

# CHRISTMAS EVE

## THE NATIVITY OF JESUS



DECEMBER 24, 2024  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

-African American spiritual

(The earliest known publication of this song is attributed to John Wesley Work, Jr., 1871-1925.)

Merry, merry Christmas and a warm welcome to all!

What a gift it is to be able to come together as one people to worship, pray, and lift our voices in song and praise as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! It is through our shared faith that we find inspiration, encouragement, purpose and belonging as we open our spirits to receive the Christ Child into our hearts once again.

In our denominational tradition, we often greet newcomers with the words, “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!” If you are worshiping with us, at First Church, for the first time this evening, welcome! If it has been quite some time since you have been to church, welcome! If you are worshiping with us online, welcome! If you worship with us on a regular basis, welcome!

For over 172 years, we have been a congregation that has been deeply committed to gathering in the heart of our city to worship together and serve our neighbor. Our shared Christian faith inspires us and compels us to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ by “doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God” (Micah 6:8).

It is an especially engaging and exciting time in our life together, as First Church, as we begin to write a new chapter of ministry as a congregation. Two months ago, we celebrated nearly 25 years of impactful and shared ministry with our previous senior minister, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Ahrens, who retired in October. This month, we are welcoming the Rev. Becky David who will guide us and accompany us along the interim journey ahead of us. It is certainly a time like no other to come together in a spirit of unity to discern and pray and imagine “what new thing God is doing” (Isaiah 43:19) among us and with us and through us and for us!

On this holiest of nights, we pray that your heart will be touched and your spirit, open, to receive the birth of the Christ Child, once again, with a sense of wonder and awe and thanksgiving. And, in response, may we each find the inspiration that we need to “go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!”

With love and joy,

Rev. Joanna Samuelson, Designated Minister

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! For more than 172 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.

On the cover: Deborah Melton Anderson

The Adoration of The Christ. The Advent Banner, 1999

# FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE

## AT THREE IN THE AFTERNOON

### PRELUDE

*Greensleeves*  
*Adeste Fideles*

Richard Purvis, 1944  
Sigfrid Karg-Elert, 1923

### WELCOME

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

### ENTER TO WORSHIP

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Our Sovereign and Savior now draws near.

**People: O come, let us adore Him!**

*\* Then all stand as able*

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

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

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

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

### \* OPENING CAROL

*Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

"Hark! the herald angels sing"

Charles Wesley, 1739

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.  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"*

### \* INVOCATION

The Rev. Amanda Conley

Leader: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: 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 forever. Amen.**

\* CAROL

*Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

“It came upon the midnight clear”

Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849

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 OF THE CHRISTMAS PEACE

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

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

\* CAROL

*Go Tell It*, African-American Spiritual

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

African-American Spiritual, stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940

*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

The Winters Family

CAROL

*Mueller*, James R. Murray, 1887

“Away in a manger”

Little Children’s Book for Schools and Families, c. 1885

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

The Rev. Sarah Reed

CAROL

*St. Louis*, Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

“O little town of Bethlehem”

Phillips Brooks, 1868

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

Leslie Fulford

CAROL

*Gloria*, French Carol

“Angels we have heard on high”

French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860

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

Melissa Kulwicki

CAROL

*Adeste fideles*, John Francis Wade, c. 1743

“O come, all ye faithful”

John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

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.*

CHILDREN’S TIME

“All is Bright...When God Came Down One Silent Night”

Ms. Kulwicki and

by Clay Anderson and Natalie Merheb

Mrs. Fulford

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Rev. Conley

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE OFFERTORY

*To give online, please scan the QR code:*



MISSION INVITATION

Mrs. Fulford

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Good Samaritan Fund**. The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to First Church in need. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN

“What child is this”

*Greensleeves*, English Ballad, 16<sup>th</sup> c.

William Chatterton Dix, 1871

What child is this, who, laid to rest  
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

*Refrain:*

This, this is Christ the King  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain.*

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain.*

\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: 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.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

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

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

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

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

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

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

\* CLOSING CAROL

*Antioch*, Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

“Joy to the world!”

