First Sunday of Advent Word & Eucharist November 30, 2025 | 10 AM | Onsite & Online





God Loves. We Love.

Everyone!

Dios Ama. Amamos.

Todos!

3001 Whitis Avenue Austin, Texas 78705 info@felcaustin.org 512.478.1933 church

Everyone is welcome. This means you.

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church (FELC). We are a congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). You are invited to fully participate in a community of faith and friendship that gathers for worship, relationship building, personal growth, and service in the community and the world. Following Christ's example, this congregation welcomes you exactly as you are.

Worship is at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we encounter God, express our theology, define our identity, and are formed and transformed as the people of God. As we are gathered together, we receive the Word of God, give thanks, and are sent to be living, active images of divine love.

FELC is committed to the work of racial equity, justice, and advocating for marginalized groups. We welcome people in all places on the journey of faith and life. We celebrate differences in age, appearance, economic status, ethnic origin, nationality, race, family configuration, marital or relationship status, political leaning, religious background, and those who are differently abled physically or mentally. Since 1989, FELC has openly welcomed persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions to full participation in the church and society. For more on our welcome and life, visit www.felcaustin.org.

When we gather in the **Chapel of the Saints**, we gather as the saints of God in prayer, worship, and community. We gather with the saints of the past that we remember in various ways: the names engraved on the Columbarium, the Cloud of Witnesses mobile hanging in the Chapel containing the names of all who have died at FELC since 1936, and the icons displayed on the walls that remind us of people who inspire our faith and action today. The icons in the Chapel, by artist Kelly Latimore, are diverse saints, ancient and contemporary, and eight more are installed in the hallway outside the north transept entrance. The Columbarium consists of separate niches that can hold up to two urns each.

All Gender Restrooms, with infant changing tables, are located in the hallway off of the sanctuary near the fellowship hall. **Hearing assistance devices** are available for the sanctuary, with two options: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids; please connect with an usher for a hearing assistance device. **Seat cushions**, for use on our wood pews and chairs are available from an usher in the narthex.

A diversity of music is an important part of our witness, including the acoustics of our nave. As we grow our music ministry, we embark on a restoration campaign for our valued and aged pipe organ.

We acknowledge the presence of God's people living on this land long before European conquest. These lands and waters have sustained the Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Jumanos, Lipan Apache, Sana, Tonkawa, and other indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Gathering today to worship on ancestral homelands, we acknowledge and honor our indigenous sisters, siblings, and brothers who continue to care for the land and water and call this land home.

On November 9 we began a seven-week series called "Out of the Blue" - a time before and during the Advent season in reflective waiting for Christ's coming into the fullness of life. We hope to discover together the astonishment of God's work and God's purposes among us. The bible stories in this series follow the regular lectionary (set of readings) that are offered in many Christian churches. On November 23 we gather in the theme "Love at the Last" – at the end of things there's love with grace and forgiveness.

The Season of Advent

We announce the presence of God who welcomes us to name our blessings, our hurts, our need for healing, and our hopes for what is to come. The Advent liturgy reflects the mood, color, and themes of Advent, allowing us to enter this time of waiting, preparation, and hope. The primary color blue points toward expectation. The Advent wreath helps us mark time and contemplate patience even as we trust in God to act. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was a tradition imported from northern Europe in the nineteenth century and is now a common practice.

+ GATHERING +

ADVENT 1, YEAR A

The Holy Spirit gathers us into community.

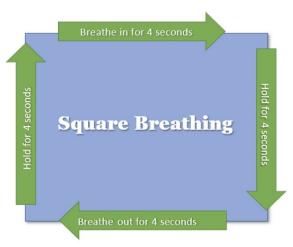
Throughout the liturgy, the singing bowls sound, calling us to focus our attention.

Welcome to Community

If this is one of your first times with First English, please use this QR code. We are grateful for the opportunity to connect more.

