

# 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

*Christmas Eve*  
*A Festival of Lessons and Carols*  
*Celebrating the Nativity with Carols, Communion, and Candles*  
*Five O'clock in the Evening*

***The Worship of God***

Gathering Music                      *Angels We Have Heard on High*                      arr. Chris Rice  
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 Contemplation              *The First Noel*                      arr. Chris Rice  
The Lighting of the Altar Candles  
The Solo                      *Creator of the Stars of Night*                      9<sup>th</sup> century Latin hymn  
   Timothy W. Shirley, bass

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                      *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*                      words, 4<sup>th</sup> century Liturgy of St. James  
   Lori Lee Hunter, soprano                      Music, 17<sup>th</sup> century French Carol

The Litany for Christmas Eve<sup>2</sup>

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 joy 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, verse one; Chancel Choir, verse two; congregation, verses 3-4)

The Bidding Prayer<sup>3</sup>

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

*A Traditional Duet on French Carols*

arr. Anna Laura Page

Treble Choir; Dale Bishop, flute

The Time for Children

Carol Marshall

The Solo

*A Candle Glowing in the Window*

Teresa Jennings

Seren Spier-Olsen

## ***The Lessons and Carols***

The First Lesson, GENESIS 3:8-15

Joy Faith Turpin

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head

The Carol

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

13<sup>th</sup> century plainsong

Mark Holperin, bass

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

Sharon Rose Breit

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

The Carol, No. 119

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

The Third Lesson, ISAIAH 11:1-9 Mark Johanssen  
The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown  
The Carol *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Michael Praetorius, 15<sup>th</sup> century German carol  
Chancel Choir

The Fourth Lesson, LUKE 1:26-38 Barbara Helmick  
The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary  
The Carol, No. 144 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

The Fifth Lesson, LUKE 2:1-7 G. Steve Burrill  
St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus  
The Carol *Joyful, Joyful to the World* arr. Jay Althouse  
Lori Lee Hunter, soprano; Connie Pellman, alto

The Sixth Lesson, LUKE 2:8-12 Tobi Johanssen  
The shepherds go to the manger  
The Carol, No. 153 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

The Seventh Lesson, MATTHEW 2:1-12 Mark Holperin  
The wise men are led by the star to Jesus  
The Carol *Come, See* Ruth Elaine Schram  
Chancel Choir

The Receiving of our Gifts  
The Offertory *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* arr. Carl F. Schalk  
\*The Christmas Doxology THE FIRST NOWELL  
*Praise God whose dawn transfigures night.  
Daystar shines for us on high, whose Spirit brings into our sight!  
The hope which to our world draws night!  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel!*

\*The Presentation of our Gifts  
\*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*The Carol

*Adeste Fideles*  
Chancel Choir

John Francis Wade

*Adeste, fideles, laeti, triumphantes!*  
*Venite, venite in Bethlehem!*  
*Natum videte regem Angelorum!*  
*Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus!*  
*Venite adoremus, Dominum!*

\*The Carol

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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!*

*Refrain: 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 Eighth Lesson, JOHN 1:1-14

Timothy W. Shirley

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation

*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<sup>4</sup>

The Service of Holy Communion

The Music for Communion

The Solo

*O Holy Night*  
Phoebe Spier, alto

Adolphe Adam; arr. Walter Ehret

The Post Communion Prayer

## The Sharing of the Light

The minister receives light from the Christ Candle and then passes it through the congregation.

This service symbolizes the light of Christ coming into the world and being spread to all humankind!

\*The Carol, No. 145

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILL NACHT

Luke Aschbrenner, guitar

\*The Benediction and Blessing<sup>5</sup>

*Then Shall the Trumpet Sound*

\*The Carol, No. 150

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

\*The Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

\*The Procession of the Christ Candle

*The minister processes into the Narthex in silence*

The Music for Reflection

*Variations on ANTIOCH*

George Frederick Handel

arr. Franklin Ritter and Lowell Mason

\*You are invited to stand as able.

Ushers: Barbara and Tom Helmick

*The color for Christmastide, the twelve days beginning on Christmas Day, is White, a symbol of purity and victory.*

*This very beautiful service of the Christmas season was adapted from the traditional Lessons and Carols liturgy that originated at Truro Cathedral in England during the seventeenth century and is patterned after the annual Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge. Traditionally, the lessons are read by members of the church staff and laity.*

***The Flowers adorning the Chancel for worship today are given by Barb Flaherty and family as we celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. We wish you all a Merry Christmas as you enjoy time with your family and friends.***

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Prayers to Share: Responsive Prayers for Each Sunday of the Church Year. Year C*, by David Sparks. British Columbia: Wood Lake Books, Inc. 2003.

<sup>2-5</sup> Adapted with edits from the traditional service of lessons and carols. Liturgy can be found in *Carols for Choirs 1: Fifty Christmas Carols*, ed., arr. Reginald Jacques and David Wilcocks, London: Oxford University Press, 1961.

All lessons are from the Authorized Version of the King James Bible.

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

## **CHURCH STAFF**

*Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor*  
*Debbie Brown, Church Administrator*  
*Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education*  
*Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music*  
*Norma Yaeger, Pianist*  
*Christine Clough, Cleaning Service*

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

*President, Donna Adams*  
*Kristen Anchor*  
*Steve Burrill*  
*Carol Marshall*  
*Trisha Moore*  
*Eric Olsen*  
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*Clerk, Norma Yaeger*  
*Pastor Parish Relations, Tobi Johannsen*  
*Women's Fellowship, Sharon Breit*  
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*Gifts and Endowments, Bill Marshall*  
*Safety and Security, Carlton Schroeder*  
*Scholarship, Ursula Charaf*  
*Service Support Team, Joy Turpin*



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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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