

CHRISTMAS EVE

THE NATIVITY OF JESUS



DECEMBER 24, 2025

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH

FOR a child is born to us, an heir is given us,
upon whose shoulders dominion will rest.
This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God,
Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.
—Isaiah 9:6, *The Inclusive Bible*

Welcome, friend. You made it, despite all the work, the distractions, the struggles and the obligations, you're here. The grace and peace of our Creator God and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit be with us all!

Thank you for joining us this Christmastide. Here at First Congregational Church UCC, we remind all who enter our doors, whether it's your first time here or your first time in a long time that, "no matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!" If church has ever been an unsafe place, if you're longing for an experience of the Sacred in a difficult season, if you're looking for a place where the justice of God is present as action and not lip-service, if you just want to sit in the warmth a while, come on in. We are a congregation built by the love and justice of Jesus Christ, the stirring of the Holy Spirit, and the warmth and connection of community. You belong here; you can belong here.

It is a complex and challenging time in our city, our state, and our country, to say the least. Faith can feel elusive or divisive in times like this, and we are grateful to gather with you in reflection, in worship, and in communal celebration as we re-experience the birth of Jesus Christ and celebrate the Good News it brings. For 173 years, First Congregational Church has been deeply committed to community worship and service in the heart of Columbus. This year, our Interim Senior Minister, Rev. Becky David, has continued to guide and accompany us as we prepare to call our next settled pastor. Additionally, we welcomed Rev. jessica young chang (they/she) as our Interim Associate Minister. We are thoughtfully and prayerfully in a season of discernment, as we consider and discover who God is calling us to be and become.

This Christmastide, we pray you experience comfort, rest, and the warmth of the light of Baby Jesus. In contemplating the wonder and miracle of this tiny, brown-skinned baby, this family seeking refuge from the empire, this being of love wrapped in humanity, may we be inspired to turn toward the miracle of love we celebrate this day, and may we allow this love to take root in our hearts and in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

Merry Christmas. We're glad you're here,

Revs. Becky & jess

*To learn more about First Congregational Church,
please visit our website, www.first-church.org
or scan the QR code below.*



FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE

AT THREE IN THE AFTERNOON

PRELUDE

Noël: Grand jeu et duo

Louis-Claude Daquin, 1757

WELCOME

The Rev. jessica young chang

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Rev. young chang

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

Rev. young chang

Leader: The presence and peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: God who Comes, God who is born, we celebrate you this day. Shine your light on our faces, dispel our fear, and gladden our hearts with your presence. May Your grace and care of us fill us so abundantly that we must turn to others and share Your love and justice. Let us ring bells of joy and peace, let us celebrate the coming of the Light of the World. O Come, let us adore Him! In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray, 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 PEACE

Rev. young chang

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 CHRIST CANDLE

The Trautman Family

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

A child to us is born this day, a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.

A light of Love, a light of Justice, a light of Connection and Community that none can put out.

This light dispels the darkness of fear, of violence, of selfishness and injustice.

We light the Christ candle, in celebration and reverence

marking that our wait for the Anointed One is over.

We have held hope, peace, joy, and love, in anticipation of the arrival of Mary's child.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

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

Rev. young chang

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.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

“O little town of Bethlehem”

St. Louis, Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

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

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

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!”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

“Angels we have heard on high”

Gloria, French Carol

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

Rev. young chang

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

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

“O come, all ye faithful”

Adeste fideles, John Francis Wade, c. 1743

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. young chang

This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

(This is a repeat-after-me prayer.)

Parent God—thank you for your Love—thank you for sending us Jesus—who we celebrate this day—some days are hard—and we might feel bad—but having God with us—makes us feel better.—Teach us to be kind to others—teach us to share our things—give bread to those who are hungry—and friends to those who are lonely—heal the sick—comfort the scared.—Thank you Jesus—for the people we love.

And the people of God said, Amen!

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

Rev. young chang

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Good Samaritan Fund and Laundry Love**. It is more blessed to give than to receive and with your support, Laundry Love and Good Samaritan are able to give to people who need our help each month. Laundry Love brightens the lives of hundreds of people through love, dignity, and detergent, covering the supplies and paying for washing and drying costs. Good Samaritan gives people help and hope when they are in desperate need. Gift cards are used for food, medicine, and clothing. Families are able to keep their heat, water, and lights on instead of being disconnected. Your donations enrich the lives of hundreds of people each month. Please give generously to help our neighbors in need.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Greensleeves, English Ballad, 16th c.

“What child is this”

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. young chang

Leader: In the name of the God of first breaths, we rejoice at the life of this new baby, this Jesus, Deliverer, who has come to show us how to love, to set us free.
People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth for us all.
Leader: For just a moment, all the world falls silent as we welcome the Child of God.
The Love, the Word who is made flesh, among us and for us and for all.
People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth for us all.
Leader: The mystery, awe, and celebration lives in our bodies, and it is so strong that in every thought, word, and deed, we are touched, and we are changed, by the love and presence of God.
People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth for us all.
Leader: God bless you and keep you. God make God's face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. God look upon you with kindness and grant you peace, this day and forever more.
Amen.

* 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. jessica young chang, *officiant*

Leslie Fulford, *liturgist*

Joshua Stafford, *organist*

The Trautman Family, *Christ Candle lighters*

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

PRELUDE

Noël: Grand jeu et duo

Louis-Claude Daquin, 1757

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

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains three verses of lyrics. The second system continues the melody with more lyrics. The third system concludes the piece with final lyrics. The score includes treble and bass staves for each part, with notes and rests clearly marked. Some notes are circled in the original image, likely indicating specific musical features or corrections.

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!

* WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE OF THE NEWBORN CHRIST

The Rev. Becky David

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.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. jessica young chang

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.

* 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 joy,
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His love,
 And heaven and na - ture sing,
 And heaven and na - ture sing,
 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

Joseph O'Connor, Liz Vanner, and David O'Connor

*CAROL

Antioch, Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

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

Isaac Watts, 1719

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

THE GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2:1-20

Rev. Becky David

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!

SERMON

Rev. young chang

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

Rev. David

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OFFERTORY

Carol Rhapsody

Richard Purvis, 1941

* PRESENTATION CAROL

Greensleeves, English Ballad, 16th 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

“Silent night, holy night”

Stille Nacht, Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

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.

* CLOSING CAROL

“Hark! the herald angels sing”

Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

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.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. David

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 Becky David, *preacher*

The Reverend Jessica Young Chang

Jacquelyn Dean, *liturgist*

Joseph O'Connor, Liz Vanner, and David O'Connor, *Christ Candle lighters*

Joshua Stafford, *organist*

Peter Murray, *livestream ministry*

THE CAST OF THE DRAMA OF THE NATIVITY

Mary

Vanessa Gonzalez

Joseph

Miles Helmer

Archangels

Alexi Cooks

Maggie Myers

Angels

Emma Dean

Erin Dean

Miriam Myers

Mia Provenzano

Magi

Aran Cunningham

Henry Wade

Aarav Peter

Shepherds

Eddie Anderson

Saturn Cooks

Fisher Ferguson

Caleb Morales

Technical Crew

Todd Cunningham

Stefan Dugas

Peter Murray

Matt Myers

Drew Wade

Costumes

Melissa Kulwicki

Julia Myers

Makeup

Penelope Pleitez

Directors

Leslie Fulford

Peter Murray

We offer a heartfelt thank you to Peter Murray for his leadership and dedication to the First Church Christmas Pageant and congratulate him on this final performance. Thank you!

FESTIVE PRELUDE

AT TEN-THIRTY IN THE EVENING

ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her

Johann Pachelbel, Helmut Walcha, J.S. Bach

ANTHEM

The Little Road to Bethlehem

Michael Head, 1948

Margaret Rose, 1946

As I walked down the road at set of sun,
the lambs were coming homewards, one by one,
I heard a sheep-bell softly calling them
along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door, as I drew nigh,
I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby,
She sang about the lambs at close of day
and rocked her King among the hay.

Across the air a silver sheep-bell rang,
"The lambs are coming home," sweet Mary sang,
"Your Star of Gold is shining in the sky,
so sleep, my little King, go lullaby."

The People remain seated and join in singing:

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

"It came upon the midnight clear"

Carol, Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

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!

4 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

“Dormi, Jesu”

John Rutter, 1999

Latin, origin unknown; English, S.T. Coleridge, ca. 1800

Dormi, Jesu! mater ridet
Quae tam dulcem somnum videt,
Dormi, Jesu, dormi, Jesu blandule.

Si non dormis, mater plorat
Inter fila cantans orat,
Blande, veni, blande, veni, somnule.

