as children come forward.*

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CAROL 251

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
*Refrain, Stanza 3, and Refrain sung seated
as children return to their seats.*

REFLECTION

RESPONDING IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE FAITH JOURNEY

Are you interested in what it means to be a member of First Church? First Steps is an informal gathering where you can meet the pastors and staff, learn about United Methodist beliefs, hear more about our many ministry opportunities, ask questions about this community of faith, and explore whether membership at First Church is your next step in faith. The next First Steps Class is Sunday, February 22, at 12:15PM in the FLC Garrison Chapel. Lunch is provided and childcare is available in EDU Room 102. To sign up, fill out a Connections Card and place it in the offering basket or go online at fumcaustin.org/first-steps.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

De Tierra Lejana Ventamos
(From a Distant Home)

Traditional Puerto Rican Carol

* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise God, Son, and Holy Ghost.

This, this is Christ the King, Emmanuel whom prophets sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Words: Thomas Ken and William C. Dix, alt.

Music: *Greensleeves*, 16th Cent. English Melody

FEASTING AT THE TABLE OF GRACE

* 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.

Pastor gives thanks, recalling God's story of abundance.

...You welcome us as your forgiven people,
uniting heaven and earth
and joining our voices with angels and archangels
in the unending hymn:

Intro (first time only)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts, all praise be given!
Bles - sed is the one who came, bring - ing love and light di - vine.

All your glo - ry fills the earth; all your pow - er fills the heavens.
Bles - sed is the King who comes in the bread and in the wine.

Glo - - - - - - - - - ri-a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - - - - - - - - - ri-a, in ex - cel - sis De - - o!

Please be seated. Pastor continues leading the prayer, recalling the acts of Christ.

...And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving,
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Intro

Christ has died, Christ is risen Christ will come to earth again.

Great the mystery of God's grace; great the mystery of our faith.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

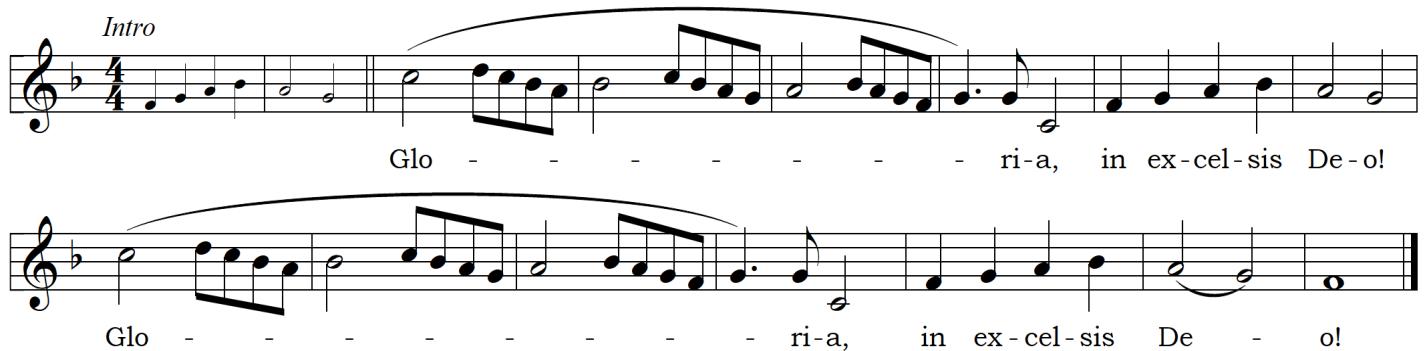
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Pastor continues leading the prayer, asking God to pour out God's Holy Spirit on us and this meal.

...In the glory of your only Son,
when nothing in heaven or on earth falls outside your redeeming purpose,
and when all things shall be full of grace and truth in you,
One God, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

All sing:



Intro

Glo - - - - - - - - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o!

Glo - - - - - - - - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De - - o!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

CAROLS DURING RECEIVING

230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Stanzas 1 and 4

219

What Child Is This

Stanzas 1 and 2

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

In gratitude, in deep gratitude
for this moment, this meal, these people,
we give ourselves to you.

Send us out to live as changed people
because we have shared the Living Bread
and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us,
enable much by us, encourage many through us.

So, Lord, may we live to your glory,
both as inhabitants of earth
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.

Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* CAROL 240

+ + +

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Cathy Stone

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Becca Edwards

Music: Susannah Willms

Cantors: Victoria Tijerina-Gordon, Sarah Urias

GATHERING VOLUNTARY

Good King Wenceslas

Traditional English Carol / Arr. Bruce Greer

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GREAT THANKSGIVING MUSICAL SETTING

Words: Unknown origin, revised Daniel Benedict and Dean McIntyre

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Manus. Classif., French, Gauvin, Malouin, Ann. Ed., and Skinner, Review, Hume, Austin, G. Lovelace

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EPIPHANY PARTY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 | 10:00-10:45AM | FLC GREAT HALL

Jesus' birth is just the beginning. Celebrate all 12 days of Christmas with an Epiphany Party. We will have fun activities for children and youth including cupcake decorating and hot chocolate bar. This is the faith formation event for children and youth this week and will take the place of Sunday School. Start your new year with joy by bringing the whole family to the party!

A large, stylized gold number '2026' is the central focus. It is surrounded by a variety of colorful fireworks in shades of blue, red, and pink, along with numerous small gold stars of different sizes, all set against a dark background.

SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Honor someone you love and appreciate, remember a departed loved one, or celebrate special days or events in your life or the life of the church. The cost is \$65 and we are taking requests for next year. The available dates for the first few months of 2026 are: January 11 and 25; February 8, 15, and 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; and April 12, 19, and 26. You may sign up by contacting Tami Kellberg at tami@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 226).

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed from 1:00PM on Wednesday, December 24, through Thursday, January 1, for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. We will reopen on Monday, January 5, at 9:00AM. Our pastors are on call at 512-478-5684, press 213, and leave a message for a return call.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING SCHEDULE

In order for any end-of-year financial gifts to be tax deductible and/or applied to the Ministry Plan for 2025, gifts must be made by December 31, 2025. During our office closure, gifts can be made in person on Sunday, December 28. Gifts made online (time stamped) and by mail (postmarked) must be dated no later than December 31.