



Christmas Eve

**First United Church of Christ of Northfield
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation**

December 24, 2021

4:00 p.m.

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

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude

What Child Is This
Ben Reister, trumpet

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior
Prelude in A Major, BWV 536

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

What Child Is This

Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

Once in Royal David's City

John Behnke (b. 1953)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Shawn, Dylan, and Christopher Nuebel

A poem is read.

I Will Light Candles by Howard Thurman

I will light candles this Christmas:
Candles of joy, despite all sadness
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch
Candles of courage where fear is ever present
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens
Candles of love to inspire all my living
Candles that will burn all the year long.

The Advent Candles and the Christ Candle are lit.

Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**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;**

Refrain: **O come, let us adore him, o come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest. (*Refrain*)**

Welcome and Invocation

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Anthem

Sans Day Carol

Ronald Arnatt (1971)

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk.

Refrain: And Mary bore Jesus Christ our savior for to be,
And the first tree in the greenwood it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross. *Refrain.*

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all. *Refrain.*

Now the holly bears a berry as blood it is red,
Then trust we our savior, who rose from the dead. *Refrain.*

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1–7

Carol Rutz

Carol

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

Children's Time

Carol

What Child is This

**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.**

**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*)**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, rich and poor, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him. (*Refrain*)**

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8–20

Brad Hoff

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

**Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.**

Refrain: **Gloria in excelsis Deo,** (Glory to God in the highest)
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? (*Refrain*)**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (*Refrain*)**

Homily

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Anthem

Where Riches Is Everlastingly

Peter Warlock (1928)

Into this world this day did come
Jesus Christ, both God and man,
Lord and servant in one person,
Born of the blessed Virgin Mary.

Refrain: I pray you be merry and sing with me
In worship of Christ's nativity.

A stable was his chamber, a cratch was his bed,
He had not a pillow to lay under his head;
With maiden's milk that babe was fed,
In poor clothes was lapped the Lord Almighty.
(*Refrain.*)

A noble lesson here is us taught,
To set all worldly riches at naught,
But pray we that we may be thither brought
Where riches is everlastingly. (*Refrain.*)

Christmas Prayer

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Carol

Joy to the World

**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.**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2: 1–12

Shawn Nuebel

Invitation to Share our Gifts

Tonight's offering will support both the Community Action Center and the Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ. Gifts may be designated to either one, and any undesignated gifts will be split between the two. Checks may be made out to First UCC. Please give generously as you are able.

Offertory

Long, Long Ago

Carol Barnett (2004)

Wind through the olive trees
softly did blow
'round little Bethlehem
long, long ago.

Then from the happy sky
angels bent low
singing their songs of joy,
long, long ago.

Sheep on the hillside lay,
whiter than snow;
shepherds were watching them,
long, long ago.

For in a manger bed,
cradled below
Christ came to Bethlehem
long, long ago.

Our Prayer of Thanks

O God, we give thanks for your love, in the flesh, with us in all things. We give thanks for the Christ child, a gift for us to receive and share. With Christmas joy, we humbly give you our lives and our hearts. Amen.

Poem

Blessed Are You Who Bear the Light

by Jan Richardson

Sharing the Light

As we sing *Silent Night* together, candlelight will be spread throughout the room. When the flame nears you, we encourage you to tip your unlit candle to the flame, and then hold your flame upright as the next person tips their unlit candle to yours. Battery-operated candles are also available from the ushers.

Carol

Silent Night

**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.**

**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!**

**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

Postlude

Angels We Have Heard on High

Timothy Albrecht (1997)

We are so glad you worshiped here today!

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.

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.

Christmas Eve Offering

Tonight's offering will support both the Community Action Center and the Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ. Gifts may be designated to either one, and any undesignated gifts will be split between the two. Checks may be made out to First UCC. If [giving online](#), the fund names are as follows: Christmas Fund (UCC) and CAC, if you wish to designate gifts to each fund individually; Christmas Eve Offering, if you wish to donate one amount that will be split for you between the two funds. Please give generously as you are able.

The flowers and plants in the sanctuary this Christmas season were purchased with funds from the Flower Power account. We thank you for your gifts that honor and remember loved ones:

- In memory of Don and Susie Leff and Bob Reister, given by their children Jami and Randy Reister and family
- In memory of Jerry Hankins and Frank Gery, given by Marie Gery
- Anonymous
- In honor of Our Children and Grandchildren, given by Dorothea Hrossowyc and Craig Holden
- In memory of Lawraine Fey Beery and William Beery, given by Elizabeth Olson and family
- Anonymous
- In memory of David Walters, given by Debbie Walters
- In memory of Jerry Hankins, given by Liz Hankins
- In memory of My Parents, given by Jan Stevens
- In memory of Jerry Hankins, given by Jim and Gretchen Gillis
- In memory of Our Parents, given by Tom and Linda Gagnon
- In memory of Paul Hodel, father of Marty Hodel, given by Marty and Shana Hodel
- In memory of Our Parents, given by Barbara and Richard Crouter
- In memory of William "Bill" Haslett, given by his family
- In memory of my parents, Warren and Dorothy Eastman, given by Barbara Altstaetter
- In memory of Jerry Hankins and Penny Cupp, given by Carl and Mary Caroline Henry
- In memory of Anthony and Julia Savina and in honor of Jean Savina and Gayle Barney, given by Mary E. Savina
- In memory of William Gerard, given by Susan Gerard
- In memory of Raymond Cox and Marjorie Cox, given by Jennifer Cox Johnson and Bill Johnson
- In memory of My Grandparents, given by Beth Kallestad
- In memory of Mary Ellen Bowe and in honor of wonderful church staff: Pastors Cindy and Lauren, Theo, Chris, Bob, Green, and Mark, given by Ed and Lois Langerak
- In memory of My Parents, given by Sue Evans
- In honor of This Loving Congregation, given by The McNeil-Maddox Family
- In memory of Peggy Tilsen, given by Meg Ojala
- Nancy and Jim Barbour
- Judy Bond
- Anne Meyer-Ruppel and Paul Ruppel

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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 Evening's Leaders



Ushers: Anne Meyer-Ruppel, Beth Kallestad, Elise Eslinger, Lynne Pederson, Charlie Pederson, Scott Richardson, Linda Larson
Advent Wreath Lighting and Poem: Shawn, Dylan, and Christopher Nuebel
Scripture Readers: Shawn Nuebel, Brad Hoff, Carol Rutz
Digital Zoom Host: Gary Wagenbach
Tech Team: Annika Reister
ASL Interpretation: Mary Jo Cristofaro
Worship Arts: Linda Gagnon