



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WORSHIP SERVICE

First United Methodist Church

where God meets people face to face!

December 24, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve

“I will guide you along the BEST PATHWAY for your life!” Psalm 32:8

(Stand, if able.)*

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME: This is the night of the Holy Birth!

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: Holy One, you have appeared in the flesh.

Your glory is made known in this newborn child.

People: Tonight, we sing a new song of endless peace.

Gift of God, beautiful Christ-child, we welcome you!

Let love be born anew in our hearts on this joyous night.

***OPENING HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

UMH # 234

(verses 1 – 3; interlude between verses 2 and 3)

***OPENING PRAYER** *(In unison)*

Liturgist

Holy God, in days of old you sent your angels to tell shepherds the good news: "To you is born this day a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord."

Holy God, help us hear with the shepherds this good news, that we too may glorify and praise you for all that we have seen and heard. Amen.

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER**

saying “Merry Christmas!”

***SONG**

“Jesus Messiah”

[Verse 1]

He became sin, who knew no sin
That we might become his righteousness
He humbled himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing, love so amazing

[Chorus]

Jesus messiah, name above all names
Blessed redeemer, emmanuel
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven
Jesus messiah, Lord of all

[Verse 2]

His body the bread, his blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn
Love so amazing, love so amazing

[Chorus]

Jesus messiah, name above all names
Blessed redeemer, emmanuel
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven
Jesus messiah, Lord of all

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Graves Family

Reading: Tonight, we place this Christ Candle in the middle of our worship center to remind us of the Light of God’s Love in Jesus Christ. This light is not placed away from the others, but is in the midst of them, that Christ’s love may shine in all we do. We light this Christ Candle as a sign of Love, Peace, Joy and Hope in our lives!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE CAROL**

“Light the Advent Candle” *(verse 5)*

Light the Christmas candle now: Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;
Birthday candles for the King, Let the alleluias ring.
Candle, candle burning bright, Shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle burning bright, Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

READING ONE

Isaiah 9: 2-3, 6-7

Liturgist

INSTRUMENTAL SPECIAL MUSIC “The Jesus Gift”

Hunter King and Peng-Wu Ang

DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

READING TWO

Luke 2: 8-14

Shelli Cobb

VOCAL SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Holy Night”

Tiffany Charles

MESSAGE “God Wanted to Understand How We FEEL!” Pastor Yohan Baek

SERMON NOTES

Note 1: Philippians 2: 6-8

“Christ gave up his place as God...He was born to be a man...

When he was living as a man, he humbled himself.”

Note 2: While Jesus was here on earth, he **had the same struggles that we have**. There were times when he was discouraged, frustrated, lonely. Jesus suffered just like we do.

Note 3: Why did Jesus come to earth and experience what we are going through? Because he wanted to understand how we feel. Because **he wanted a close relationship with us. Isn't it easy for you to have a close relationship with someone who has the same experience as you do?**

Note 4: At Christmas we feel much closer to God, because the Christmas story tells us that God drove thousands and thousands of miles from heaven to our place and said, “**I have been there and gone through what you are going through. I know and understand what you are FEELING.**”

Note 5: Whenever you go to God and pray, remember this: God knows and understand what you are feeling. So, **pray to God with your Feelings.** You will feel closer to God.

VOCAL SPECIAL MUSIC

“My Soul Glorifies the Lord”

Felicia Graves

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Prayer (*in unison*)

O Lord, who came and dwelled in a stable many years ago, come now and dwell in this bread and cup. Feed our souls on holy food. Lord, receive us here in our brokenness and need. Teach us new songs to sing and show us a new world to serve, when we have eaten and drunk. O Lord, let mystery rise among us like smoke from burning wicks. Speak to us through bread and cup and stir us to new devotion. For the sake of your holy name. Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

***HYMN** "Silent Night" UMH # 239

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Yohan Baek

***SENDING HYMN** "Joy to the World" UMH # 246
(verses 1 and 4)

***POSTLUDE** "Hallelujah Chorus"

UMH (The United Methodist Hymnal – red hymnal)