Isaac Watts, 1719

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

Toccata on *Antioch*

Craig Phillips, 1996

*It is our custom to remain seated quietly for the postlude.*

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

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, The Rev. Amanda Conley, and The Rev. Sarah Reed, *officiants*

Melissa Kulwicki & Leslie Fulford, *liturgists*

Joshua Stafford, *organist*

The Winters Family, *Christ Candle lighters*



# WORSHIP SERVICE & DRAMA OF THE NATIVITY AT SEVEN-THIRTY IN THE EVENING

## PRELUDE

*Greensleeves*

*Adeste Fideles*

Richard Purvis, 1944

Sigfrid Karg-Elert, 1923

## ENTER TO WORSHIP

Jacquelyn Dean

**Leader:** Our Sovereign and Savior now draws near.

**People:** **O come, let us adore Him!**

*\* Then all stand as able*

**Leader:** The Light shines in the darkness,

**People:** **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**Leader:** The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**People:** **and we have beheld Christ's glory.**

**Leader:** To us a child is born. To us a son is given.

**People:** **In the Word is life, and the life is the light of all people.**

## \*OPENING CAROL

*Adeste fideles*, John Francis Wade, c. 1743

"O come, all ye faithful"

John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,  
 \*3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!  
 Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!  
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

\* INVOCATION

Leslie Fulford

Leader: God be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**People:** Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

\* WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE OF THE NEWBORN CHRIST

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**People:** And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.

\* CAROL

*Antioch*, Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

"Joy to the world!" vv. 1-2

Isaac Watts, 1719

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re - ceive her King;  
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns; Let us our songs em - ploy;  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground;  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove

Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 He comes to make His bless - ings flow  
 The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,



And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture sing,  
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His  
 And heaven and na - ture sing,  
 And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 sing, joy, And Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.  
 heaven and na - ture sing,

\*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Joel, Sandra, and SallyJane Mathias  
 Jill, Jason, Joel, and Jack Bilsping

\*CAROL

*Antioch*, Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742  
 Isaac Watts, 1719

"Joy to the world!" vv. 3-4

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

THE GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2:1-20

Rev. Samuelson and Jacquelyn Dean

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this,

they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

\* CAROL

*St. Louis*, Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

"O little town of Bethlehem"

Phillips Brooks, 1868

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

"Christmas is Calling Us Home"

Rev. Samuelson

## 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE OFFERTORY

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## MISSION INVITATION

Melody Leidheiser

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## OFFERTORY

Carol Rhapsody

Richard Purvis

## \* PRESENTATION CAROL

*Greensleeves*, English Ballad, 16<sup>th</sup> c.

"What child is this," v. 3

William Chatterton Dix, 1871

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.

## THE DRAMA OF THE NATIVITY

*On this Holy Eve, the Angels appear bearing lighted tapers. By the Angels' light come the Shepherds, who gather around the Holy Family. Eastern Magi also come to honor the newborn One. All kneel in adoration of the One before whom "every knee in heaven and on earth and below the earth shall bend, and before whom every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." —Philippians 2:10–11*

## \* CAROL

*Stille Nacht*, Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

"Silent night, holy night"

Joseph Mohr, 1816; trans. John Freeman Young, 1863

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.	2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."	3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.
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\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Jesus is born!

**People: God is with us!**

Leader: Let us go forth rejoicing in the love of God and the peace of Christ.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

\* CLOSING CAROL

*Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840*

"Hark! the herald angels sing"

Charles Wesley, 1739



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing      Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored,      Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace!      Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,      God and sin - ners re - con - ciled:  
Late in time be - hold him come,      Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb:  
Light and life to all he brings,      Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings;



Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise,      Join the tri - umph of the skies,  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see,      Hail th'in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by,      Born that we no more may die,



With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim,      Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,      Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
Born to raise the sons of earth,      Born to give them sec - ond birth.



*Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing      Glo - ry to the new - born King.*

POSTLUDE

"Bring a torch, Jeanette Isabella"

Keith Chapman, 1976

*It is our custom to remain seated quietly for the postlude.*

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

## PARTICIPANTS IN THE 7:30 P.M. SERVICE

The Reverend Joanna Samuelson, *preacher*

Jacquelyn Dean, *liturgist*

The Mathias and Bisping Family, *Christ Candle lighters*

Joshua Stafford, *organist*

Peter Murray, *livestream ministry*

## THE CAST OF THE DRAMA OF THE NATIVITY

### *Mary*

Emma Dean

### *Joseph*

Xavier Dean

### *Archangels*

Lila Bendick

Maya Haslett

### *Angels*

Alexi Cooks

Maggie Myers

Erin Dean

Ashlly Seng

### *Magi*

Henry Gillies

Malcolm Gillies

Jake Haslett

### *Shepherds*

Henry Wade

Aarav Peter

Aran Cunningham

### *Technical and Stage Director*

Peter Murray

### *Stage Managers*

Todd Cunningham

Matt Myers

### *Technical Crew*

Drew Wade

Shane Gillies

Stefan Duga

### *Costumes*

Melissa Kulwicki

Cami Curren

### *Director*

Leslie Fulford

# FESTIVE PRELUDE

## AT TEN-THIRTY IN THE EVENING

### ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Herr Gott, der ein'ge Gottessohn*, BWV 601

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich*, BWV 603

*Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schar*, BWV 607

*In dulci jubilo*, BWV 608

### ANTHEM

*Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599, arr. Dale Adelman, 1997

