

CHRIS+MAS EVE 2020:

THE NA+IVI+Y ⊕ F JESUS

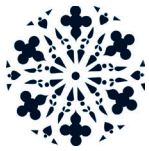


“Christ is Born” – Father Georges Saget, Keur Moussa Abbey,
Keur Moussa, Senegal

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3 P. M.

FIRST C⊙NGREGATI⊙NAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH ⊕ F CHRIST
C⊙LUMBUS, ⊕HI⊕



CHRISTMAS EVE AT THREE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve, 3 p.m.

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 168 years our Covenant has been: We covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another, and bind ourselves in the presence of God to live together in all God's ways as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and holy scripture. The church acknowledges that all members have the right of individual interpretation of the principles of the Christian faith and respects them in their honest convictions. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord, the church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.*

*Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve. Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.
 'We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.'
 (Psalm 48:8)*

PRELUDE Away in a Manger arr. Charles Ore

WELCOME The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP Mark S. Williams

Leader: Our Sovereign and Savior now draws near.

People: O come, let us adore Him!

** Then all stand*

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

P: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.

L: To us a child is born. To us a son is given.

P: And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting God, Prince of Peace.

* OPENING CAROL Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King.
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
 With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
 Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity.
 Pleas'd in flesh with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

* CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Carol

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

* PASSING THE CHRISTMAS PEACE

Rev. Ahrens

L: The peace of Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us greet one another with the sign of Christ’s peace.

* CAROL

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

The Congregation may be seated.

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Ebenezer, Moses, Malachi, Francine, and Alan Files

CAROL

Away in a Manger

Mueller

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

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.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

THE FIRST READING: Luke 2:1–7

Rev. Ahrens

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

THE SECOND READING: Luke 2:8–14

Kevin Jones

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE THIRD READING: Luke 2:15–20

Rev. Corzine

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem?
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.*

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Rev. Corzine

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 for ever. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan the QR code link:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Designated gifts go to the **United Church of Christ Christmas Fund**. Gifts to the fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retired clergy and emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees. Thank you for your generosity.

INSTRUMENTAL

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

arr. John Ferguson

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary.**

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Corzine

L: Holy God, you came to earth to show us how to live. Bless us in this holy season and brighten our hearts with the light of Christ.

P: Glory to God in the highest!

L: Holy God, you sent your angels to proclaim your birth, fill us with joy and make us heralds of the Gospel.

P: Glory to God in the highest!

L: Holy God, in the Word made flesh you joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, grant us your peace.

P: Glory to God in the highest!

L: Jesus is born! God is with us! Let us go forth rejoicing in the love of God and the peace of Christ.

P: Glory to God in the highest!

* CLOSING CAROL

Joy to the World!

Antioch

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King:
let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

POSTLUDE

Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol

Gerald Near

*The Congregation, Council, and Staff
wish you a Merry Christmas!*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, and Mark S. Williams, *Officiants*

The Preschool, Kindergarten, and First Graders of First Church

Rev. Ahrens, *First Reader*

Kevin Jones, *Second Reader and Organist*

Rev. Corzine, *Third Reader*

Peter Murray, *video engineer*

The Christmas Dedications

In memory of those senior ministers who served this church with distinction and devotion:

William H. Marble 1852–1856

John M. Steele 1856–1857

Henry B. Elliott 1858–1860

Edward P. Goodwin 1860–1867

George W. Phillips 1868–1871

Robert G. Hutchins 1872–1882

Washington Gladden 1882–1914

Carl S. Patton 1911–1917

Irving Maurer 1918–1924

McIlyar H. Lichliter 1924–1942

Boynton Merrill 1943–1959

Chalmers Coe 1960–1983

To the glory of God and

In honor of Mary Kay Beall Carter and John Carter by Deb Anderson

In memory of family and friends by Jeff, Emily, and Camryn Corzine

In memory of Ruth, Leslie and Jim Wesner, and Tom and Evelyn Danneberger by Sallie and Karl Danneberger

