

# *Christmas Eve*



*December 24, 2016  
8:00 and 11:00 p.m.*



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# GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

*Asterisks (\*) indicate an invitation to stand as you are able.*

## OPENING MUSIC

### INTROIT

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the world's began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source,  
the ending he of the things that are,  
that have been and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,  
and unwearied praises be:  
honor, glory and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore. Amen.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, trans. John Mason Neale and Henry W. Baker

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

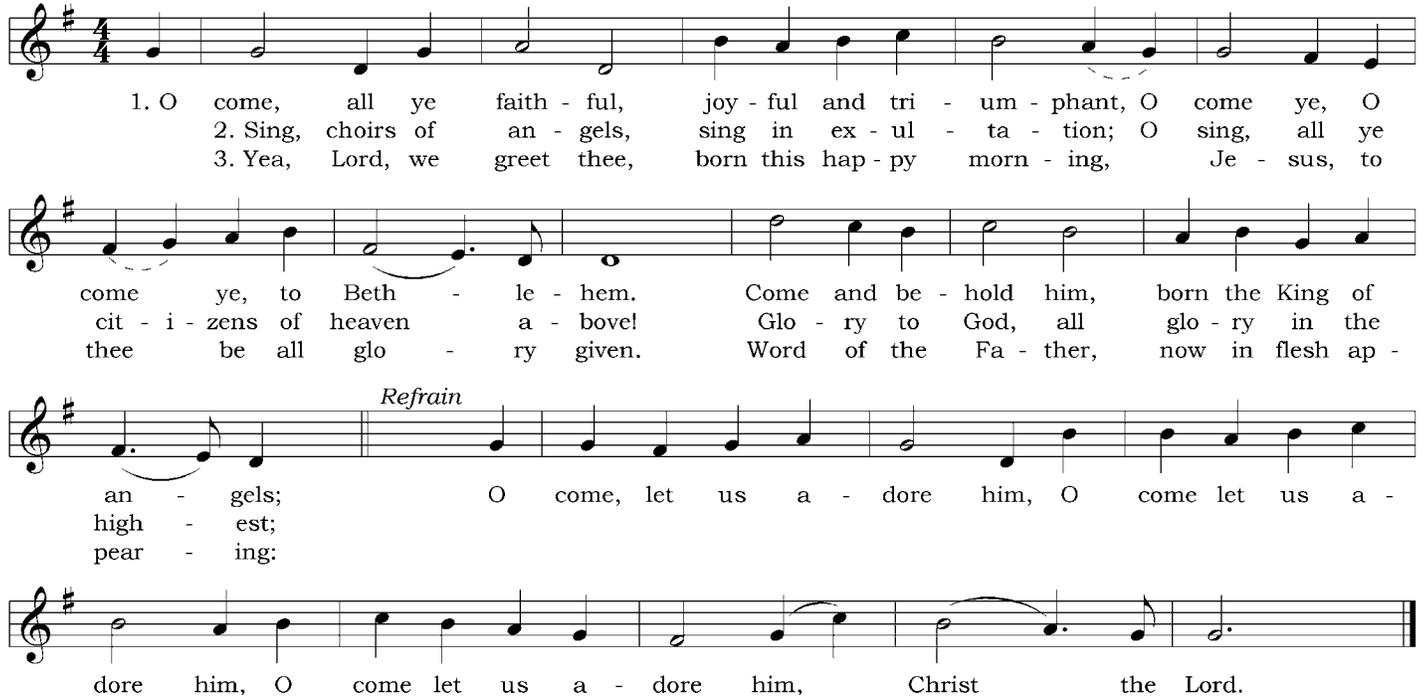
Do not be afraid; for see—  
I am bringing you good news of great joy.  
**To us is born this day in the city of David  
a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**

This will be a sign for you:  
you will find a child wrapped in cloth  
and lying in a manger.

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace!**

## \* OPENING CAROL

## O Come, All Ye Faithful



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O  
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O sing, all ye  
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, Je - sus, to

come ye, to Beth - le - hem. Come and be - hold him, born the King of  
cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the  
thee be all glo - ry given. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap -

*Refrain*  
an - gels; O come, let us a - dore him, O come let us a -  
high - est;  
pear - ing:

dore him, O come let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade; translation by Frederick Oakeley and others

Music: ADESTE FIDELES; present form of melody attributed to John Francis Wade; harmonization The English Hymnal, 1906

## \* LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*The white candle on the Advent wreath, signifying Christ, is now lighted.*

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!  
We light this candle because Jesus, the light of the world,  
was born on this day,  
and he brightens all things.  
**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns.**  
**O come, let us adore Him!**

## \* OPENING PRAYER

**O God of love,  
from a lowly manger your glory shines  
into the darkness of our world and our lives.**

**Open our eyes to the light of Christ.  
Bring us into the wonder of your presence tonight.  
Speak to us, that we may hear the good news  
of your salvation and love for all. Amen.**

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,  
 it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
 till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.  
 A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
 for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
 Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!  
 O night divine! O night when Christ was born!  
 Truly he taught us to love one another;  
 his law is love and his gospel is peace.  
 Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
 and in his name all oppression shall cease.  
 Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
 let all within us praise his holy name.  
 Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we.  
 His power and glory evermore proclaim.

