

First Congregational United Church of Christ

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit and with the help of God,
we open our doors and hearts to all,
in service and love as modeled by Jesus Christ.*



Christmas Eve

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Celebrating the Nativity with Carols, Communion, and Candles

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A Festival of Lessons and Carols
Celebrating the Nativity with Carols, Communion, and Candles
Seven O'clock in the Evening

The Worship of God

Gathering Music

The Greeting

The Spirit of the still-speaking God be with you.

And also with you.

The Call to Worship and Welcome

The Music for Piano

Joy to the World

George Frederick Handel

Arr. Chris Rice

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Gathering

Come good friends, come to Bethlehem.

Come to Bethlehem and celebrate a newborn child with Mary and Joseph.

Come to Bethlehem and rejoice that God's symbol of love is a tiny, helpless baby.

Come to Bethlehem and sing praises with the shepherds for what God has done.

Come to Bethlehem, and fall silent in awe and wonder, transcendent mystery surrounding us!

(Silent Reflection)

Jesus is born. God's word lives.

Praise be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

The Introit

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

The Litany for Christmas Eve

God of Incarnation, we come rejoicing in Your gift of Christ Jesus to the world.

We thank You for the Christmas season and for all the joys it brings to us.

We would turn our thoughts toward Bethlehem and glory in the birth of the

Christ-Child. We would be born anew at this holy season of the year.

Bless us as we travel again to the City of David where a makeshift manger in a lowly stable awaits.

*The Processional Carol, No. 165 *Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

Lori Lee Hunter, soprano

(Stanza one, soloist; congregation, stanzas 2-3)

The Bidding Prayer

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 forever.
Amen.**

The Invitatory

Lord of the Starry Sky

Ruth Elaine Schram

Treble Choir

The Lessons and Carols

The First Lesson, GENESIS 3:8-15

Joy Faith Turpin

The Carol

Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME

The Second Lesson, ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

G. Steven Burrill

The Carol, No. 119

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

The Third Lesson, LUKE 1:26-38

Debrah Stolze

The Carol

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

tr. S. Baring-Gould

Chancel Choir

Basque Carol

The Fourth Lesson, MATTHEW 1:18-23

Joy Faith Turpin

The Carol, No. 144

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

The Fifth Lesson, LUKE 2:1-16

*The Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Debrah Stolze

ADESTE FIDELES

*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!*

*True God from true God, Light from Light eternal,
Born of a maiden, a mortal He comes;
Very God, begotten not created!*

*The Sixth Lesson, JOHN 1:1-14

Timothy W. Shirley

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!*

The Collect for Christmas Eve

The Service of Holy Communion

The Invitation

The Words of Institution

The Music for Communion

Christmas Lullaby

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

David N. Davenport

Arr. J. Bert Carlson

17th century French Carol

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Candle Lighting

The Sharing of the Light

The Minister receives the light from the Christ Candle and then passes it through the choir and the congregation. This service symbolizes Christ coming into the world and His light being spread to all humankind.

*The Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

*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.*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing Alleluias to our King.
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

Then Shall the Trumpet Sound

*The Processional Carol, No. 143 *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

The minister processes into the Narthex in Silence

The Music for Organ

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Felix Mendelssohn
arr. Carl F. Schalk

*You are invited to stand as able.

Musicians

Piano and Organ and Director of Music: Lori Lee Hunter

Guitar: Luke Aschbrenner, Mark Hovel

Ensemble: Donna Adams, Mark Holperin, Mark Hovel,
Tobi Johannsen, Susan Krivichi, Sandra Mettler, Carolyn Starling

*The staff of the First Congregational United Church of Christ
would like to wish all of you the merriest of Christmases.*

Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor

Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music

Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education

Nancy (Nan) Pophal, Church Administrator

Jonathan Alexander (Alex) Fluegel, Director of Technology

*Join us at Nine O'clock
Sunday morning in Fellowship Hall
for a time of fellowship and food.*

*We will hear once again the
Christmas Story
and sing familiar Carols.*

*Tim will share some thoughts
about the infamous inn keeper,
vilified for his supposed
lack of hospitality.*

You won't want to miss it!

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI