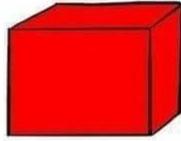
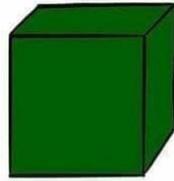


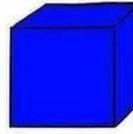
GIFTS I WOULD GIVE YOU IF I COULD:



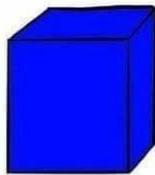
ALL THE  
TIME YOU NEED  
TO DO ALL THE  
THINGS YOU  
WANT TO DO



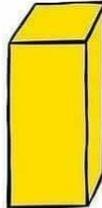
THE APOLOGY  
YOU DESERVE  
BUT NEVER GOT



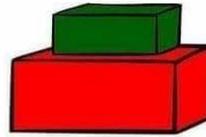
THE ABILITY  
TO TALK TO  
ANIMALS



A FEELING  
OF PEACE SO  
PROFOUND IT  
MAKES YOU  
A BIT SLEEPY



PERMISSION  
TO BE  
IMPERFECT



FREEDOM FROM  
FEAR  
  
(AND A FUN  
PAIR OF SOCKS)

@WORRY\_\_LINES

**First Sunday after Christmas**  
**First United Church of Christ**  
**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation**  
**December 26, 2021**

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

**Prelude** *Prelude in C Major* J.S Bach (1685-1750)  
from *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, Book 2

**Welcome and Testimony** Carol Rutz

**Call to Worship**  
*A Christmas poem is read while the candles are lit.*

**Sung Response** *When God Is a Child* Brian Wren  
(see page 8) Joan Collier Fogg

**Announcements**

**Opening Hymn** *Joy to the World* Antioch

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

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love.**

**Time With Children**

**Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.  
All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.**

**Carol** *The Friendly Beasts* Orientis partibus

**Jesus, our brother kind and good,  
Was humbly born in a stable rude,  
And the friendly beasts around him stood,  
Jesus, our brother kind and good.**

**“I,” said the donkey, all shaggy and brown,  
“I carried his mother up hill and down;**

**I carried her safe to Bethlehem town,  
I,” said the donkey, all shaggy and brown.  
“I,” said the cow, all white and red,  
“I gave him my manger for his bed,  
I gave him my hay to pillow his head,  
I,” said the cow, all white and red.**

"I," said the dove from the rafters high,                      We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I,  
"I cooed him to sleep so he would not cry,                      I," said the dove from the rafters high.  
So every beast by some good spell  
In the stable dark was glad to tell  
Of the give they gave Emmanuel,  
The gift they gave Emmanuel.

Scripture	Luke 2:41-52	Leota Goodney
Story		Rev. Cindy Maddox
Carol	<i>Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella</i>	Un flambeau

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella!  
Bring a torch, to the cradle run!  
It is Jesus, good folk of the village;  
Christ is born and Mary's calling.  
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother!  
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the child!

Wrong it is when the child is sleeping,  
Wrong to make the slightest sound.  
Come now, one and all, to adore him,  
But be still, adore in silence.  
Soft! Soft! Him must we not awaken,  
Soft! Soft! He must remain asleep.

Gently come to the humble stable,  
Pause beside his holy bed.  
See how beautiful is Jesus,  
Like a rose, so pure, so lovely.  
Hush! Hush! Sweet is the sleep of Jesus.  
Hush! Hush! Holy is his rest.

### The Prayers

*We will begin with prayers in song, then a minister will pray, and there will be time for silent prayer. Then we will sing again. All joining worship on Zoom are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.*

### Sung Response

One: God, draw near.  
Many: **God, draw near; draw near, draw near, and stay.**

**Prayer of Jesus**

New Zealand Prayer Book - He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
Sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Carol**

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Regent Square

**Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant light. *Refrain.***

*Refrain:* **Come and worship,  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great desire of nations;  
Ye have seen his natal star. *Refrain.***

**Prayer of Thanks**

**Carol**

*Good Christians All, Rejoice*

In dulci jubilo

**Good Christians all, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow,**

**And he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!**

**Good Christians all, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice:  
Now ye hear of endless bliss;  
Jesus Christ was born for this.  
He hath oped the heav'nly door  
And we are blessed forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christians all, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!**

#### **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Gavotte in D Minor*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**We are so glad you worshiped here today!  
Zoom breakout rooms are available for friendship and conversation after the service.  
We hope you will stay!**

## **News to Note**

#### **Worship Information**

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. in person on Sundays, no registration required. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here! Are you visiting today? [Fill out our virtual visitor card.](#)

#### **Giving to the Church**

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. [Give online now.](#) or send in your gifts via mail.

