

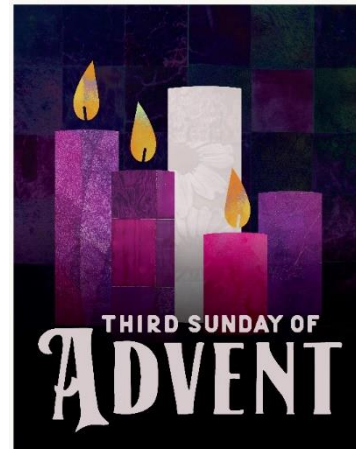
First United Methodist Church

224 Broad Street PO Box 178

Mason, Texas 76856

(325) 347-5105 www.fumcmason.org

December 14, 2025



GATHERING/WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Joyce Arnold

Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2025.

*Song of Praise

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

UMH #213

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!	2. Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
3. Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide; let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.	4. Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won; eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!

Acolytes bring in the light of Christ acknowledging the Presence of God.

A YEAR WITH GOD

Leslie Whitworth

We color Advent purple because it is the time we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christmas. Advent is a season of “waiting.”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Robert and Leticia Rayburn

First Reader: In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God’s salvation.

All: We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10).

Second Reader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

Light the third candle (pink) of the Advent wreath.

CENTERING PRAYER SONG:

“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” v.3

FWS #2100

3. The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest
in the shade of the forest tree;
but thy couch was the sod,
O thou Son of God, in the deserts of Galilee.

Refrain: O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
there is room in my heart for thee.

CONFESSION: God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can’t fulfill our every need.

We have searched for peace in shallow places.

We have mistaken joy for temporal pleasure and artificial exhilaration.

**We have put limits on the ways we love,
excluding those who need our loving kindness the most.**

God, when we have lost our way, show us yours.

Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength.

Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding.

Fill us with a joy we can only experience in your presence.

**Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love,
so that we may share that love with others. Amen.**

*Written by Rev. Mia M. McClain, senior pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C.
Posted on the Worship Ways website*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In this season of desolation and uncertainty, it is good to know that God's love for us is sure—that God's commitment to us is definite—that God is guiding us as the compassionate companions that we are called to be for each other. Let us live into this gift.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

YOUNG DISCIPLES TIME – Noisy Offering

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Liturgist: Joyce Arnold

Lord God, in this dry and dusty place, pour out the power of your Spirit so that your Word may blossom in our lives; through Jesus Christ, our way in the wilderness. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: James 5:7-10

Liturgist: Joyce Arnold

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.^[a] ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

SONG OF PREPARATION: #2089 Wild and Lone The Prophets Voice

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:2-11

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah[a] was doing, he sent word by his[b] disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" 4 Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What, then, did you go out to see? Someone[c] dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet?[d] Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

11 "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

SERMON: Waiting with Joy

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY #202 People Look East

***SONG OF THANKS:** #95

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND SERVE

***SONG OF COMMITMENT:** #2091 Good Christians Friends Rejoice

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today, Christ is born today!	2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!	

BLESSING/BENEDICTION

Questions for Reflection

What does the kingdom of heaven have to do with the signs that Jesus describes for John's disciples: "the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them" (Matt. 11:5)? Where have you seen or heard such things?

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy God, at the dawning of this day *Isa. 35:4–6*
new life blossoms like the crocus,
and fresh promise wells up like a spring.
As I go forth in your presence,
confirm my resolve to worship you,
strengthen my hands to serve your people,
and keep me always in your holy way;
through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Mighty God, my soul rejoices *Luke 1:46–55*
at the great things you have done this day—
giving daily bread for my hunger,
showing endless mercy for my sin.
As you have blessed my ancestors
bless and keep me this night;
in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