Sleep, sweet baby! my cares beguiling:
Mother sits beside thee, smiling;
Sleep, my darling, tenderly.

If thou sleep not, mother mourneth,
Singing as her wheel she turneth:
Come, soft slumber, balmily!

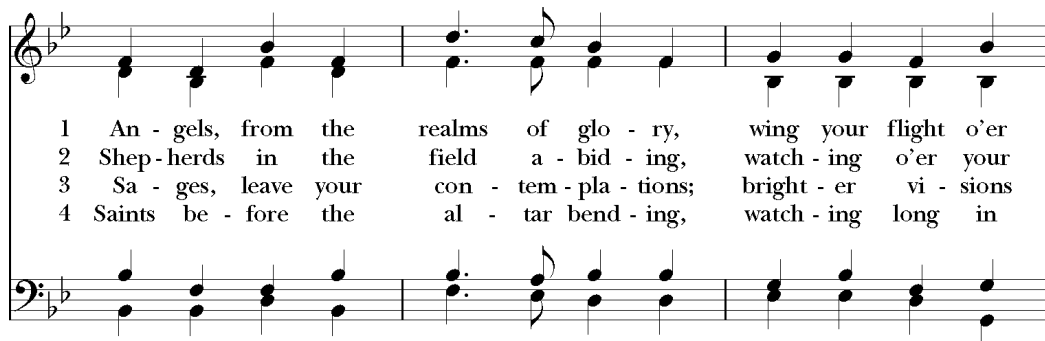
The People remain seated and join in singing:

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

“Angels from the realms of glory”

Regent Square, Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

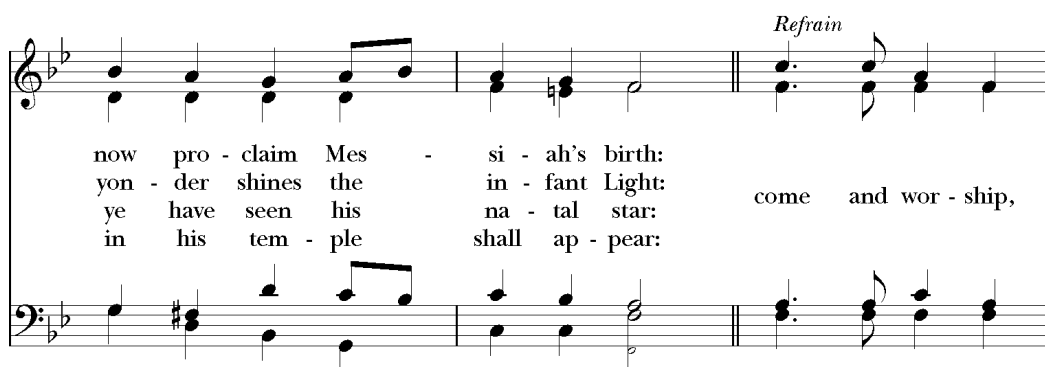
James Montgomery, 1816



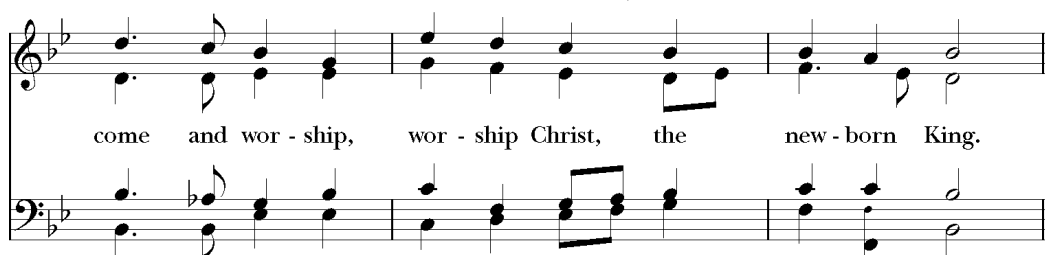
1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in



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
Sir Christèmas

William Mathias, 1970
Anonymous, c. 1500

Nowell, nowell.
Who is there that singeth so,
I am here, Sir Christèmas.
Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!
Welcome to all, both more and less!
Come near, come near, come near,
Nowell, nowell.
Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,
Tidings I you bring:
A maid hath borne a child full young,
Which causeth you to sing:
Nowell, nowell.

