

# GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

## First United Methodist Church

[www.fumcmason.org](http://www.fumcmason.org)

November 20, 2022

### Prelude

### Welcome & Sharing the Life of the Church

### Opening Prayer

### Light Altar Candles & Procession of Leaders

### Lighting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Candle of Advent

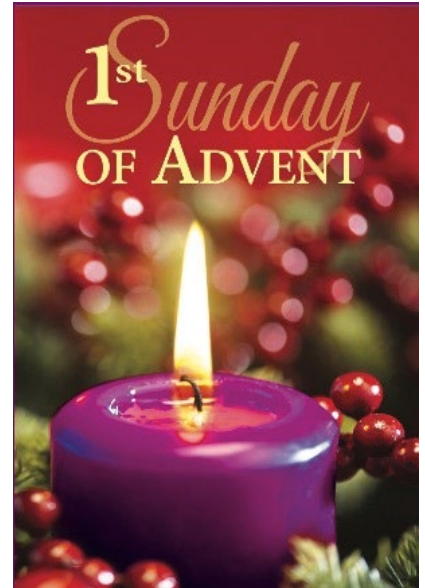
#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** We have endured these past few years and know that there is more to face before us. We don't know if we have the strength to withstand what might be around the next corner. And we wonder who will stand with us, who will have our back, who will occupy our corner.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Who is with us? That is what we begin to wonder these days. Who will light our way and chart our course? Who is on our side, who will welcome us home again?

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading: Home. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of a branch that will be raised. Jesus spoke of a Son of Man that will descend. Both point to a hope. A hope that calls us home. Our true home, where we're welcomed and loved and included. Where there is justice and peace. It's time, this Advent season, time to go home.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Reading:** We light this candle, as a sign of our hope, our strong hope that there is a way to go home. To the home in Christ, and it starts with us, and it starts here, and it starts now. It's time to go home.



### \*Hymn of Praise:

### “Blessed Be The God of Israel”

UMH #209

**1.** Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free, who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty. The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release; God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

**2** Now from the house of David a child of grace is given; a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven. Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way, the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

**3** On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise, the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes, to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace; O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

### Prayer of Confession

**O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, touch and easily believe.**

**But you did not ask us to believe what is easy, you have asked us to believe what is true!**

**Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work.  
 Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story.  
 Forgive us we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us.  
 Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe.  
 Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin — the One who has come to set us all free.  
 We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us.  
 Amen.**

**Silent Confession. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. As we wait for Christmas, we know that Christ has already come into our world and lives, has already been born in us. We are renewed and restored. Go and share the good news of God’s love and restoration. **Amen.**

**Concerns & Celebrations & Lord’s Prayer**

**Young Disciples’ Time**

**Tithes & Offerings/ Offertory/Doxology UMH # 95**

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION: “I Love Thy Kingdom Lord” UMH #540**

<p><b>1.</b> I love thy kingdom, Lord,          the house of thine abode,          the church our blest Redeemer saved          with his own precious blood.</p>	<p><b>2.</b> I love thy church, O God!          Her walls before thee stand          dear as the apple of thine eye,          and graven on thy hand.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> For her my tears shall fall,          for her my prayers ascend,          to her my cares and toils be given,          till toils and cares shall end.</p>	<p><b>4.</b> Beyond my highest joy          I prize her heavenly ways,          her sweet communion, solemn vows,          her hymns of love and praise.</p>
<p><b>5.</b> Sure as thy truth shall last,          to Zion shall be given          the brightest glories earth can yield,          and brighter bliss of heaven.</p>	

**Written Word of the Lord: Epistle: Isaiah 9:6-7**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Gospel: \*Matthew 2:1-2**

**2** Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.’”

**The Spoken Word**  
 Holy Communion (8:30 Only)

**Pastor Peter Aguilar**

**\*Hymn of Commitment: “Soon and Very Soon” UMH #706**

<p><b>1.</b> Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King. Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King. Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King. Hallelujah hallelujah! We're going to see the King.</p>	<p><b>2.</b> No more crying there, we are going to see the King. No more crying there, we are going to see the King. No more crying there, we are going to see the King. Hallelujah hallelujah! We're going to see the King.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> No more dying there, we are going to see the King. No more dying there, we are going to see the King. No more dying there, we are going to see the King. Hallelujah hallelujah! We're going to see the King.</p>	<p><b>4.</b> When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.</p>

**BENEDICTION**

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**MINISTERS—ALL MEMBERS OF FUMC  
 STAFF—LISTED BELOW**

Rev. Peter Aguilar, Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastorpeter@fumcmason.org">pastorpeter@fumcmason.org</a>
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**Please pray for our members and loved ones who are homebound and/or residing in nursing homes. Also, please pray for:** Sandra Valdez, Rhonda Teboe, & Valery Puntas friends of Sue Bush, Michael Murphy, Mark Lehmborg, Carlene Brollier, Lauren Hoerster, McKenna