In memory of Mary Lea Davis by Will Davis and Ron Jenkins

In memory of Paul and Charlotte Jenkins by Will Davis and Ron Jenkins

In memory of Jim Decker by Ruth Decker

In memory of my mother Arlene and in celebration of my father Bill by Allison L. Ellenberger

In memory of my parents Maxine and Bill Gilson by Nancy Gilson Braverman

In honor of Betsy Zahn by Francille and John Firebaugh

In memory of Will Fernald by Melva Fisher

In memory of COVID victims by Melva Fisher

In memory of Jeff Clapham, Bill Johannes, and William M. and Mae Johannes by Barbara Johannes Clapham

In memory of Barbara and Leo Jones, Jerry and Anne Bellissimo, Janice Jones, Elizabeth Pastor, and Bunita Weiner
by Kevin Jones and Joe Bellissimo

In memory of our parents Bob and Shirley Lange, and Wendell and Ruby Smith by Bill and Sarah Lange

In celebration of our children Stan, Shannon, Allison, and Dan by Bill and Sarah Lange

In memory of Keene and Joan Lebold by the Lebold Family

In memory of Edwin and Ruth Busey, and Paul and Elsie Leidheiser by Paul and Melody Leidheiser, Jr.

In memory of my father Rev. Charles Livingston by Nancy Livingston

In honor of my mother Mildred Livingston by Nancy Livingston

In memory of Miriam Grace by Lisa Morris and Kent Shimeall

In memory of Sam and Jane Morris by Lisa Morris and Kent Shimeall

In memory of Trudy Navin by Dana Navin and Hugh Schultz

In memory of Pat Navin by Dana Navin and Hugh Schultz

In memory of Mary Ann Schultz by Dana Navin and Hugh Schultz

In memory of Dot Freshour by Dana Navin and Hugh Schultz

In memory of my husband Richard Potts by Marilyn Potts

In honor and celebration of our children and grandchildren, who bring us such joy, by Susan Sitler and Rev. Tim Ahrens

In honor of Lorene Ahrens, Tim's mom, who continues to care for those around her with kindness and grace

by Susan Sitler and Rev. Tim Ahrens

In memory of my mother Betty Stone by Pat Patterson

In memory of loved ones by James Velo and Matthew Stevens

In memory of Rand Hamilton Kampmeier by Susan Vining Brooks

In memory of Ralph Kidd by Susan Vining Brooks

In memory of Charles and Carolyn Brooks by Susan Vining Brooks

In memory of Elizabeth Baird Brooks by Susan Vining Brooks

In memory of Edward and Betty Ryan and Charles and Julia Wagner by Bill, Amy, Katie, and Chase Wagner

In honor of Pasha, Eddie, and Annie as well as Lucy, Emmy, and Honey by Lynn Wallich

In memory of loved ones by Mark Williams and Tim Carsey

In memory of loved ones by Marty and Gerry Worth

Welcome Statement

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation
Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation

LEADERSHIP

Senior Minister, Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min.
Associate Minister, Emily Krause Corzine, M.Div.
Minister of Music, Kevin Jones, M.M., M.S.Ed.
Director of Christian Education, Mark S. Williams, M.Ed.
Commissioned Minister for Social Justice, Tom Brownfield
Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction, Jacquelyn Dean
Nursery Staff, Miranda Brooks, Norma Secor, Blessing Weekly, Miranda Gumbita
Organist Choirmaster Emeritus, G. Dene Barnard, S.M.M.

DIACONATE

Senior Deacon, James Velo
Deacons: Carol Ernst-King, Shelly Gies, Sarah Giffen, Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Lanier Holt, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, James Lowe, Dayna McCrary, Allison Lowery Palmer, Mark Sholl, Andrew Smith-Verhage, Al Waddell, Marty Worth

CHURCH STAFF

Business Administrator, Annette McCormick
Administrative Manager, Amy Wagner
Office Assistant, Patricia Patterson
Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, Mark Dahnke
Buildings and Grounds Assistant, Darrell Cross
Custodian, Jimmy Sibrian
Wedding Coordinators, Margaret Cipriani, Shelly Gies, Janet Newcity, Amy Wagner, Katie Wagner



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