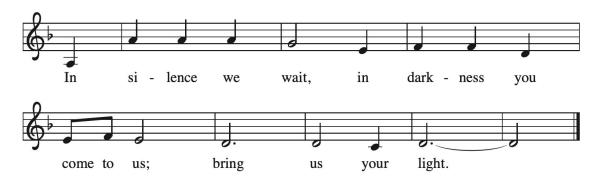


Breathing Together



Gathering Song

In Silence We Wait



Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957

Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters

Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

Greeting

From the One who was, who is, and who is to come: grace and peace are with you now. **And also with you.**

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, loved ones and guests gather for prayers around the wreath.

Advent Candle Lighting

Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our time of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

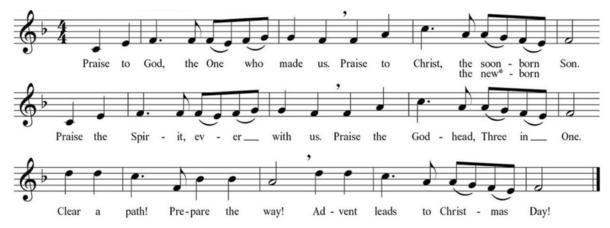
The first Advent Candle is lighted.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your love, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,

let us live in the light of the Lord.

Response



Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of sin, and enlighten our lives in the way of your salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

中 WORD 中

God speaks in scripture, proclamation, song, silence, and prayer, and in each person.

Faith of a Child & Spirit Space

Children and families are invited to gather near the baptismal font.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for your beautiful world, for Jesus' love, for church friends and family, and for making me, me. Amen.

Children and families are invited to a Spirit Space in the North Transept, with a rug, floor pillows, and other supplies. Children and adults may engage in the worship service and stay together in the Spirit Space. We welcome children and the joy and curiosity they offer.

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The psalm is chanted responsively.

Response

Psalm 122



- ¹I was glad when they [|] said to me, "Let us go to the house [|] of the Lord."
- ² Now our | feet are standing within your gates, | O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem is built ¹ as a city that is at unity ¹ with itself;
- ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.
- ⁵ For there are the [|] thrones of judgment, the thrones of the [|] house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 - "May they pros- | per who love you.
- ⁷ Peace be with- in your walls and quietness with- in your towers.
- ⁸ For the sake of my kindred | and companions, I pray for | your prosperity.
- ⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good."

The assembly stands to welcome Christ in the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Plainsong



Verse: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,* and grant us your salvation. Psalm 85:7

The assembly repeats the Alleluias.

The gospel is announced. Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

Holy Gospel Matthew 24:36-44

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ!

The assembly repeats the Alleluias.

Sermon

+PRAYER & MEDITATION+

Your prayers are invited for the earth; the nations; the poor, ill, oppressed, lonely, homeless, homebound, imprisoned, bereaved, & joyful; for justice and mercy; for the communities where we live, worship, play, & work; for ourselves, our loved ones & our enemies; & for the sorrows & thanksgivings we bring today. A prayer list is found on page 16.

Confession & Healing Prayer Station

You may make a confession of brokenness, hear God's forgiveness, or receive healing prayer, which may include the laying on of hands and anointing with oil Come to a minister at the kneeler in the Chapel where you may kneel, stand, or sit in the chair.

Jesse Tree Station

A Jesse Tree is a Christian Advent tradition featuring a tree or depiction of a tree with figures and symbols that help point to where family lives. From the Hebrew Scriptures, tracing Jesus's lineage (from Jesse, David's father) to his birth, symbolizing God's covenant and story salvation, the Tree is often created using a branch from a stump as a visual for Isaiah 11:1, and tying into bible stories during Advent. This Advent we include a Jesse Tree prayer station in our worship and are sharing prompts for its use that are part of the weekly Advent Devotions from our newsletter. The First English Family is invited to interact with the Jesse Tree in worship through the prompts below. Each week there will be a different invitation to bring something that can be added to the tree. You may bring an item from home and there will also be supplies available at the station to write or draw what you would like to contribute to the Jesse Tree. By the end of the Advent season, the First English Jesse Tree will be full of examples of where our family lives.