"Lo, how a rose e'er blooming" German carol, trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, and Harriet Spaeth, 1985

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
as seers of old have sung.  
It came, a blossom bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
the Rose I have in mind;  
Mary we behold it,  
the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half-spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere;  
True man, yet very God,  
from sin and death now save us,  
And share our every load.

*The People remain seated and join in singing:*

### CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

*Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

"It came upon the midnight clear"

Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849

1 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, good will to all,  
from heaven's all-gracious King":  
the world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world:  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and we at war on earth hear not  
the tidings that they bring;  
O, hush the noise and cease the strife  
to hear the angels sing!

5 For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.



ANTHEM

“Rejoice and be merry”

John Rutter, 2004

Traditional English

Rejoice and be merry in song and in mirth;  
O praise our Redeemer, all mortals on earth!  
For this is the birthday of Jesus our King,  
Who brought us salvation: his praises we'll sing.

A heavenly vision appeared in the sky;  
Vast numbers of angels the shepherds did spy,  
Proclaiming the birthday of Jesus our King,  
Who brought us salvation: his praises we'll sing.

Likewise a bright star in the sky did appear,  
Which led the wise men from the East to draw near;  
They found the Messiah, sweet Jesus our King,  
Who brought us salvation: his praises we'll sing.

And when they were come, they their treasures unfold,  
And unto him offered myrrh, incense and gold.  
So blessed for ever be Jesus our King,  
Who brought us salvation: his praises we'll sing.

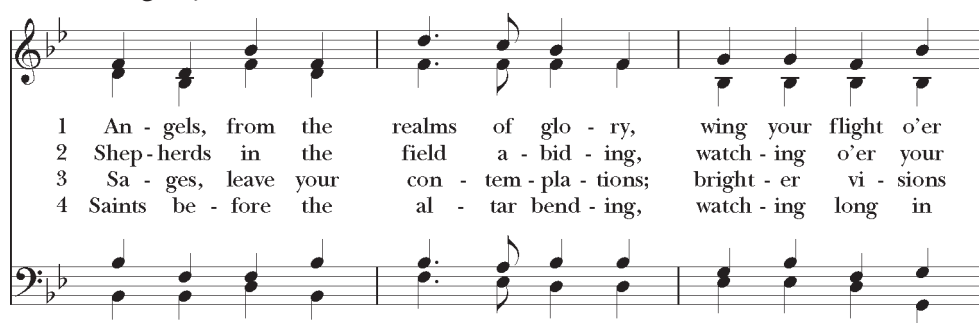
*The People remain seated and join in singing:*

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

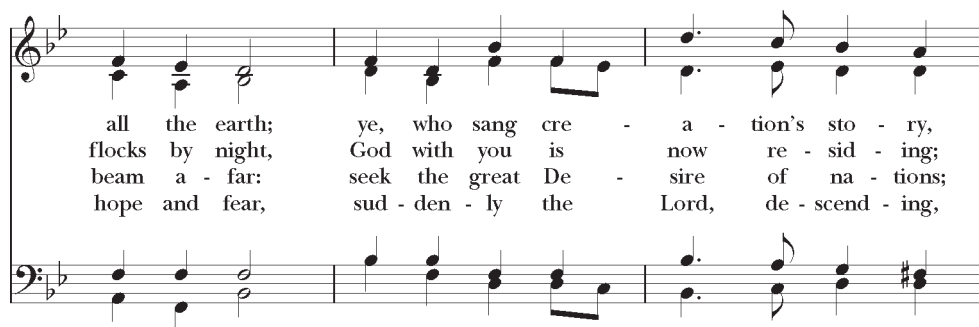
“Angels from the realms of glory”

*Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

James Montgomery, 1816



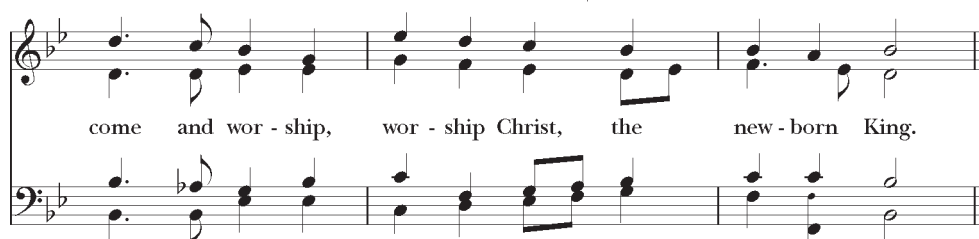
1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in



all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;  
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