UMH=United Methodist Hymnal; FWS=The Faith We Sing; W&S=Worship and Song



Please pray for our members and loved ones who are homebound or residing in nursing homes. Also, please pray for: the family of Donna Nelson, Randy Eastes, Debbie Boatright, Martha Cervantes Dotson, Gary Zesch, Judd Martin, Kerry Rustin, Patrick Weber & Teddy Ray Doyal

the following individuals: Mark Nash, Donna Nelson, Anne Chappell & Terri Reardon, Corey Lewis, Katherine Graham (friend of Nikki Watson diagnosed w/ cancer), George Eastes, Amy Reardon (CJ Reardon's daughter), Bert Mahnken, Harold Hoerster, Daryl Watson, Barbara Young, Jerry Bearden, LeiLei Vermulen (chemo treatments), Marty Evans (son of Dennis & Kay Evans), Aubrey Burrow, Gerry Gamel, Kathy Kerr, Kash (Rodney Flemings 1 yr old grandson), Rick Woerner (Father of Tiffany K.), Bonnie Woerner (Stepmother of Tiffany Klaerner), Joan Whitaker, Shirley Beth Lyles, Lauren Hoerster, Connor Reardon, Doris Grote, Lorine Metz, the church, the homeless, and all those affected by war and those affected by natural disasters.

Please pray for our members and loved ones who are in the military.

U.S. Army: Joseph Alba, T.J. Schovajsa, Britney Schovajsa and Kalyn Bauer

US Marine Corp: Hunter Goodwin

USAF: Matt Adam

US Navy: Ferd T. Slocum III & Truman Coe

MINISTERS—ALL MEMBERS OF FUMC

STAFF—LISTED BELOW

Rev. Laura Hewett Becker	pastorlaura@fumcmason.org
Emily Sapien, Office Manager	officemgr@fumcmason.org
Deandra Palacio Family Ministries	familyministries@fumcmason.org
Terri Reardon, RN Wesley Nurse	Treardon@mhm.org
Rhett Vacek, A/V Tech	rhettvacek@gmail.com
Freddy Sapien Steady Steps Dir.	steadysteps@fumcmason.org
Leslie Whitworth Music Dir.	

This week's Calendar

Sunday, December 14

NOISY BUCKET OFFERING SUNDAY

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:00 AM Worship Service

4:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts

2:00-5:00pm Christmas Market

Volunteers Welcome! – Eckert Center

Monday, December 15th

9:30 AM Prayer Shawl

10:30 AM Senior Exercise Group

5:30 PM “Come to the Manger” Lectio Divina and Craft

Tuesday, December 16th

2:40 PM Steady Steps Chapel

Wednesday December 17th

10:30 AM Senior Exercise Group

Thursday, December 18th

Friday, December 19th

10:30 AM Senior Exercise Group

Birthday: DJ Ory

Saturday, December 20th

Sunday December 21st

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:00 AM Worship Service

4:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts

Birthday: Angela Holcombe

Announcements

Come to the Manger

Mondays: Dec 15, Dec 22 at 5:30pm in The Gathering Room. Join Pastor Laura for an evening of reflection on

the nativity and crafting projects to enhance the season.
Crafting skills are not a requirement.



Poinsettias add a wonderful and meaningful element to worship each year for Christmas. You can contribute to this tradition in honor of someone or in memory of someone that you wish to remember this Christmas. Orders will be received through Dec. 14th and the cost is \$15. If you simply want to make a donation in lieu of taking a poinsettia home, you may indicate that as well. Poinsettias will arrive in sanctuary Dec. 21 and may be picked up after the Christmas Eve services. Please fill out a form and send or drop it off at the church office along with your payment. Poinsettias can be given in honor of someone or in memory of someone that you wish to remember this Christmas. Extra Forms are on the welcome table.



Giving and Attendance

LAST WEEK'S GIVING (DEC 7).....	\$ 9,041.00
NOV. MTD GIVING.....	\$40,729.50
NOV. BUDGETED INCOME.....	\$40,884.02
NOV. MTD EXPENSE.....	\$38,601.67
NOV. BUDGETED EXP.....	\$32,322.76
NOV. EXTRA BENEVOLENCE.....	\$6,163.17
LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE (NOV.24)	80