John Sullivan Dwight

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

### LUKE 2:1-5

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.

*All sing:*

**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.**

### LUKE 2:6-7

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.

*All sing:*

**Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.**

#### **LUKE 2:8-12**

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.”

*All sing:*

**The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.**

#### **LUKE 2:13-14**

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!”

*All sing:*

**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!**

#### **LUKE 2:15-20**

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.

*All sing, standing:*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found.**

## WELCOME

## SERMON

Christmas In Chaos

Taylor Fuerst

## FEASTING AT GOD'S TABLE

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*Tonight you are invited to meet the Christ Child in the Holy Feast and there to have your deepest hunger satisfied. Everyone, without exception, is invited to come to the Lord's Table. You don't have to be a member of this church to come, but no one should feel pressured.*

### PRAYER

*Then all prayerfully sing:*



O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and  
en - ter in, be born in us to - day. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the  
great glad ti - dings tell; O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks

Music: ST. LOUIS - Lewis H. Redner

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*To our guests: Your presence tonight is itself a gift to God and to this church. Please do not feel obligated to make an offering. We believe that all we have and all we are is a gift from God, and so we give joyfully to participate in God's good work in the world. If you would like to support the ongoing ministry of First United Methodist Church, simply place your offering in the plate as it is passed. If you would like to help us purchase a home for one of our neighbors who is homeless through the gift of an RV to Community First! Village, be sure to use the "Christmas Offering" envelope located in your pew or write "Christmas Offering" in the memo.*

## OFFERTORY

### On Christmas Night (Sussex Carol)

English Carol / Arr. David Willcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
to hear the news the angels bring -  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King's birth.  
Then why should we on earth be so sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad?  
When from our sin he set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty?  
When sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health come in its place;  
angels and people with joy may sing,  
all for to see the newborn King.  
All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God and peace to all,  
now and forevermore. Amen."

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**\* PRESENTATION SONG** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be-low; praise God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fath-er, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma-ry.

Words: Thomas Ken and William C. Dix, alt.

Music: GREENSLEEVES - 16th cent. English melody

**\* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The pastor gives thanks for the gift of the Christ Child and the mystery of the Incarnation.*

And so, we bow in holy splendor before the wonder of your incarnation

and join with the heavenly host in their unending hymn,

praising and glorifying you, singing:

*Intro (first time only)* *All*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts, all praise be given!  
 Bles-sed is the one who came, bring-ing love and light di - vine.

All your glo - ry fills the earth; all your pow - er fills the heavens. Glo - - - -  
 Bles-sed is the king who comes in the bread and in the wine.

- - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - - - - -

- ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - - o!

Words: Unknown origin, revised by Daniel Benedict and Dean McIntyre

Music: GLORIA - French carol melody

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*The congregation may be seated. The pastor gives thanks for the Lord's Supper, invokes the Holy Spirit upon this meal, prays for others, and concludes:*

All this we pray in Christ's name,  
 through whom, with whom, in whom,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,  
 now and forever.

**Amen.**

*All sing:*

*Intro* *All*

Glo - - - - - - - - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - - - - - - - - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

## 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.

## GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*We will commune by "intinction," i.e., the minister will place the bread in your open hand, saying, "The body of Christ given for you," to which you respond, "Amen." You will then pass on to the server with the cup, dip the bread lightly in the cup, and eat.*

*There will be four serving stations, one for each section. Those in the two center sections will come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Those in the far right and left sections will come by the side aisle and return to their seats by the aisle along the windows. You may kneel for prayer at the chancel rail or return to your seat. Those unable to come to the front may have the sacrament brought to them. Please signify this desire to an usher.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

|     |                              |                     |
|-----|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 240 | Hark! the Herald Angels Sing |                     |
| 242 | Angels We Have Heard on High | Stanzas 2, 3, and 4 |
| 228 | He Is Born                   |                     |
| 221 | In the Bleak Midwinter       |                     |
| 219 | What Child Is This           |                     |
| 229 | Infant Holy, Infant Lowly    |                     |
| 230 | O Little Town of Bethlehem   | Stanzas 2 and 3     |

## SPREADING THE LIGHT

### THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ILLUMINES US

**\* CLOSING PRAYER**

**O God, you have made this night radiant  
with the splendor of the true Light, Jesus Christ.  
May the Light of Him who was born the Prince of Peace  
shine in our lives and keep us in his perfect peace,  
tonight and always. Amen.**

**\* CLOSING CAROL**

**Silent Night, Holy Night**

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright  
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight;  
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!  
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.

Words: Joseph Mohr, alt. stanzas 1, 2, 3, translated by John F. Young; stanza 4 translated unknown

Music: STILLE NACHT - Franz Gruber

*After the pastors carry the light out, the congregation may begin to leave quietly. Those waiting to exit may continue to sing the carol over again. As we leave tonight, we carry the light of Christ into the world with songs of faith on our lips and love of God in our hearts.*

## WORSHIP LEADERS

*Preacher*

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

*Liturgists*

Reverend Michael Mumme

Reverend Cathy Stone

*Music Director/Organist*

Scott Davis

*11:00 Cantor*

Wendi Olinger