*Refrain*  
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,  
ye have seen his na - tal star:  
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:



come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

ANTHEM

"I saw three ships"

Simon Preston, 1965

William Sandys, 1833

I saw three ships come sailing in  
on Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
I saw three ships come sailing in  
on Christmas day in the morning.  
And what was in those ships all three...  
Our Saviour Christ and His Lady...  
Pray whither sailed those ships all three...

O they sailed into Bethlehem...  
And all the bells on earth shall ring...  
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing...  
And all the Souls on Earth shall sing...  
Then let us all rejoice again...

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

"Once in royal David's city"

Irby, Henry John Gauntlett, 1849

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

*Verse 1 of the carol is sung by a soloist, and verse two by the choir alone.  
The People remain seated and join in the singing of verses three through six.*



*Solo* - 1. Once in ro - yal Da - vid's\_ ci - ty Stood a low - ly cat - tle\_ shed,  
*Choir* - 2. He came down to earth from\_ hea - ven Who is God and Lord\_ of\_ all,  
*All* - 3. And through all his won - drous child-hood He would ho - nor and\_ o - bey,  
 4. For he is our child- hood's pat - tern, Day by day like us\_ he\_ grew,  
 5. And our eyes at last\_ shall\_ see him, Through his own re deem - ing\_ love,  
 6. Not in that poor low - ly\_ sta - ble, With the ox - en stand - ing\_ by,

Where a mo - ther laid\_ her\_ ba - by In a man - ger for\_ his\_ bed:  
 And his shel - ter was\_ a\_ sta - ble, And his cra - dle was\_ a\_ stall;  
 Love and watch the low - ly\_ mai - den, In whose gen - tle arms\_ he\_ lay:  
 He was lit - tle, weak, and\_ help - less, Tears and smiles like us\_ he\_ knew:  
 For that child so dear\_ and\_ gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n\_ a - bove;  
 We shall see him; but\_ in\_ hea - ven, Set at God's right hand\_ on\_ high;

Ma - ry was that mo - ther mild,\_ Je - sus Christ her lit - tle\_ child.\_  
 With the poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sa - vior\_ ho - ly.  
 Chris - tian child - ren all must be\_ Mild, o - be - dient, good\_ as\_ he.\_  
 And he feel - eth for our sad - ness, And he shar - eth in\_ our\_ glad - ness.  
 And he leads his child - ren on\_ To the place where he\_ is\_ gone.\_  
 Where like stars his child - ren crowned All in white shall wait\_ a - round.\_

# CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

## AT ELEVEN IN THE EVENING

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Dr. Gregory Halbe

Leader: Our Sovereign and Savior now draws near.

People: **O come, let us adore Him!**

*\* Then all stand as able.*

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

People: **and we have beheld Christ's glory.**

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

People: **In the Word is life, and the life is the light of all people.**

\*OPENING CAROL

*Adeste fideles*, John Francis Wade, c. 1743

"O come, all ye faithful"

John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,  
\*3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!  
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!  
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

*Refrain*  
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -  
dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

\* INVOCATION

The Rev. Amanda Conley

Leader: God be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**People:** Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

\* WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE OF THE NEWBORN CHRIST

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**People:** And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.

CAROL

*Antioch*, Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

"Joy to the world!" vv. 1-2

Isaac Watts, 1719

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -  
 her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness  
 and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,  
 and  
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heaven and na - ture sing,

\*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Ruth Decker, Will Davis, and Ron Jenkins

\*CAROL

*Antioch*, Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

"Joy to the world!" vv. 3-4

Isaac Watts, 1719

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

Dr. Halbe

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Bob Chilcott, 1995

Mid-Winter

Christina Rossetti, 1872

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak mid-winter a stable sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But only his mother in her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