#### **News & Announcements**

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! [Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter](#), and find First UCC on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org).

### **This Week at First UCC**

Monday, December 27

#### **Church Office Closed**

1–5:30 p.m. Mary Wood Family Gathering (Assembly Room)

Tuesday, December 28

**9 a.m.–12 p.m. Church Office Open**

**7 p.m. Church Council Meeting (Zoom)**

Wednesday, December 29

**9 a.m.–12 p.m. Church Office Open**

Thursday, December 30

**9 a.m.–12 p.m. Church Office Open**

Friday, December 31

#### **Church Office Closed**

Saturday, January 1

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Electronics Recycling (200 Orchard St S)

Sunday, January 2

**10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship**

### **This Week We're Praying For**

Ken and Laurie Brackee

Jan Maddox

The Eastvold Family, grieving the death of Matt Eastvold's brother-in-law

### **Church Office Hours December 27-31**

The First UCC church office will be closed on Monday, December 27, and Friday, December 31. The office will be open with limited hours on Tuesday–Thursday, December 28–30, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### **Year-End Giving**

2021 Contribution Deadline: 2021 Contributions must be postmarked or received in the church office by Dec. 31, 2021. Contributions postmarked or received after Dec. 31 are required to be classified as 2022 contributions. **The church office will be closed on Friday, December 31.**

2022 Prepaid Pledge Gifts: If your 2021 contribution is a prepayment for 2022, please mark your check clearly as such.

2022 Electronic Giving: Visit <https://firstucc.org/giving/donate-electronically-now/> for more information on setting up a recurring online gift; also see the announcement, below,

2021 Year-End Giving Statements: All 2021 contributors will receive a year-end summary giving statement in January 2022 that reflects all donations received or postmarked prior to January 1, 2022.

Please contact the church office at [church@firstucc.org](mailto:church@firstucc.org) or 507-645-7532 with any questions!

### **Set Up Your Recurring Gift Online for 2022**

It's easy to set up a recurring online gift for First UCC for 2022! Several ways of giving online are available to you. The first is through your own bank. Many banks offer free online bill pay services, which you can set up for recurring or one-time payments. This method has no cost to the church and probably no cost to you, though you should check with your bank to be sure. Online giving is also available through our new church management software called Breeze. Our current giving system is phasing out at the end of 2021, so if you gave electronically in the past, you'll need to sign up for the new giving system. Learn more at <http://firstucc.org/giving/donate-electronically-now/>

### **ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)**

The rescheduled Northfield ISAIAH Summit will be on Saturday, January 8, from 10 a.m. to noon. We'll share our thoughts on local and state-wide priorities, and strategize how to bring them into 2022 decision making spaces such as the forthcoming legislative session and caucuses. [Register for the new January 8 date here.](#) Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email [isaiah@firstucc.org](mailto:isaiah@firstucc.org).

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#### **First UCC Leadership & Staff**



**Ministers:** All the people

**Moderator:** Sam Steinberg

**Senior Minister:** Rev. Cindy Maddox

**Minister for Congregational Life:** Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

**Director of Music:** Chris Brunelle

**Organist:** Theo Wee

**Director of Communications & Operations:** Green Bouzard

**Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator:** Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

**Sexton:** Mark Fischer

#### **Thanks to this Week's Leaders**



**Ushers:** Jeffrey Latterell, Joan Higinbotham, Garda Kahn, Beth Kallestad, Scott Richardson

**Reader:** Leota Goodney

**Digital Zoom Host:** Gary Wagenbach

**Tech Team:** Annika Reister

**Worship Arts:** Linda Gagnon

# When God Is a Child

(c) 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

Joan Collier Fogg

Brian Wren



Hope is a star that shines in the night, lead - ing us on till the  
Peace is a ribbon that cir - cles the earth, giv - ing a pro - mise of  
Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn, tell - ing the world that the  
Love is a flame that burns in our heart. Je - sus has come and will



morn - ing is bright.  
safe - ty and worth. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be  
Sav - ior is born. nev - er de - part.



first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.