Christ is now born of a pure maid,
Born of a pure maid;
In an ox-stall he is laid,
Wherefore sing we at a brayde:
Nowell, nowell.
Buvez bien, buvez bien
Par toute la compagnie.
Make good cheer and be right merry,
And sing with us now joyfully
Nowell, nowell!

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

Ronald Jenkins

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!
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!

* WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE OF THE NEWBORN CHRIST

The Rev. jessica young chang

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.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Becky David

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.**

* 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

Teddi Obergefell and Makayla George

*CAROL

Antioch, Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

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

Isaac Watts, 1719

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

Mr. Jenkins

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.

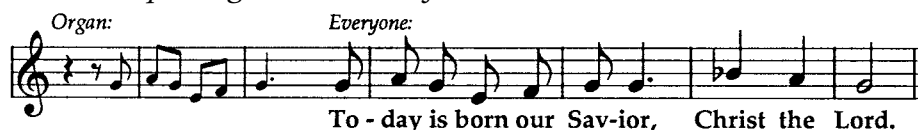
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalms 96:1-4, 11-12

The Choir introduces the Antiphon, after which the People join in singing the Antiphon, repeating as indicated after the Choir chants the verses.



Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Antiphon.

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.

Antiphon.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.

Antiphon.

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.

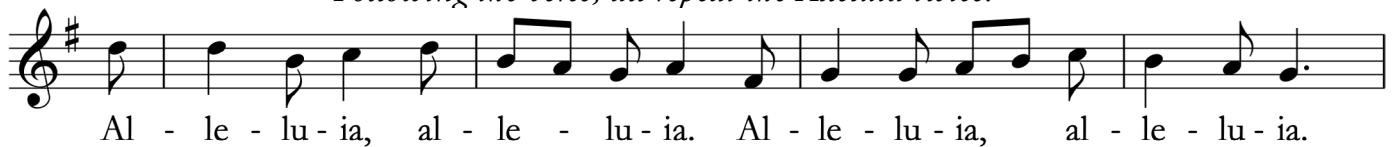
People: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sussex Alleluia

All stand. The Choir introduces the Alleluia, which is then repeated by the Congregation.

Following the verse, all repeat the Alleluia twice.



Verse: I proclaim to you good news of great joy,
today a Savior is born to you, Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

*THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–20

Rev. David

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.

SERMON

Rev. David

THE PRAYERS

Rev. David

THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan this QR code:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. David

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Good Samaritan Fund and Laundry Love**. It is more blessed to give than to receive and with your support, Laundry Love and Good Samaritan are able to give to people who need our help each month. Laundry Love brightens the lives of hundreds of people through love, dignity, and detergent, covering the supplies and paying for washing and drying costs. Good Samaritan gives people help and hope when they are in desperate need. Gift cards are used for food, medicine, and clothing. Families are able to keep their heat, water, and lights on instead of being disconnected. Your donations enrich the lives of hundreds of people each month. Please give generously to help our neighbors in need.

OFFERTORY 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.

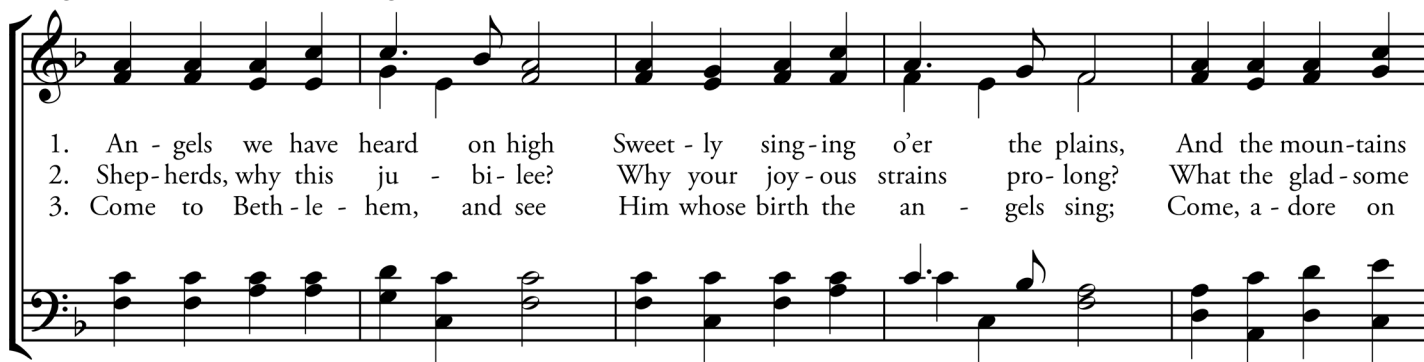
What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

