

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

DECEMBER 24, 2022
CHRISTMAS EVE
A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & 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 blessings
of our congregation.*

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



Order of Worship

PRELUDE *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* arr. Martha L. Thompson
Canterbury Bells

WELCOME Rev. David Denoon

***GATHERING HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* John F. Wade
(from the Latin)

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,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *Refrain.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glo-ry giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appear-ing; *Refrain.*

***BIDDING PRAYER**

Pastor: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)**

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15 Rev. Elston McCowan
First Carol *O Holy Night* A. Adam
David Taylor, solo

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18 Gabriel Requadt
Second Carol *Fughetta in G Major* G. F. Handel; arr. Bridges
Canterbury Bells

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Rev. Janice E. Barnes
Third Carol *The People Who Walked in Darkness (Messiah)* G. F. Handel
Dr. Leon Burke, III

FOURTH LESSON
Fourth Carol

Micah 5:1-4a
Once in Royal David's City

Rev. Tom Baynham
Cecil F. Alexander

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cat-tle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for a bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her lit-tle child.

Jesus came to earth from heaven, who is God and Head of all,
Sheltered in a rus-tic stable, cradled in a com-mon stall;
With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth our Sav-ior holy.

We at last shall meet our Savior, fount of God's redeem-ing grace,
For that child so dear and gentle reigns within a glo-rious place;
Leading all God's children on to the heav'n where saints have gone.

FIFTH LESSON
Fifth Carol

Luke 1:26-33, 37
Sweet Little Jesus Boy
Rev. Tom Baynham, solo

Joan Musbach
Robert MacGimsey

SIXTH LESSON
Sixth Carol

Matthew 1:18-25
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Gabriel Requadt
Polish Carol

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.

SEVENTH LESSON
Seventh Carol

Luke 2:8-16
Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow
David Taylor, solo

Nancy Rudolph
Spiritual

EIGHTH LESSON
**Sharing the Light*

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Merrimon Boyd

*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**

John 1:1-14

Rev. Denoon

**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**

The Risk of Birth

Madeleine L'Engle

POSTLUDE



Tonight's worship is based on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols conducted annually on Christmas Eve at King's College, Cambridge, since 1918. It was originally planned by the Rev. Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College Chapel after experience as an army chaplain. The work he did in chaplaincy convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. He blended scriptures predicting the advent of the Messiah and invited musicians and choirs to bring both new and familiar settings of carols. Tonight, we take Rev. Milner-White's innovation and treat it with our own musical innovations – traditional and new.

We are grateful, tonight, for the leadership of friends in this service –
Members of the Canterbury Bells,
including Joan Musbach and Nancy Rudolph who served as readers
Dr. Leon Burke, III, Director of Music and Organist
Dr. David Taylor, Tenor
Gabriel Requadt, Student Minister
Rev. Janice Edwards Barnes, UCC Clergy Retired
Rev. Tom Baynham, Pastor, Friedens UCC, St. Charles, Missouri
Rev. Merrimon Boyd, Pastor, Pilgrim UCC, St. Louis, Missouri
Rev. Elston McCowan, Member First Church

Offerings presented tonight will be added to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, to provide assistance to persons and families in need. There is a plate in the Narthex for that purpose. Alternatively, worshipers are invited to contribute at our website – www.FirstChurchWG.org/Donate, or scan the QR code.



Rev. Derek Bastian, director of Webster Rock Hill Ministries, has expressed a request to area churches to combine resources so that a family of five served by WRHM might be able to afford the deposit on an apartment (\$1,200). It is the Pastor's intention to contribute at least a portion of tonight's offering to that purpose. Thank you for your generosity.



Poinsettia Sponsors



In Loving Memory of

Our Parents and Grandparents
Bob and Carol McCoy
Aunt Mary (Barton) Breuer
Marilyn Davis
Darrell Lakies
Loved Ones Lost
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Helen & Bob Moody
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Joan Musbach
Jane Porchey
Dana Romeis
Nancy Rudolph
Nancy Rudolph

In Celebration of

Worshipping Together in Person
Our 50th Wedding Anniversary
Granddaughters – Morgan, Jenna, Maggie & Trina
Garie & Ken Perry
The Christmas Season

Elaine Coe
Mark & Mary Edwards
Bob & Kathy Hill
Helen & Bob Moody
Joan Musbach





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