Brandenberger (missionary), Vernon Fritze, The people of Ukraine, Loy Williams, Terry Lange, Carol Jordan, Kathy McKeown, Anne Chappell, George & Mary Eastes, the church, Steve and Debra Moore, Daveen Jorgensen, Jimmie Schmidt, Carolyn Toeppich, Mark Grosse, and (Aunt & Uncle of Tiffany Klaerner), **the families of:** Suzanne Brantley, Ricky Glenn Tatsch Sr., Marshall Frazier, Gary Cooper brother of Roy Cooper, and Kamden Palacio.

**Please pray for our members and loved ones who are in the military. If you have addresses for any of these military members, please provide that information to the office or visit the link on the church website.**

B.C. Hardin (U.S. Army), Matt Adam (USAF), Houston Haley (USAF), Joseph Alba (U.S. Army), T.J. Schovajsa (U.S. Army), Ferd T. Slocum III (U.S. Navy), James Vacek (U.S. Navy), Truman Coe (U.S. Navy), Kaleb Owen (USAF), Britney Schovajsa (U.S. Army), and Kalyn Bauer (U.S. Army). **The Nurture Committee needs updated addresses of our military men and women. Please send to Trudy Irwin, [trudywirwin@yahoo.com](mailto:trudywirwin@yahoo.com), or call 512-431-3046**

Announcements

## Dates to Remember!!

**The Family Advent Pancake Meal** will be on Sunday, Nov. 27 from 5-7pm in the Social Hall. There will be wonderful fellowship along with yummy pancakes and sausage. We will also help with the Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary. We would love for everyone in our Church Family to join us!

### November 30<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-12:45 PM

Each Wednesday we will gather in the Social Hall to enjoy homemade soup, bread, and a lesson. We will begin eating around 12:10, then the lesson will go from approximately 12:15 to 12:45.

Thank you to Daveen Jorgenson for providing the bread for this weeks meal and Pastor Peter for providing the soup.

## New from Church Council

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Your Church Council met on November 15<sup>th</sup> to receive the findings from the Way Forward Committee (Karla Bearden, Jeff Grote, Jess Irwin, Amanda McMillan, Chase Smith, Nonie Stringer, and David Young). We all owe a debt of gratitude to these individuals for the thoughtful way they have explored the issues related to discernment and disaffiliation on behalf of the entire congregation. Their findings informed the Church Council that among our members there are a wide variety of opinions remaining and not a clear consensus about what, if anything, needs to be done. Based on our discussion during the meeting and after considering input and questions from many guests in attendance, your Council voted 12 to 4 with 1 abstaining to not enter the RioTexas Annual Conference's formal discernment process at this time. There was a general feeling among the Council members and those in attendance that this issue is not entirely resolved and that more information should be provided to our members as we continue to monitor this evolving situation in the United Methodist Church.

I continue to ask that each of you keep our church and its leadership at all levels in your prayers. Your Church Council will be meeting again soon to discuss next steps and will be communicating them to the congregation. We are reminded in Ephesians 4: 2-3 to "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

I remain available to any of you wishing to discuss anything with me as we continue discerning informally. My cell phone is 325.347.4389

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### **Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Birthdays: Sheila Innis*

8:30 AM Worship with Communion

9:45 Sunday School for all ages

11:00 Worship

5:00-7:00 Family Advent Pancake Supper & Hanging of the Green's

### **Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Birthdays: Lincoln Eckert & Bobbie McMillan*

9:30 AM Prayer Shawl (GR)

4:30 PM Bible Study (GR)

**6:00 PM Advent Cantata Rehearsal**

### **Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM Steady Steps Chapel

### **Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM Band of Brothers

**12:00-12:45 Bread and Soup Advent Devotional (SH)**

**3:30-5:00 PM Confirmation Class**

5:30 PM Choir Practice

### **Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

7:30 AM Women's Bible on Zoom

**9:00 AM Tots (SH)**

### **Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Birthdays: Price Ruffin*

### **Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*Birthdays: Megan Canfield, Cody Autrey, Jennifer Brinlee, Terre Wade, & Paul Smith*

### **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> **Prayer Shawl Sunday****

*Birthdays: Mary Eastes & Kay Evans*

*Hanging of the Chrismon's Both Services*

8:30 AM Worship with Communion

9:45 Children & Youth Music Sunday &

Sunday School for all Ages

11:00 Worship

**2:00 PM Advent Cantata "Jesus, There's Just Something About that Name", Presented by The Mason Community Choir**

5:30-7:30 Youth Group