THE EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

Dr. Halbe

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

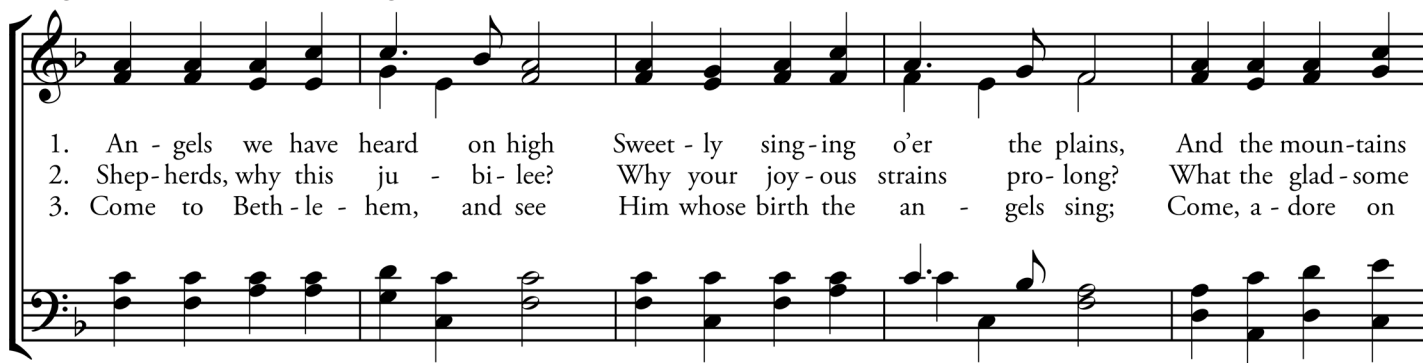
**People: Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL CAROL

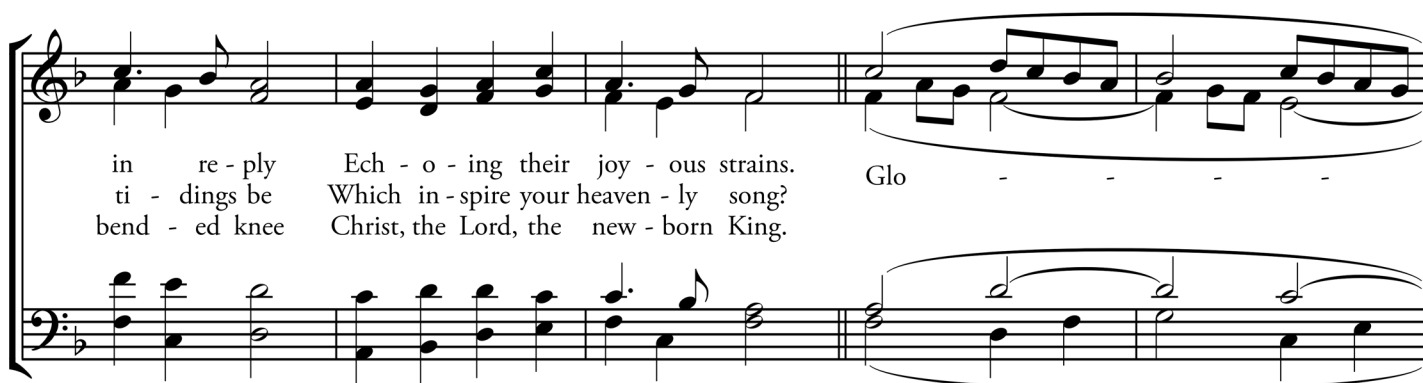
*Gloria*, French Carol

"Angels we have heard on high"

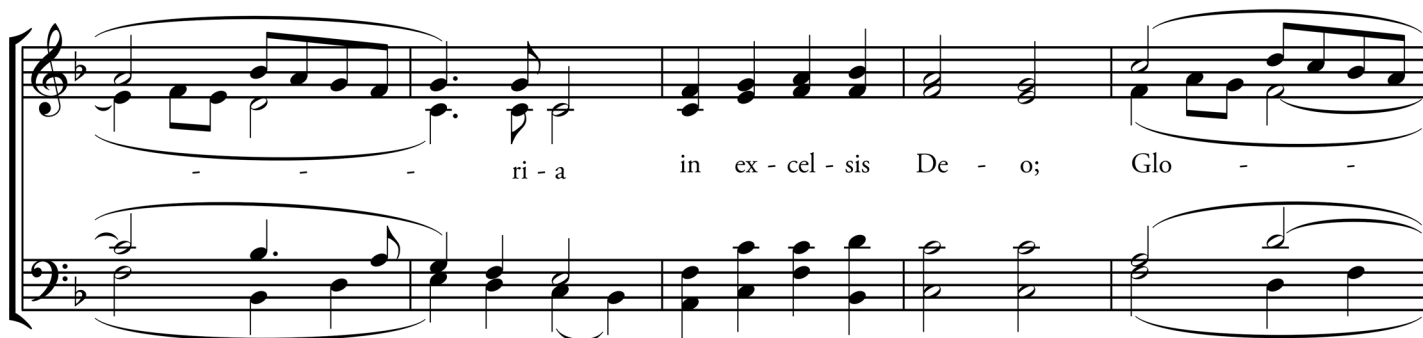
French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains, And the moun - tains  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long? What the glad - some  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem, and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on



in re - ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains. Glo  
 ti - dings be Which in - spire your heaven - ly song?  
 bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.



*Please remain standing for the reading of the Gospel on this Holy Night.*

\* THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–20

Rev. Samuelson and Rev. Conley

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

“A Story of Wonder, A Story to Ponder ” Rev. Samuelson and Rev. Conley

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Rev. Conley

THE OFFERTORY

*To give online, please scan this QR code:*



MISSION INVITATION

Dr. Halbe

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Good Samaritan Fund**. The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to First Church in need. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“What sweeter music”

John Rutter, 1988

Robert Herrick, 1647

What sweeter music can we bring  
than a carol, for to sing  
the birth of this our heavenly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!  
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,  
and give the honor to this day  
that sees December turn to May.  
Why does the chilling winter's morn  
smile, like a field beset with corn?  
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn  
thus on the sudden? Come and see  
the cause, why things thus fragrant be:  
'tis he is born, whose quickening birth  
gives life and luster, public mirth,  
to heaven and the underearth.

We see him come, and know him ours,  
who, with his sunshine and his showers,  
turns all the patient ground to flowers.  
the darling of the world is come,  
and fit it is, we find a room  
to welcome him.

The nobler part of all the house  
here, is the heart,  
which we will give him; and bequeath  
this holly, and this ivy wreath,  
to do him honor; who's our King,  
and Lord of all this reveling.

\* PRESENTATION CAROL

“What child is this,” v. 3

*Greensleeves*, English Ballad, 16<sup>th</sup> c.

William Chatterton Dix, 1871

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table.*

*Please come forward as directed by the Deacons to receive the common elements for communion. If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home. Please hold the elements until you are directed to partake together. Sealed and separated gluten-free elements are available in the center.*

\* INVITATION

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. This table is for all people who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

*Leader* *People*

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

*Leader* *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Leader*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

# COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory. We rejoice in the good news of the birth of Jesus; with the angels, the shepherds, and the faithful of every nation, we glorify your holy name. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

## \* SANCTUS

from *Sewanee Mass*, Malcolm Archer

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

**Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### ANTHEM

Gerre Hancock, 1999

"Infant holy, infant lowly"

Traditional Polish

Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
Nowells ringing, tidings bringing,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new;  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow,  
Christ the babe was born for you.

CAROL  
"Away in a manger"

*Cradle Song*, William James Kirkpatrick, 1895  
Little Children's Book for Schools and Families, c. 1885



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Conley

Leadet: Let us pray.

**All:** Great and gracious God, we thank you that, in this holy meal, the true Light has come to dwell in us. As we return into the world you love, may we take to all people the good news of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

\*LIGHTING THE CANDLES

*We celebrate the birth of Jesus and the Light that brought the people of God out of darkness.  
If you are worshipping online this evening, we invite you to light a candle with us at home.*

\*CAROL  
"Silent night, holy night"

*Stille Nacht*, Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818  
Joseph Mohr, 1816; trans. John Freeman Young, 1863

*After the Choir sings the first verse in the original German, please join in singing the remaining verses in English.*

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh',  
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh'.*

1. Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born."

3. Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Samuelson and Rev. Conley

Leader: Jesus is born!

**People: God is with us!**

Leader: Let us go forth rejoicing in the love of God and the peace of Christ.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

\*CAROL

*Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840*

"Hark! the herald angels sing"

*Charles Wesley, 1739*



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing	Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored,	Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace!	Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,	God and sin - ners re - con - ciled:
Late in time be - hold him come,	Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb:
Light and life to all he brings,	Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings;



Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise,	Join the tri - umph of the skies,
Veiled in flesh the God - head see,	Hail th'in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by,	Born that we no more may die,



With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim,	Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,	Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth,	Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing Glo - ry to the new - born King.