November 30: Traveling

Find something that you would take with you on a trip or that guides you in your travels. Examples include a map or atlas, favorite road snacks, a piece of camping equipment, travel games, or a spare tire. Place it near the Jesse Tree.

December 7: Brokenness

Find something broken that you still care about. Examples include a piece of jewelry or tableware waiting for repair, a beloved stuffed animal with a rip, or a favorite sweater that's beginning to unravel. Place it near the Jesse Tree.

December 14: Advocacy

Find something that you're willing to speak up for. Examples include a branch from nature, a photo of people you care about, or a news article about a cause important to you. Place it near the Jesse Tree.

December 21: Joyfulness

Find something that sparks genuine joy for you, even in the midst of hard times. Examples include a program from a special event, a memento from a particular occasion, a photo of a person who brings you joy, or your baptismal candle. Place it near the Jesse Tree.

Peace Station

You may engage the map of the world on the floor in the Chapel, placing a stone on any places of war and conflict as we pray for lasting peace. The stones will be cleared each week, inviting us to engage the prayer station each Sunday.

Music during Prayer

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

African American Spiritual

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work's almost done. Children, don't grow weary; for this work's almost done. Darker midnight lies before us, for this work's almost done. Lo, the morning soon is breaking, for this work's almost done. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work's almost done.

At the conclusion of prayer and meditation, we ask God for courage.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through things unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The assembly stands, as able.

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you.

The assembly returns to their places.

The exchange of peace within the gathered community is an ancient Christian practice. Gentle signs of reconciliation and love renew and build relationships prior to celebrating the Eucharist at Christ's table.

中MEAL中

God feeds and blesses us with the presence of the risen Christ.

Birthday Blessing

Gracious God, our times are in your care.

Bless your people as they live another year of grace. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and joy, and strengthen their trust in your abiding goodness. Amen.

Welcome to Communion & Offering

All of life is an offering. God has entrusted us with gifts and abilities, and we're invited to share them for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate, in post mail to the church office, or online at www.felcaustin.org/information/giving. God welcomes generosity.

The assembly stands as bread, wine, and other gifts are presented and prepared for blessing.

Offering Song

Blessed is the One



Text: Psalm 118:26

Music: BLESSED IS THE ONE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977

Music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

Offering Prayer

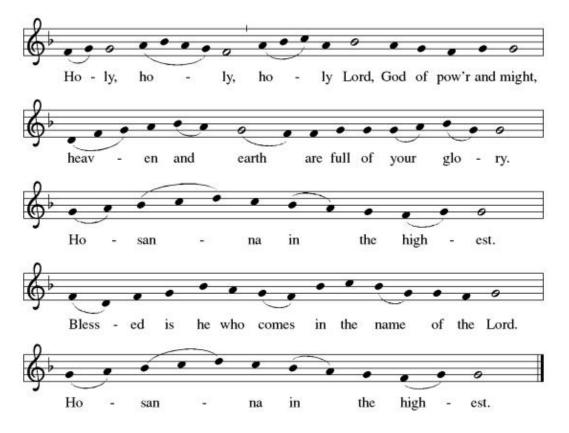
Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

God is with you. **And also with you.**In praise, lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God!**Let us give thanks to the God of our salvation. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, once you created humans you could not help but be in love. And from the first human mistake, you planned the path of return to your intention. Yet even when you set clear signs of promise in the sky and stars, in the mouths of prophets, or the faces of newborns, people still were astonished to receive your goodness. Lord Jesus, at your birth, your dear parents greeted you with wonder. On the cross, your enemies crushed you, then marveled as you exuded grace. Again and again we share the age-old story of your love. So with angels, archangels, all the saints, and all creation now, we sing with wonder when you appear out of the blue:

Sanctus Plainsong



Thanksgiving at the Table

That night in which Jesus was at table with his friends, he loved them, and he loved them to the end, and he took bread, and gave thanks to the Father; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We proclaim together the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Holy God, we call on your Spirit. Come among us still. Bless this meal.