* PRESENTATION CAROL

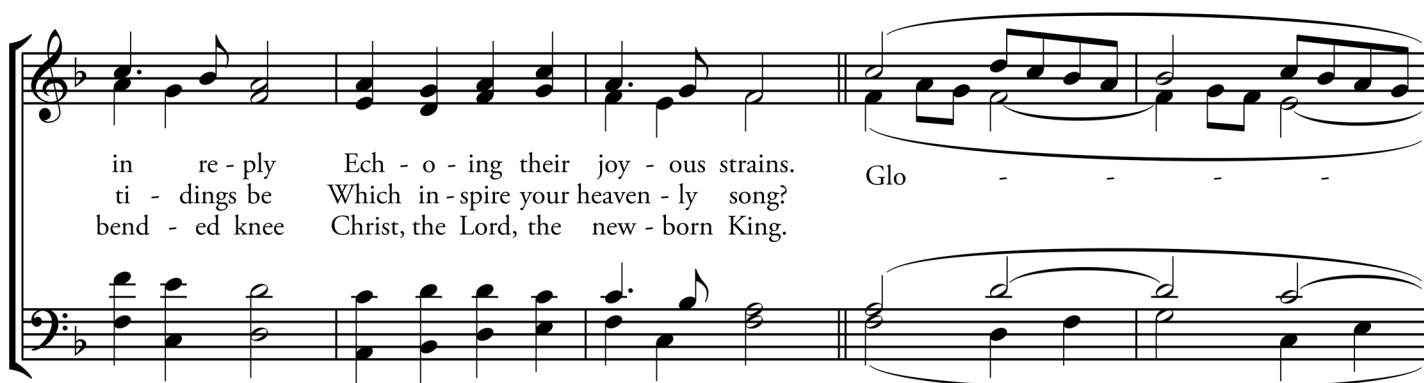
"Angels we have heard on high"

Gloria, French Carol

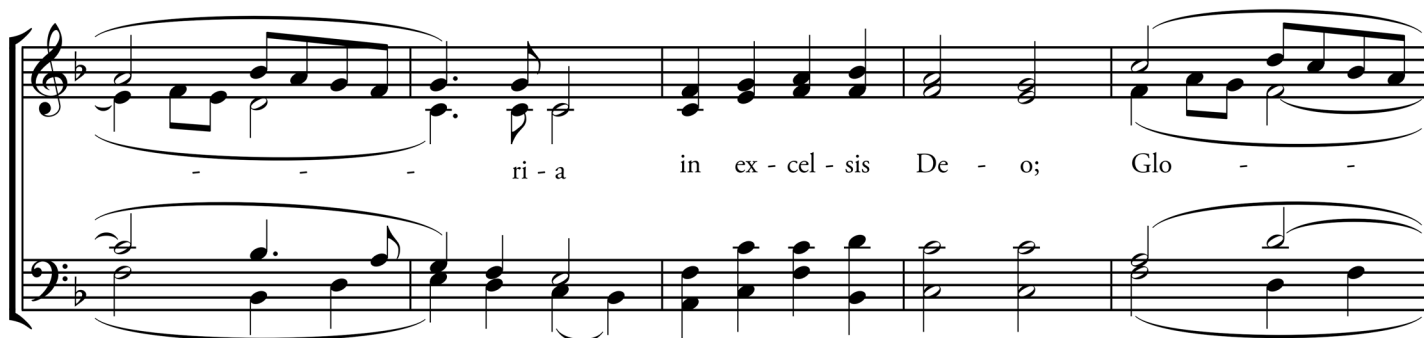
French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860



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.

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.

* SURSUM CORDA

Plainsong

The musical notation for the Sursum Corda prayer is presented in four staves, alternating between a Leader and the People. The notation is in a plainsong style, using a single melodic line with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The first staff is for the Leader, followed by the People, then the Leader, and finally the People. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise."

Leader

People

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Leader

People

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

Leader

People

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. David

We celebrate tonight, Emmanuel, God-with-us;
A God beyond all words, beyond all images.
Yet tonight we find joy in the image of God coming to us
in the form of the Christ child.

We sense God's presence in creation
and in the immensity of our universe,
in the incredible display of life on this planet,
and in our consciousness of something far greater than ourselves.

