



Christmas Eve
First United Church of Christ of Northfield
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation
December 24, 2022
4:00 p.m.

**One candle for hope to tell of his birth.
 One candle for peace he brought to the earth.
 One candle for joy, one candle for love,
 For Jesus who came from heaven above.**

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-6

Garda Kahn

Anthem

Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning

John Gardner (1963)

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
 Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
 Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
 Guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
 Odors of Edom and offerings divine?
 Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
 Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
 Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
 Maker and monarch and savior of all.

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
 Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
 Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
 Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
 Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
 Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
 Guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

—Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

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 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

Pastor Lauren

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-14
(A Noisy Christmas)

Rev. Cindy Maddox

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.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Poem

Gabriel's Annunciation, by Jan Richardson

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Anthem

Christ's Lullaby

Sally Ann Morris (2003)

Come, see the small one
cradled in straw.
God's whole creation
gathers in awe.
Worlds hushed in silence
hear from on high
morning stars singing
Christ's lullaby.

Wind of the Spirit,
new baby's breath,
mingle in drawing
life out of death.
Empty and yearning,
earth fills with song,
no longer waiting,
wondering how long.

God never slumbers.
Yet, at the breast,
Jesus the Christ child
nestles at rest.
Angels are watching,
hovering on high,
echoing "Glory!":
Christ's lullaby.

—Mary Louise Bringle

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:15-20

Mandy Everhart

Homily

Mary Looks Back

Rev. Cindy Maddox

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.

Invitation to Share our Gifts

Tonight's offering will support both Northfield's 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, or see page 7 of the bulletin for links. Please give generously as you are able.

Offertory

Evergreen

Daniel Pinkham (1974)

How fine the sweetness from the bough!
Evergreen, everliving,
Like the prayer offered now for a whole world's forgiving;
While the Christ Child is sleeping, worlds of woe in his keeping, worlds of joy in his dream.
Lord, redeem us, redeem us!
That when thou art waking, the hearts we uplift shall be thy Christmas gift
And be well worth thy taking.

How bright the radiance of the tree,
Evergreen, everlasting,
Like the feast day to be after long years of fasting.
Bright in hope Christmas morning to the Christ Child returning, once again we believe.
Lord, receive us, receive us!
When we come before thee, the heart's joy we bring Noel! Noel shall sing
And forever adore thee.

—Robert Hillyer (1895-1961)

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.

Christmas Prayer

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Sharing the Light

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

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
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.

Benediction

Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Emma Lou Diemer (1927-)

We are so glad you worshiped here this evening! Merry Christmas!

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 Loved Ones Who've Gone Away—from Marie Gery
In Memory of Jerry Hankins—from Liz Hankins and Family
In Memory of Ira and Berniece Farley, and John and Eleanor Gagnon—from Tom and Linda Gagnon
In Memory of Jan Maddox—from Cindy Maddox
In Memory of William A. Johnson, Raymond R. Cox, and Marjorie H. Cox—from Jennifer Cox Johnson
In Memory of Tom Pender and Hallie Dew—from Patsy Dew
In Honor of Roberta Dew Conant—from Patsy Dew
In Honor of Our Children—from Anne Meyer Ruppel and Paul Ruppel
In Honor of Our Wonderful Pastors, Staff, and Committees at First UCC—from Lois and Ed Langerak
In Honor of Julien Sullivan—from Ann and Dan Sullivan
In Honor of Our Grandsons—from Richard and Barbara Crouter
In Honor of Our Children and Grandchildren—from Craig Holden and Dorothea Hrossowyc

News to Note

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. in person on Sundays. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. 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.](#)

Join Us For Christmas Worship

December 25th, 10:30 a.m.: Sunday Christmas Worship, in person and online. Children are welcome to attend in pajamas.

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 Holiday Hours

The First UCC church office will be closed on Monday, December 26 as well as on Monday, January 2 and will be open December 27 - December 30 from 9 to noon only.

Office Manager Needed

The church is looking for a new Office Manager & Director of Communications. This is a part-time position (25 hours per week). Please contact the church office for more information if you are interested in applying.

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. Please note that all contributions for 2022 must be postmarked or received in the church office by December 31.

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.

Give safely this Christmas.

Give Online
<https://firstucc.breezechms.com/giveonline>

Give by Text
Text the amount you wish to give to (507) 335-2335

The image shows a laptop screen displaying a donation form with a \$0.00 amount and a 'Continue' button. Next to it is a smartphone screen showing a text message confirmation: 'Thanks for your gift of \$10.00! You've been emailed a receipt. Type refund if this was a mistake.'



Or scan this QR Code from your mobile device.

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Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning © 1964 Oxford University Press
Improvisation on 'The First Nowell' © 1956 Oxford University Press

Variations on the Sussex Carol © 1984 Concordia Publishing House
Christmas Prelude on Divinum Mysterium © 1952 Novello & Co.
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing © 1980 The Sacred Music Press
Christ's Lullaby © 2003 GIA Publications, Inc.
Evergreen © 1974 Lone Press

Welcome to Worship at First UCC!

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this evening. Please let us know you're here
by sharing your information in a welcome pad.

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. Give online by visiting firstucc.org and clicking "Donate Online Now!" under the "Giving" tab, place your gift in the offering plate, 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, at firstucc.org, and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at firstucc.org.

Bulletin cover art created by Kate Hoffman, age 5

First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Deb Gottfried

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Theo Wee

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Office Manager & Director of Communications: Position Open

Finance Manager: Pippa Younger

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley

Thanks to this Evening's Leaders

Ushers: Anne Meyer Ruppel, Cheryl Rempel, Mandy Everhart, Cyrus Kirby, and Linda Larson

Musicians: William Beimers, French horn; Henry Beimers, 'cello; Shana Hodel, piano

Tech Team: Mackenzie Perkins; **ASL Interpretation:** Mary Jo Cristofaro