POSTLUDE

"Bring a torch, Jeanette Isabella"

Keith Chapman, 1976

*As the Postlude begins, please extinguish your candle. It is our custom to remain seated quietly for the postlude.*

*Please place the extinguished candle in the designated boxes  
and the communion cup in the designated baskets as you leave worship.*



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

PARTICIPANTS IN THE 11 P.M. SERVICE

The Reverend Joanna Samuelson, *co-celebrant and preacher*

The Reverend Amanda Conley, *co-celebrant and preacher*

Dr. Gregory Halbe, *liturgist*

William Davis, Ronald Jenkins, & Ruth Decker, *Christ Candle lighters*

William Davis, *crucifer*

Gregory Duncan and Gary Glover, *vergers*

The First Church Choir

Joshua Stafford, *director and organist*

Jamie Bobb, *organist*

Peter Murray, *livestream ministry*

THE FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

*Soprano:* Cindy Adcock, Marti Baumer, Candy Cummings, Sharon Ferguson, Rose Kandel,  
Ramona Moenter, Emily Riggan, Megan Smith

*Alto:* Janet Axt, Allison Ellenberger, Marcy Essig, Jennifer Fry, Cheryl Hoskinson,  
Nancy Loy, SallyJane Mathias, Judy Smith, Jan Wade

*Tenor:* Neal Brower, Geoffrey Gear, Jim Griffin,  
Greg Halbe, Sebastian Kulwicki, Pavan Peter, Nathaniel Powell

*Bass:* Al Adcock, Stefan Duga, Ronald Jenkins,  
Ryan Jones, Barry Moenter, Robert Moreen, David Stang

*With thanks to all the hundreds of people who serve in our community of faith -  
volunteers, deacons, council, crucifers, acolytes,  
greeters, liturgists, choirs, and so many others.  
Thank you for all that you do all year long.*

## 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  
McIllyar H. Lichliter 1924–1942  
Boynton Merrill 1943–1959  
Chalmers Coe 1960–1983

### *To the glory of God and:*

In celebration of the First Church Choir and Choristers by Albert and Cynthia Adcock  
In memory of my parents and brothers by Marti Baumer  
In loving of Maxine and Bill Gilson and Irene and Al Braverman by Nancy Braverman  
In memory and/or honor of my siblings and children: Cody, Connie, Leslie, Rand, Beth, Paul, John  
by Susan Vining Brooks  
In memory of our parents by Mark and Melanie Brown  
In memory of Jeff Clapham by Barbara Clapham  
In memory of Dirceu Jose Romaro da Silva Filho (Papa Joe) and Dean Coil (Papaw Dean)  
by Anita Silva Coil, Jarrod, Aria and Elijah Coil  
In celebration of our family and friends by Bert and Bev Cook  
In memory of Charles Henry Drummond III by his partner Robert J. Crackel  
In honor of all musicians whose talents elevate our worship and give us a glimpse of heaven  
by Todd and Catherine Cunningham  
Dedicated to James, Patricia, and Jimmy Smith and to Art and Norma Curren by Cami Curren  
and Thomason Smith  
In memory of MaryLea Davis and Paul and Charlotte Jenkins by Will Davis and Ron Jenkins  
In memory of my wife and our mother, Kathleen Dean by Geoffrey, Jennifer, and Amanda Dean  
In memory of my parents, Ruth and Ralph Dean by Geoffrey, Jennifer, and Amanda Dean  
In memory of Don Streibig by Geoffrey Dean  
In memory of my parents, Bill and Arlene by Allison Ellenberger  
In memory of beloved family and friends by Chris Farquhar  
In memory of my sister, Mary Bittle, and our life shared together over all her 70 years of life  
by Melva Fisher  
In memory of G. Dene Barnard by Jennifer Fry  
In memory of our parents and in celebration of our family and the music ministry  
by Carol and Jim Gallagher  
In memory of Wally Giffen, my parents, and many other loved ones by Sarah Giffen  
In honor of shut in members of First Church by Dan Harkins  
In honor of Charles P. and Mary Jane John by Victor John  
In memory of Matthias Quinn Young by Victor John  
In memory of Harry N. Kandel, Siegfried and Gisela Garbe, Sue Ellen Kandel, and Sheryl Loeffler Kandel  
and Douglas Haas by David and Rose Kandel  
In celebration of our grandchildren, Jesse, Quinn, Ava, Caleb, and Hannah by Paul and Melody Leidheiser  
In memory of my parents, Rev. Charles Livingston and Mildred Whistler Livingston by Nancy Livingston  
In memory of my mom, Beulah McCormick by Annette McCormick  
In memory of Rollie and Marilyn Rausch and Elmer, Evelyn, and Kevin Moenter  
by Ramona and Barry Moenter  
In memory of our mothers, Helen Ogle and Pat Drahos by Gail and Dick Ogle  
In memory of Dorothy and Dale Faith and John Poppe by Barb Poppe and Bill Faith  
In memory of parents David and Ardis Postle by Richard and Rosemary Postle  
In honor of the Shoemaker and Potts families by Marilyn Potts  
In loving memory of husband and father, Richard Potts by Marilyn Potts  
In honor of Ken Beitzel and Harve Senter by Jenny, Joe, Mia, and Matty Provenzano  
in loving memory of Robert Rideout by Peggy Reducker

