



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

907 West Lake Drive, PO Box 530, Taylor, Texas 76574
512-352-2593

For updates sent via text message: please text @fumctaylor to number 81010

Email: office@fumctaylor.org

WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30 am Traditional

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

www.facebook.com/fumctaylor

<https://www.fumctaylor.org/sunday-worship-service/>
[YouTube](#)

PRAYER, DEVOTION, JOYS AND CONCERNS

9:30 am via [ZOOM](#)

Meeting ID: 982-9669-2304

Phone# 346-248-7799

December 13, 2020 –10:30 A.M.

First United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

December 13, 2020 – 10:30 A.M.

Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome! Thank you for worshiping with us this morning. Whether you are a first-time visitor or long-time member, we're glad you are here.

(* Stand, if able.)

GATHER IN ANTICIPATION & PRAISE OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

We hear it said that “Christmas is for children”, but I say to you that Christmas is for everyone, for those who have lived through many Christmases; for those whose hearts rejoice or weep at the thoughts of Christmas past. Today we celebrate these beloved people, all God’s beloved ones. “This year, this year, let the day arrive, when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!” Amen.

(Light 3 Advent candles.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Respond in Bold)**

Liturgist

L: Love has come down to us this Advent Season.

P: Divine love which heals and transforms our lives.

L: With great joy, we receive that love and share it with others.

P: We open our hearts to all God’s children, the last, the least, and the lost, as well as those who feel privileged.

L: The Lord has done and continues to do great things for us.

P: Praise be to God who loves us so much and who challenges us to be people of joy in this darkened world. Amen.

***OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)**

Liturgist

Lord God, as we gather this day, we open our hearts to you, seeking your healing and transforming love. Our world cries for justice for all people, yet the leaders seem intent on bantering with one another, unmindful of the peace-bringers and those who would heal and teach the ways of peace. Be with all of us. Prepare us for this bright light of love which you are sending to us, for we ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen..

***HYMN**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

UMH # 234

CHILDREN’S TIME

Tiffany Charles

***HYMN**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain ”

UMH # 251

JOYS & CONCERNS *(Currently shared during Zoom gathering at 9:30 a.m.)*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Tiffany Charles

The Lord's Prayer

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Liturgist

God of love and light: just as John the Baptist came long ago in Judea to witness to your light, we remember that the offering you seek is that what we have and how we live should also witness to the light. We admit that there are times when we feel the darkness is just too prevalent, too strong, then we realize that we are ignoring the call to witness to the light. May we witness through our giving and our compassion, through what we say and what we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #95

Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** UMH #881

Liturgist

***GLORY PATRI**

UMH#70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist

Patient and forgiving God, you know how we want to be people of peace and justice, but when opportunities come to participate in groups working for justice, we turn our backs and walk the other way, or we give a token pledge and then ignore further pleas for assistance. We hide our names from appearing on roles of supporters of justice-seeking organizations. Forgive us, O God, when we give only lip service to ministries of justice rather than pledging our lives to helping all people in need. Free us from our selfishness. Banish our fears and move us in ways of peace and justice, bringing your love and hope to all God's children. We ask these things in God's name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Liturgist

Rejoice! You who once lived in darkness – on you a new light is shining and the light of God’s glory shall brighten your path. You are healed, loved and forgiven. Be at peace! Live in God’s love, and bring hope and justice to all God’s people. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Liturgist

SERMON

“Rejoice!”

Tiffany Charles

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

***HYMN OF INVITATION**

“Joy to the World”

UMH # 246

***BENEDICTION**

Tiffany Charles

UMH (The United Methodist Hymnal) the red hymnal.

Ways you can give:

1. Contact your bank to setup autodraft.
2. Mail a check to FUMC, P.O. Box 530, Taylor, Texas 76574.
3. Give online at www.fumctaylor.org/give.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Sela Finau, Pastor

Tiffany Charles, Children’s Time & Guest Preacher

Debby Vester, Organist & Director of Music Ministry

Brian Gray, Liturgist

HOW TO JOIN FUMC TAYLOR

Are you being led to become a part of this fellowship of believers? Do you desire to grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ? We invite you to join as a full member of the FUMC family! While the closing hymn is sung, you may come forward and make a commitment to follow Jesus through his local body of FUMC Taylor in prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness. Please also send us a message to office@fumctaylor.org.

For Pastoral emergencies, outside of office hours, please contact
Rev. Finau at 817-874-3533.

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, Offertory
Prayer credit to Ministry Matters and UMC Discipleship.

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