As Christians we rejoice in the birth of Jesus.
In him we see the fullness of possibility to make God visible in our lives.

Like all of us he grew in wisdom as he aged.
He questioned. He searched for meaning.
He shaped his convictions.

He experienced love and came to know love's connectedness with God.
He stood firmly in his own religious tradition
and preached good news to all people dreaming of a better humanity.

We rejoice that he taught us not to imagine a manipulative God,
but one who is as close as breath and as soft as a whisper,
yet powerfully drawing us toward the good.

We rejoice that Jesus led people to discover
the sacred in the ordinary, in the lowly, in everyday life,
in human yearnings to be better people,
and in being neighbor to one another.

We bless you O God, for this most precious gift, Jesus, as we lift our voices in praise.

* 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 the night before he died
when he shared a meal with his friends.
Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying,
“This is my body, broken, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

He poured out the wine. He gave thanks for all the blessings in his life
honoring the God so faithfully present in his life and ours.
“This is the cup of the new covenant. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Because of what we have been given, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

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

We break bread as Jesus did remembering the call to love generously and faithfully,
whatever the cost. We pour out wine remembering
our responsibility to be bearers of forgiveness, tolerance, and understanding.

**May these ordinary things be blessed
to become for us the meal of our belonging.**

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. David

ANTHEM

Hugh A. MacKinnon, 1924

"Sleeps Judea fair"

Sleeps Judea fair,
Bides the Christ Child there.
Shepherds, haste ye! flocks forsaking,
Swift your way to Him be taking.
Babe of Israel's prayer.
Babe of Israel's prayer.

Christ from God is come,
Choosing earthly home.
Royal pomp and splendor, never,
But with love, which naught can sever.
Christ from God is come
Christ from God is come.

Lowly bend the knee,
Thou from sin set free.
Let the Christ Child, meekly smiling,
Infant wise, all woe beguiling.
Grant His grace to thee.
Grant His grace to thee.

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.

*LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Rev. David and Rev. young chang

We celebrate the birth of Jesus and the Light that brought the people of God out of darkness.

*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.

*READING

John 1:1-14

Rev. David

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*CAROL

"Hark! the herald angels sing"

Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

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.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. young chang

POSTLUDE

Toccata-Gigue on the Sussex Carol

George Baker, 2009

*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 Becky David, *co-celebrant and preacher*
The Reverend Jessica Young Chang, *co-celebrant and preacher*
Ronald Jenkins, *liturgist*
Teddi Obergefell and Makayla George, *Christ Candle lighters*
Stefan Duga, *crucifer*
Jason Harrell and Sebastian Kulwicki, *vergers*
Henry Wade and Aarav Peter, *torchbearers*
The First Church Choir
Joshua Stafford, *director and organist*
James E. Bobb, *organist*
Peter Murray, *livestream ministry*

THE FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

Soprano: Cynthia Adcock, Marti Baumer, Candy Cummings, Sharon Ferguson, Rose Kandel,
Ramona Moenter, Emily Riggin, Megan Smith, Lissa Wade

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,
Gregory Halbe, Sebastian Kulwicki, Nathaniel Powell

Bass: Albert 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 honor of our parents Joseph & Betty Niemiec and Victor & Ruth Adcock
by Albert and Cynthia Adcock

In celebration of Jesus' birth and in loving and grateful memory of my parents and my brothers
by Marti Baumer

In memory of Maxine & Bill Gilson and Irene & Al Braverman by Nancy Braverman

In gratitude for the music at First Church by Nancy Braverman

In memory of Cody & Betty, Connie & Ralph, and Rand Hamilton by Susan Vining Brooks

In celebration of Leslie & Bill, Beth & Frank, Stacy & Paul, and Ginny & John,
by Susan Vining Brooks

In memory of our parents by Mark & Melanie Brown

In memory of Jeff Clapham by Barbara Clapham

In honor of First Church Stephen Ministers and all Care Receivers who have reached out
in time of need by Barbara Clapham

In celebration of family and friends by Bev & Bert Cook

In loving memory of Chad & Scott Bickford by Becky David

In memory of our parents and grandparents: Kathleen Dean, Ruth & Ralph Dean, and Janice
Kinney Kutschbach, John Kinney and William Kutschbach by
Geoffrey, Amanda, & Jennifer Dean

