

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

December 24, 2021

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



*We respond to God's call by welcoming everyone
regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, race, gender identity,
sexual orientation or socio-economic background.*

*To proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ,
we affirm that all may share in the full life, ministry, fellowship,
responsibilities and blessing of our congregation.*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

O come, desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *Refrain.*

SECOND LESSON

From the Law Genesis 22:15-18 p. 17
Second Carol *I'm on My Way (to Canaan)* Spiritual

THIRD LESSON

From the Prophets Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 p. 625
Third Carol *In the Bleak Midwinter* C. Rosetti, G. Holst

FOURTH LESSON

From the Prophets Micah 5:2-4a p. 849
Fourth Carol *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Hugo Distler

FIFTH LESSON

From the Gospels Luke 1:30-31, 35-37, 39-45 p. 931
Fifth Carol Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Felix Mendelssohn

SIXTH LESSON

From the Gospels Matthew 1:18-25 p. 877
Sixth Carol *What Child Is This?* Traditional

SEVENTH LESSON

From the Gospels Luke 2:8-16 p. 931
Seventh Carol *Minuit, chrétiens! (O Holy Night)* P. Cappeau, A. Adam

EIGHTH LESSON

From the Gospels Matthew 2:1-12 p. 877
**Sharing the Light*

*As the Eighth Carol is introduced,
ushers take fire from the Pastor's candle,
then offer worshipers a flame for the candles that were distributed
to them at the start of the service.*

**Eighth Carol* *Silent Night* J. Mohr, F. Gruber

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, heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night! Child of God, love's pure light
Radiant gleams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

***NINTH LESSON**

**From the Gospels* John 1:1-14 p. 966

**Ninth Carol* Joy to the World! Isaac Watts, G. F. Handel

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

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

***CLOSING WORDS** *A Reading for Advent* Thomas Merton
from *Raids on the Unspeakable*, 1964

POSTLUDE *War Is Over / Merry Christmas* John Lennon

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All of tonight's musical pieces have been arranged and performed by Walter Parks (WalterParks.com), and we are pleased to share this unique worship setting with him. For 10 years, this Florida native served as the sideman guitarist to Woodstock Festival legend Richie Havens. Now based out of St. Louis, Walter has recently co-written with Stan Lynch, former Tom Petty drummer and has performed at various venues with R&B drum legend Bernard Purdie and at Lincoln Center with Judy Collins. Walter tours with his own trio *Swamp Cabbage*, with his solo show *Swamp By Chandelier* and with an Americana spirituals project called *The Unlawful Assembly* co-founded by drummer Steven Williams. Walter was a member of *The Nudes*, a popular folk duo, with cellist Stephanie Winters.

About the image on the cover: "The Visitation of the Shepherds," from the Jesus Mafa collection, 1973. Jesus Mafa is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.



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