H May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Overflow your love in us. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and thanks are yours, Holy One of all the Universe, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen!**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

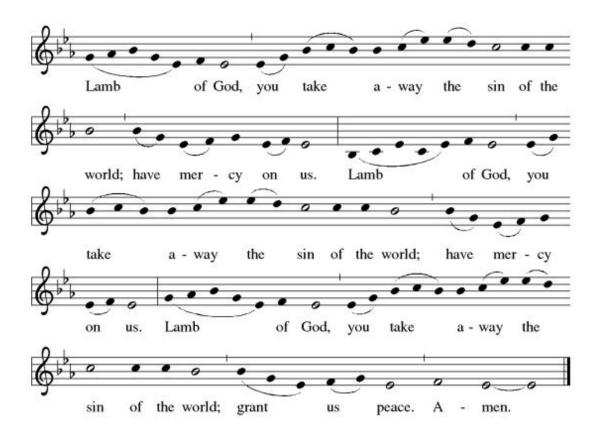
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread

We belong to Christ, tied to Jesus in his death and made new in his resurrection. And even when we feel unwelcome or unworthy, Jesus brings us to the table where we meet the saints and can find new friends.

We break this bread and take our place at the feast that never ends.

Song of Response Lamb of God



Invitation to Communion & Blessing

God, in Christ, fully welcomes people of every age to this Meal, which is known by many names: the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Mass, the Sacrament, the Eucharist. We encourage you to participate in ways that are meaningful for you.

For those participating onsite, ushers will direct you by the center aisle to a station to receive bread in your hand for you to eat, then proceed to a station and receive a small cup, where wine will be poured and consumed. Gluten-free wafers/ grape juice are available upon request. If you desire not to receive bread or wine, you are invited to a station for a prayer of blessing. Return to your seat by a side aisle. We join in prayer, meditation, and music. If you desire communion or a blessing at your place, let an usher or minister know.

Communion Music

The King Shall Come | ELW 260

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

The assembly remains seated as we offer our thanks.

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, the world looks different from your table. Here, there are no strangers, and grace is never a surprise. Life always thrives in the desert, and a promise never shades with doubt. As we rise from this table, our memories of this goodness fade. Bring us back every day to your promises: astonish us again. **Amen.**

中 SENDING 中

God sends us in mission and service.

Community Invitations & Announcements

The assembly stands, as able.

Blessing

May you be sent anywhere God will have you go, knowing God is with you.

May God place upon you any burden and desire, knowing God is with you

May God break any time that binds you, knowing God is with you;

and the blessing of God, Creating, Redeeming, + and Sustaining,

continue with you, and those you love, serve, and challenge, this day and forever. Amen.

Sending Song

O Zion, Haste | ELW 668

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834-1923 Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Welch, 1837-1901

Dismissal to Mission

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Hospitality

나 Our Worship Has Ended. Our Service Begins 나

REPERTORY CHORUS | MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Join Repertory Chorus on Monday, December 8 at 8:00 pm in a programed themed around LIGHT. Graduate students Hunter Mullen and Adrienne Pedrotti and Undergrad music education major Jade Granderson will conduct. Free admission. FELC partners with UT's Butler School of Music to provide a laboratory, rehearsal, and venue experience for these professional, educational vocal leaders. Additional UT holiday concert information coming up on December 6 & 7 is found at https://music.utexas.edu/events/5191-butler-holiday-concert.