In memory of my parents, Arlene & Bill Ellenberger by Allison Ellenberger

In honor of Joshua Stafford for sharing his life and talents with all of us by Melva Fisher

In memory of my parents who taught me to be the person I am today by Melva Fisher

In memory of Arlene Reynolds and Paul Flocken

In memory of G. Dene Barnard by Jennifer Fry

In celebration of Joshua Stafford by Jennifer Fry

In celebration First Church Ringers and First Church Campanelle by Jennifer Fry

In memory of Wally Giffen and other loved ones

In honor of shut in members of First Church by Dan Harkins

In celebration of grandchildren Jesse, Quinn, Ava, Caleb, and Hannah
by Paul & Melody Leidheider

In memory of Rev. Charles Livingston & Mildred Whistler Livingston by Nancy Livingston

In memory of parents Charles & Beulah McCormick by Annette McCormick

In loving memory of Mary and Moses Murray by The McCrary Family

In honor of our brother and uncle, Moses Murray, Jr. by The McCrary Family

In memory of Rollie and Marilyn Rausch and Elmer, Evelyn, and Kevin Moenter and Tom Huss
by Ramona and Barry Moenter

In memory of my mother, Betty Stone, who always gave me a poinsettia at Christmas
by Pat Patterson

In memory of John Poppe and Dorothy & Dale Faith by Barb Poppe& Bill Faith
In memory of parents David & Ardis Postle by Richard & Rosemary Postle
In honor of Joshua Stafford, Jennifer Fry, singing and handbell choirs, instrumentalists,
and all who praise God through music by Marti Rideout
In memory of Rob Rideout and all those who now sing in the angel choirs by Marti Rideout
In honor of my family: Lissa & Drew Wade, Cameron & Liv, Adam & Zoe, Henry;
Jan Wade; Brian & Emily Rideout, Elyse, Sophie & Sam Rideout by Marti Rideout
In loving memory of Helen & Henry E. Wilson, M.D. by Lesley and Karl Schaab
In memory of Dana Navin Schultz by Hugh Schultz
In memory of Dale Brookins Wade, Robert & Louise Wade, Paul & Adelia Schwiebert,
and John T. Doult, Sr. by Jan Wade
In memory of parents & grandparents Edward & Betty Ryan and Charles & Julia Wagner by
Amy, Bill, Katie, & Charles Wagner
In memory of loved ones by Marty & Gerry Worth

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Interim Senior Minister: Rev. Becky David, M.Div.

Interim Associate Minister: Rev. Jessica Young Chang, 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

Building and Grounds Superintendent: Kevin Salem

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 Training Coordinator:

Wendy Kennedy

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator:

Susie Loik

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Communications, Media

and IT Coordinator: Annette McCormick

Senior Deacon: Martha Worth

Deacons: Allen Baker, Fubara Braide, Stella Braide, Heather Jones, Brian Kemp, Allison Lowery, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Fran Panek, Gary Seigerst, Thomason Smith

Transition Team: Jacquelyn Dean and Nancy Loy, co-chairpersons, Todd Cunningham, Rev. Becky David, Scott Graham, Gregory Halbe, Susie Loik, Allison Lowery, Pavan Peter, Sarah Reed, Joshua Stafford

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: Frank Cook

Trustees: Matthew Bendick, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Melody Leidheiser, Janet Miller, Sarah Reed, Judy Smith (Secretary), Hugh Schultz

CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Moderator: Sarah Reed

Moderator-elect:

Treasurer: Ramona Moenter

Treasurer-elect:

Secretary: Amanda Butler

Secretary-elect:

Nominating Chair: Gregory Halbe

COMMISSIONERS

Church Stewardship and Church Growth: Stephen Sterrett

Church Stewardship and Church Growth-elect: Kathy Reed

Church Vitality: Pat Patterson

Church Vitality-elect: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

Communications and Technology Commission: Mike Kennedy

Communications and Technology Commission-elect: Nathaniel Powell

Faith Formation Commission: Cami Curren

Faith Formation Commission-elect: Mariner Taft

House & Grounds: Eric Klintworth

House & Grounds-elect:

Justice & Mercy: James Lowe

Justice & Mercy-elect: Janice Taft

Music, Arts & Heritage: Jim Griffin

Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Cheryl Hoskinson

Member-at-Large: Martha Wilson

Personnel: Neal Brower

Personnel-elect:

Youth Member-at-Large: Sebastian Kulwicki

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. 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.

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

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