



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Email: office@fumctaylor.org

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

6:00 p.m. Traditional

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

www.facebook.com/fumctaylor

YouTube #fumctaylor

First United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve Worship

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Liturgist

A light shining in the darkness . . .

What could it be?

The sound of angels' wings . . .

What could it mean?

A baby born in a stable . . .

Who could it be?

Come to Bethlehem and see.

***OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)**

Liturgist

O wondrous God of the stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Prince of Peace," and we are in awe. You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love. Touch us—touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. Make this night magical again. Amen.

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES**

***HYMN**

"Joy to the World"

UMH # 246

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Sela Finau

The Lord's Prayer (In Unison)

"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"

CHILDREN'S TIME

Tiffany Charles

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Liturgist

Holy God, as we gather this evening, all our attention is focused on a baby, lying in a makeshift bed in an “it-will-have-to-do” stable. It’s not lost on us that you sent your Son, our Savior, into the world among the poorest of the poor and told us: “This will be a sign to you.” As we present gifts to you, we pray that they might reach those in the greatest need, that they might lift those in the deepest despair, and that they might bring peace and compassion to those who find themselves amidst conflict. We pray this in the name of that Holy Child, Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Redeemer! Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist

God of Joy, we come to celebrate again the arrival of Love Incarnate here in our very midst. Your glorious arrival is enough to cause the forests to sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh. Your light of salvation is bright enough to illuminate every corner of our lives, yet we still find ourselves shrouded in worry and doubt. Your gift of Love is big enough for the whole world, yet we still find ourselves resentful that your love extends to those whom we deem to be unworthy. God, you invite us into the light of the stable where the overlooked and forgotten have gathered to celebrate the miracle of your love. Give us the strength and courage to join you at the manger. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Do not be afraid! Hear the good news of great joy for all people: a savior has been born this night for you!

SOLO

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy” by Robert MacGimsey

Lynn Bedard

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

Liturgist

SERMON

“Good News of Great Joy for All People”

Rev. Sela Finau

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

In the fullness of time

you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior,
and at his birth the angels sang

glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem
and there found no room,

so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected.

As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born,

so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago,
so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
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 be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

INVITATION All are welcome at the Lord's Table.

*Please notify an usher if you need gluten free elements,
or communion brought to you.*

Communion offering for December will go towards benevolence.

SOLO

"My Soul Glorifies the Lord" by Tyler Mabry

Felicia Graves

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***CANDLE LIGHTING**

We invite you to turn on the light on your candle as we sing and raise them high during the fourth verse. At the end of the service, you are invited to take the candle home with you as a reminder that you are the light of Christ to the world.

***HYMN**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

UMH # 239

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Sela Finau

UMH (The United Methodist Hymnal) the red hymnal.

(Stand, if able.)*

Merry Christmas!

Families are welcome to take their poinsettias home following worship.



The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God:

IN HONOR OF:

“Our Taylor family” ~ Mike, Leslie, Kirk, Ashley and Henry Moss
“LaVerne Barrington” ~ Sandra & David Galnor

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

“Bemus Turner” ~ Nancy Turner
“Carolyn Becker” ~ Nancy Turner
“Tyler Cobb” ~ Shelli and Brian Cobb
“Cheryl McAlister” ~ Ginny and Don McAlister
“Margarette Galnor” ~ Sandra and David Galnor
“Jerry Galnor” ~ David and Sandra Galnor
“Chad, Carolyn, Vera and Dutch” ~ Mike, Leslie, Kirk, Ashley and Henry Moss
“Our parents – Malinda and Charles Beckermann
and Mary and Fred Brandt” ~ Marsha and Raymond Beckermann
“Our family gone ahead of us” ~ Merton and Vada Rose
“Jean Stevens” ~ Leland Stevens
“Wesley and Leila Stevens” ~ Leland Stevens
“M.B. and Grace Garry” ~ The Garry and Hensley Families
“Jack and Margaret Ridgway” ~ Madeleine and Kyle Hensley
“John and Dorothy Gibson” ~ Madeleine Hensley
“Rev. V.R. Whittington” ~ Scarlett Cooley
“Millie Whittington” ~ Scarlett Cooley
“Patches” ~ Scarlett Cooley
“Debi Tucker” ~ Glynn Tucker
“Royce & Ema Tucker” ~ Glynn Tucker
“Jean Stevens” ~ Richard and Jeanette S. Zey
“Joseph Whalen” ~ Karen Couse
“Jean Stevens” ~ First UMC, Taylor



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, Director of Children's Ministries and MDO

Clayton Cobb, Liturgist

Lynn Bedard & Felicia Graves, Soloists

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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