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Yohan Baek, Pastor

Dr. Jennifer Garcia-Edwardsen, Communion Server

Jeeyoung Baek, Pianist

Peng-Wu Ang, Cellist

Hunter King, Violinist

Felicia Graves, Soloist

Tiffany Charles, Liturgist & Soloist

Shelli Cobb, Reader

Julia Coward, Nursery Director & Children's Church

Bill and Claudene Griffith, Greeters

Frank and Kristi Chavana, Ushers

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The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

“Vesta Ryan” ~ First United Methodist Church

“Cheryl McAlister” ~ Ginny and Don McAlister

“Linda Swonke” ~ Kristi Chavana

“Charles Turner” ~ Diane Turner

“Mark Severson” ~ Diane Turner

“Tyler Dennis Cobb” ~ Brian and Shelli Cobb

“Coy & Frances Carr, Sheralyn & Edward Griffin, Claudia Dyer”

~ Terry & Phyllis Dyer

“Charlene Smith” ~ Janie and Barry Olfers

“Jerry Olfers” ~ Janie and Barry Olfers

“Malinda and Charles Beckermann” ~ Marsha and Raymond Beckermann

“Mary and Fred Brandt” ~ Marsha and Raymond Beckermann

“Jack and Margaret Ridgway” ~ Madeleine and Kyle Hensley

“Mahon and Grace Garry” ~ Madeleine and Kyle Hensley

“John and Dorothy Gibson” ~ Madeleine and Kyle Hensley

“Linda Swonke” ~ Robert Swonke

“Linda Swonke” ~ Robert Swonke

“Debi Tucker” ~ Glynn Tucker

“Patricia Middleton” ~ Glynn Tucker

“Bill and Marjorie Griffith” ~ Bill and Claudene Griffith

“Dorothy Fielder” ~ Bill and Claudene Griffith

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will meet at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee will be served. Our Bible study will be based on the church lectionary calendar readings. Please bring your favorite Bible to the study, so that we can share and compare from the different translations of God's Word.

Special Children's Sunday School Class

Children's Church is offered during our worship service every Sunday, but every first Sunday of each month, we offer a special Sunday School class for children of all ages, taught by parent volunteers. Please bring your children to participate in this special Bible lesson!

Mother's Day Out

We still have a few spaces left in our Mother's Day Out program and it is not too late to join! Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM for ages 1 through 5 years old. We are now offering half off registration! Classes resume Tuesday, January 7. Call Tiffany Charles, MDO Director at (512)229-8512 for more information.

Craft Club – Tuesdays at 3:30 PM

Craft Club will resume on Tuesday, January 7. Any level of crafting skill is welcome. If you can tie a ribbon, you can join craft club!

Wesley's Tree Bible Study – Thursdays at 6:00 PM

This study group will meet again on Thursday, January 9. Join Lay Speaker, Dr. William Griffith as he leads us as we study the sermons of Reverend John Wesley.

Autism Support Group

The Autism Support Group will meet Monday, January 6 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Felicia Graves for creating and leading this support group!

State of the Church Meeting and Fellowship Luncheon

Come and see what we are looking forward to in 2025 at the State of the Church Meeting on Sunday, January 26 at 11:30 AM in the sanctuary. Hear from church leaders about upcoming programs, projects, ministries, fundraisers, and our long-term vision for FUMC, the Happiest Church in Taylor! A fellowship luncheon will follow the State of the Church meeting. Please bring a dish or dessert if you are able.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

The Family and Friends of S. R. Moss, Betty Brown, Tenny Swonke, Jose Garcia and Family, Timmy Olfers and Family, Charlotte Niemtschk, Friends and Family of Pat Middleton, Susan Shelander and Family, Janie and Barry Olfers and Family, Geneva Curik, Larry Niemtschk, Merton Rose, Ralph Wood, Don McAlister, LaRessie Santiago, Jeanie Weiss, Carrie Jackson, Billy Honc, Will Guidry, Pat Dick, Nancy Turner, Kimi Sandel, David & Sandra Galnor, Brunner Grau, Terry Dyer, Kimberly Isbell, Carol Bingham, Austin Hubbard, Scarlett Cooley, Nancy Barron, Justin Settle, Luke Curik

*All names will remain on the prayer list for six weeks, unless requested otherwise.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Keith Farnham 5

Scott O'Connor 7

Tex Burrow 12

Roger Swonke 17

Julie Blake 17

Raymond Beckermann 20

Eldon Ball 21

Sandra Galnor 26

Merry Christmas!

