

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

DECEMBER 24, 2023
CHRISTMAS EVE



*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.*

**CHRISTMAS EVE
Order of Worship**

An asterisk () indicates that worshipers are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE *O Tanenbaum (O Christmas Tree)* arr. Guaraldi
Jared Cohen, piano

WELCOME Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*
*At this time, we invite you to complete an entry in the Friendship Booklet
and to silence the ringer on any cellular device you may have with you.*

***TOLLING OF THE BELL**

***LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive—Leader; **People**)

This is the night we have waited for.

It is the most beautiful night of the year.

It is the night of shepherds and stable and of humble people everywhere!

It is the night of our dear Savior's birth!

***CAROL** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Traditional

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... Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels: sing in exultation!
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"
O come, let us adore him... Christ the Lord!

AT THE ADVENT WREATH The Christ Candle The Byrne Family
Traditions Remembered

Preparation

As we receive again the story of Christ's coming, our God makes room.
There is a vacancy,

and God is born in us this day.

We come with stories to offer and burdens to set down—not knowing how
life will turn out or what angel will come to us next,

yet God is born in us this day.

We journey towards a star, and find that there is light within and between
us,

for God is born in us this day.

When labor's exhaustion overwhelms us, but there are shepherds and
magi who have come with their gifts,

our God is born in us this day.

So, let us adore our God who comes to us and through us,

the One born in us each day. Amen.

The Christ candle is lighted as silence is kept.

CHRISTMAS TABLEAU

THE ANNUNCIATION

Scripture

Luke 1:26-31

Phoenix Hill

Christmas Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Wesley, Mendelssohn

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
"Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise! Join the triumph of the skies!
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

THE BIRTH

Scripture

Luke 2:1-7

Beatrice Byrne

Christmas Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Brooks, Redner

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.

THE SHEPHERDS

Scripture

Luke 2:8-14

Adrianna Hoepfer

Christmas Carol

The First Nowell

Traditional

The first Nowell the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold, winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the king of Israel!

AT THE MANGER

Scripture

Luke 2:15-20

Beatrice Byrne

Christmas Carol

What Child Is This

Dix, "Greensleeves"

What child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap, is sleeping,
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary!

THE MAGI

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11

Phoenix Hill

Christmas Carol

We Three Kings of Orient Are

J. H. Hopkins, Jr.

(Paul Cereghino, Paul Buschmeyer, Mark Cereghino)

POSTLUDE

Christmastime Is Here
Jared Cohen, piano

Guaraldi

During the Postlude, we encourage you to greet those around you, or to remain at your seat to enjoy the music until it has ended. In the spirit of diversity, please be attentive to the possibility that one who is seated may be meditating.

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THE PARTICIPANTS

READERS

Phoenix Hill, Adrianna Hoeper, Beatrice Byrne

ANGEL

Gwen Denoon

HOLY FAMILY

Mandi Heiser-Fisher (Mary), Emery Wren Fisher (Jesus),
Ellie Fisher (James), and Nina Thompson (Joseph)

SHEPHERDS

Trina Hill, Lauren Gomez, Ruby Cohen, Emma Rudolph

WISE MEN

Paul Cereghino, Paul Bushmeyer, Mark Cereghino

“GOLD” ATTENDANTS

Warner Prange and Gabriel Cohen

*The Christian Education Ministry would like to thank
Rosemary Hensley and Johari Hunt
for securing and working with our participants for this evening!*

*Special thanks to
Erin Prange, flute
Jared Cohen, piano
and **Ryder Hoeper**, euphonium
for their musical expertise, talent, and contributions to this service.*



Poinsettia Sponsors



In Memory of

- Our Parents Judy & Bob Borutta
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- Ruth Beal & Paul Morgan Moody Helen & Bob Moody
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- Kevin Moore, Bill Moore & John Osborne Barb & Keith Moore
- Kenneth Musbach Joan Musbach
- Ken Perry Garie Perry
- Stephen & Jack Rudolph Nancy Rudolph

In Celebration of

- Our First Church Family Elaine Coe
- Our Family BJ Kaul
- 53 Years of Marriage Linda & Laszlo Kopetti
- Margery Gable The Carvells & The Moodys
- Jane Porchey Garie Perry
- Our Family Kay & Phil Roush
- Elaine Coe & Dana Romeis Andrea Welnick
- In Thanks for Christmas Joy Kathy & Joe Weyhrich



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