In memory of Rob Rideout; in memory of G. Dene Barnard by Marti Rideout  
In honor of Josh Stafford, Jennifer Fry, and all members of the choirs by Marti Rideout  
In loving memory of Arlene Reynolds, John Reynolds, and Paul Flocken by Annette Salser  
and Lou Flocken  
In loving memory of Helen and Henry E. Wilson, M.D. by Lesley and Karl Schaab  
In memory of Dale Brookins Wade, Robert and Louise Wade, Paul and Adelia Schwiebert,  
and John T. Douth, Sr. by Jan Wade  
In loving memory of our fathers, Rob Rideout, Dale Wade, Philippe Essig, and our cousin Twink Starr  
by Lissa and Drew Wade  
In celebration of our mothers, Marti Rideout and Jan Wade; and our children, Cameron, Liv, Adam, Zoe,  
and Henry by Lissa and Drew Wade  
In thanksgiving for the Ministers of Music of First Church, past and present, by Lissa and Drew Wade  
In memory of Glenn and Ernestine Worley and Martha and David Loy by Tom Worley and Nancy Loy  
In memory of loved ones by Marty and Gerry Worth

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**Interim Senior Minister:** Rev. Becky David, M.Div.  
**Designated Minister:** Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.  
**Minister of Music:** Joshua Stafford, M.M.  
**Interim Director of Faith Formation:** Leslie Fulford  
**Administrative Manager:** Amy Wagner  
**Communications Manager:** Melissa Kulwicki  
**Office Assistant:** Pat Patterson  
**Business Administrator:** Annette McCormick  
**Maintenance:** Mike Sharrock  
**Custodians:** Alexis Wayne, Bill McCabe, Bob O'Brien  
**Handbell Director:** Jennifer Fry  
**Wedding Coordinators:** Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Denise Vogt  
**Nursery Staff:** Miranda Brooks, Shelly Gies, Celecia Smith  
**Commissioned Minister for Social Justice:** Tom Brownfield  
**Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction:** Jacquelyn Dean  
**Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Program Coordinator:** Gary Glover  
**Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Training Coordinator:** Wendy Kennedy  
**Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator:** Susie Loik  
**Senior Deacon:** Tom Kiesel  
**Deacons:** Allen Baker, Heather Jones, Brian Kemp, Nan Kreimer, Allison Lowery Palmer, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Fran Panek, Andy Smith Verhage, Thom Smith, Lynn Wallich, Martha Worth

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Chairperson:** Frank Cook  
**Trustees:** Greg Halbe, Elizabeth Iannarino, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Melody Leidheiser, Janet Miller, Judy Smith, (Secretary), Hugh Schultz

### CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

**Moderator:** Gregory Halbe  
**Moderator-elect:** Sarah Reed  
**Treasurer:** James Velo  
**Treasurer-elect:** Ramona Moenter  
**Secretary:** Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen  
**Secretary-elect:** Amanda Butler  
**Nominating Chair:** Sarah Reed

### COMMISSIONERS

**Church Stewardship and Church Growth:**  
**Church Stewardship and Church Growth-elect:**  
**Church Vitality:** Pat Patterson  
**Church Vitality-elect:**  
**Communications and Technology Commission:** Mike Kennedy  
**Communications and Technology Commission-elect:** Stefan Duga  
**Faith Formation Commission:** Mariner Taft  
**Faith Formation Commission-elect:** Cami Curren  
**House & Grounds:** Eric Klintworth  
**House & Grounds-elect:**  
**Justice & Mercy:** Janet Miller  
**Justice & Mercy-elect:** Jim Lowe  
**Music, Arts & Heritage:** Jim Griffin  
**Music, Arts & Heritage-elect:** Cheryl Hoskinson  
**Member-at-Large:** Jacquelyn Dean  
**Personnel:** David Hogrefe  
**Personnel-elect:** Sandra Mathias  
**Youth Member-at-Large:** Sebastian Kulwicki

## 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.

## FIRST CHURCH IS A FAITH COMMUNITY

- † Called together by God, the Creator and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
- † Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
- † Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.

## 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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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