



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 6, 2020 –10:30 A.M.

First United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

December 6, 2020 – 10:30 A.M.

Second 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 CANDLE

Liturgist

There is the voice of one crying in the wilderness.....the voice cries out for peace and justice, for hope and transformation.....that voice reaches to all of us who are comfortable. Things will be different. The Lord is about to do a new thing. This morning those who are drawn to the manger and not the shepherds of old, but are children who are abused, hurt, lost, alone – children who are cast aside – children who are driven into the slavery of poverty and who never hear the word of hope for something better. But God is doing something new! God is reaching out to those who do not expect it. God's love is touching the hearts of those who are the voiceless – yes, there is a voice of one crying in the wilderness and that voice cries: Prepare the way. Get ready. Something new is happening and you will be included in it! Rejoice!

(Light two candles)

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

Liturgist

L: Long ago, a voice cried out in the wilderness

P: Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight the pathways.

L: Something new was about to happen.

P: God would visit God's people in a new way!

L: Lord, open our hearts to receive this good news!

P: Prepare us to be people of great faith and compassion as we look forward to this wondrous event you have proclaimed to us. Amen

***OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)**

Liturgist

As the voice cried out in the wilderness, God, you enter our lives and call to us to be open to hearing the cries of people who feel lost and alienated, who feel that no one cares or ever will care about them. We have been given that opportunity to reach out through the ministries and mission of our church bringing hope and peace to all. Get us ready to become pathways of peace and life-transforming love in your name. It is in the spirit of Jesus' name that we pray. Amen

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in the lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Refrain: Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before the rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call. [Refrain]

CHILDREN'S TIME

Tiffany Charles

***HYMN**

“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, fore-runner
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 sinners eyes, to guide the feet of pilgrims along the
paths of peace; O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

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

Rev. Sela Finau

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

Almighty God, as John the Baptist identified the arrival of the Messiah, this Advent season, that role falls on us. As we bring our tithes and offerings to you, we pray that our giving continues to point to the Christ who comes in love and compassion, with more concern for those who don't have enough and little concern that those who have so much will get more. May our giving in this season reflect our hope for a new kind of kingdom to reign in our world. We pray this in the name of the Messiah, Jesus our Savior 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

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***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

Into the dark depths of our fear and anguish, you, O Lord, reach out to us. We need your guidance this day, for we have found it far too easy to stray into selfish pathways. We seek first our own comfort; we gather our toys and trinkets and proclaim that all is right with the world, yet our hearts feel strangely discomfited. Guide us and gather us, Lord. Teach us again to be people of peace and hope. Help us to cast off the mantle of greed and hatred. Forgive us for the many times when we have ignored the cries of those in need; when we have turned our backs on opportunities to help others. Forgive us, Lord. Touch our hearts and bring your bright light of salvation to them that we might turn again to you and in your love may be part of ministries of peace and justice. Help us again to hear the voice of one who cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God." In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we offer this prayer. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Liturgist

God's forgiving love has been poured upon each one of us. Hear the good news! You are healed and forgiven! Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:1-8

Liturgist

SERMON

"Prepare"

Rev. Sela Finau

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good, and a joyful thing,
always and everywhere, to give you thanks.

You lead us in paths of righteousness and peace.

In the words of the prophet Isaiah,

and the cry of John the Baptizer,

you have spoken of your great love

for your people and have promised

to heal all that is broken and forsaken,

to redeem all who are lost and alone.

And so, with your people on earth,

and all the great cloud of witnesses in heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes

in your holy name.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and holy is your child, Jesus Christ,
who came to the river to be baptized,
and taught us of the Holy Spirit,
living in us and around us and among us.
On the night in which he gave himself up
(continue the Words of Institution)
do this in remembrance of me.
And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts
in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves
in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may become one with Christ,
who lived and died and rose to bring healing
to a broken world.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry
to all the world, until we feast together
at the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm.
Maker of justice and mercy,
Spirit of compassion and grace,
Lover of all creation,
we give you thanks and praise.

Amen.

(Please remain seated while communion is being served. Each family will receive 1 roll and 1 juice bottle. Please notify an usher if you need gluten free elements. Communion offering for December will go towards Benevolent Giving.)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN OF INVITATION**

“Away in a Manger”

UMH # 217

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes; I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Sela Finau

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

Debby Vester, Organist & Director of Music Ministry

Tiffany Charles, Children's Time

Clayton Cobb, Liturgist & Communion Server

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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It's time to order your Poinsettias!



The cooler weather is a good indication that winter will be here soon and *Christmas* season will be here before we know it. Again, this year you can purchase a beautiful poinsettia ordered from **Down Home Ranch**. By ordering a poinsettia, you help to decorate the sanctuary for *Christmas*. You may also indicate if your plant is In Honor of or In Memory of a loved one.

You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve service or leave it at the church to be donated to area shut-ins.

Poinsettias will be **\$15** each.

Please include your payment with this order form and return to FUMC office or place in offering plate.

Deadline date is December 20th.

Your Name: _____

Phone number: _____

of Poinsettias purchased: ____ X \$15=\$_____

Also, indicate if your plant is in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

In Memory or Honor of: _____

(Circle one)