AUSTIN CANTORUM | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Join FELC music partner Austin Cantorum on Saturday, December 20 at 7:30 pm for an evening of Lessons and Carols with an Austin twist! Pairing classic holiday favorites and sing-along carols with new choral works by local composers and heartfelt memories shared by Austinites. This relaxing and intimate concert will explore some of the many ways that Austin celebrates the season AND comes with free holiday cookies! Featuring special guests Flutist Adrienne Inglis and Pianist Benjamin Dia. Free admission with suggested donation of \$25. RSVP at austincantorum.com to secure your spot today!

PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

safety & joy for all traveling, especially during holiday times; Oliver & Anita Rajamani, on the death of Oliver's father, Dr. Alfred Rajamani; thanksgiving for Henri Atkinson's continuing healing from breast cancer; Leon Noren, recovering from a leg injury;

Stan Cravatt & Ann Graham, as Stan continues chemotherapy;

Emily Schottmann, undergoing cancer treatment;

Fred & Sonia Ralls Dalbey, friends of Dave & Nancy Neuse, upon Fred's rapid decline in health;

strength & a spirit of justice for all who have worked & continue to support peacemaking efforts in Gaza and in the world;

Israeli prisoners & detained Palestinians released;

people of various faith traditions, & people of goodwill;

FELC congregation, council, & our mission & ministry;

benevolence ministry partners Micah 6 Food Ministries, LuMin, Global Refuge, & Casa Marianella, and their leaders;

the whole church & church leaders throughout the world; citizens & leaders of, immigrants, & refugees to the United States; places of violence, war, oppression, disaster, conflict & recovery;

those who advocate for healing, safety, justice, inclusion, & equity; all in need of safe shelter, nourishing food, & quality care, & for those who offer it; all living with addiction, cancer, grief, & with spiritual, health, & employment needs; all who are homebound;

all in any need & thanksgiving.

The FELC Prayer Circle gathers faithfully to offer prayer. Contact: bschutz@sbcglobal.net.

CELEBRATE ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, & EPIPHANY

Sundays in Advent | November 30; December 7, 14, 21 | 10:00 am

Onsite & YouTube livestream Jesus is coming!

Wednesdays in Advent Evening Prayer | December 3, 10, 17 | 7:00 pm

Holden Evening Prayer by Candlelight
Onsite & YouTube livestream

Decorating the Christmas Tree | Sunday, December 7 | 11:30 am

Join together following worship for hospitality & decorating the Christmas tree

Christmas Caroling | Saturday, December 13

We visit homebound folks to spread the joy of Christmas Time: early afternoon

Blue Christmas Winter Solstice | Sunday, December 21 | 5 pm

A service of quiet reflection in this holiday season
Onsite & YouTube livestream

Christmas Eve | Wednesday, December 24 | 7:00 pm

Onsite & YouTube livestream Holy Communion & Candlelight | 7:00 pm Prelude Music begins at 6:45 pm

Sunday after Christmas Lessons & Carols | December 28 | 10:00 am

Onsite & YouTube livestream Worship together with scripture, poetry, and music for Christmas

Epiphany Sunday | January 4, 2025 | 10:00 am

Onsite & YouTube livestream

LEADERS IN LEARNING, LITURGY, & HOSPITALITY | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Ministers All the People of God Altar Care Server Margaret Bruesch

Assisting Minister Gwen Flory

Building Open/Close Betsy Appleton/Nancy Baden

Hospitality Merrily Porter

Lector Barbara Wiederaenders Livestream Minister JP Northcutt-Benson

Music Ministers FELC Choir; Elijah Aguirre, oboe; Cantor Bryan Rust

Presiding & Preaching Pastor Katie Rode

Usher Terry Porter

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WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to declare the Word of God and the love of Jesus Christ through proclamation, teaching, worship, and a caring ministry to all people.

Visit felcaustin.org to learn more about the FELC welcome, worship, community life, learning, engagement, racial justice, and reconciliation ministries.

To subscribe to a weekly email newsletter, contact office@felcaustin.org.

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