

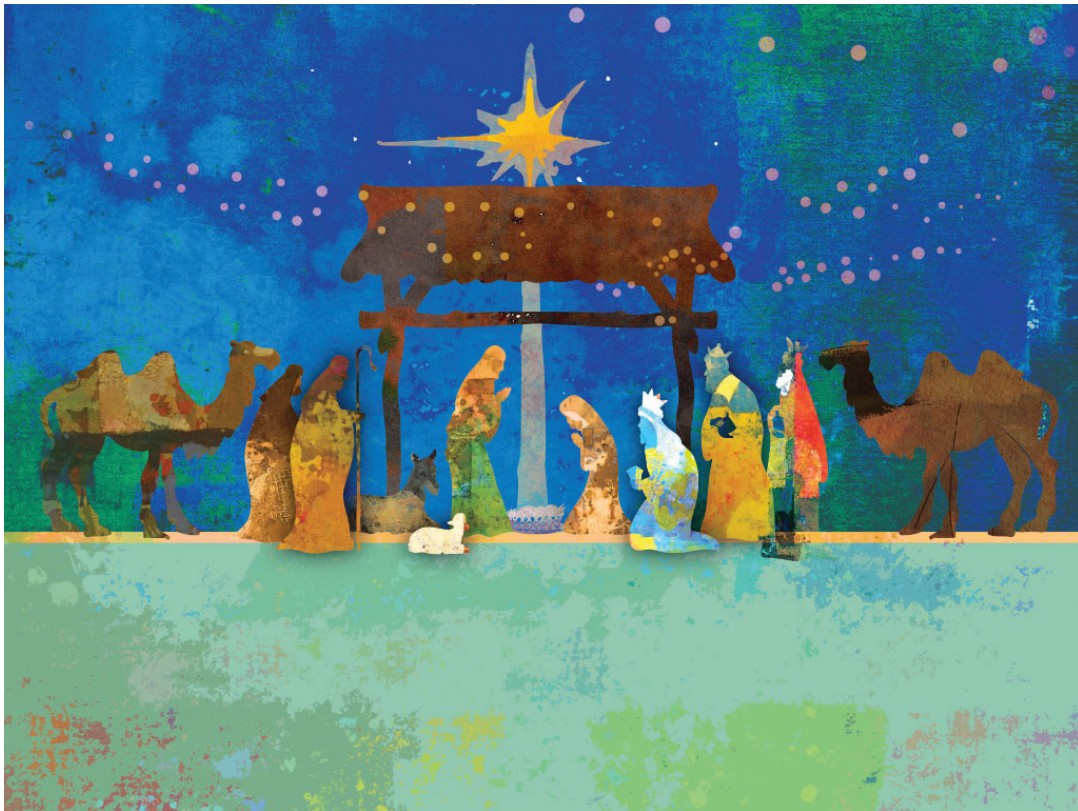
Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

**DECEMBER 24, 2024
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.*

Order of Worship

An asterisk () indicates the Congregation standing, in body or in spirit.*

*As a courtesy to others, please silence the ringer
on any cellular device you may have with you.*

PRELUDE *Christmas Time is Here* arr. Guaraldi
Jared Cohen, piano

WELCOME Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

***TOLLING OF THE BELL**

***LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

***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 Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*
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 toward a star, and find that there is light within and
between us,

for God is born in us this day.

Labor's exhaustion may overwhelm us, but friends like shepherds
and magi have come with their gifts,

because 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.

Prayer (Unison)

We greet you, Holy Child of God. You are known to us, in us and through us. Lighten our night, lighten our burdens, lighten our hearts with new and renewing fire. Be born in us each day. Holy Child, Holy Parent, Holy Spirit, be with us in our worship. Amen.

CHRISTMAS TABLEAU

THE ANNUNCIATION

Scripture Luke 1:26-31 Reader

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 Reader

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 Reader

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 Reader

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

Reader

Christmas Carol

We Three Kings of Orient Are
(Paul Cereghino, Anne Gerst, Mark Cereghino)

J. H. Hopkins, Jr.

GIFTS FOR THE MANGER

*The Magi brought gifts to the Christ Child to honor him.
We invite you to present your own gifts at our Manger too.
Please, as we sing the carol, bring forward hygiene and infant
items, or cash/check offerings (checks made payable to "FCCWG").
All Gifts for the Manger will be given
to Gateway 180 Homeless Services.*

Christmas Carol

Away in a Manger

Traditional

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Prayer of Dedication (Responsive)

Johari Hunt

Good Christian friends, rejoice!

Let all the beloved of God rejoice!

All creation groaning, rejoice!

Everyone who has felt beaten down or alone, rejoice!

Heaven and earth, rejoice!

**Jesus our Savior is born today! Christ our Guide was
born for this! Love, our light, shines brightly through
our gifts! May our offerings, by God's blessing,
become hope renewed and life restored. Amen.**

*CANDLELIGHT CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

Mohr, Gruber

*As we sing together, please use the battery-powered candles
that you were handed as you entered.*

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:
Glory streams from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, "Hallelujah!"
"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.

***PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS**

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

***BENEDICTION**

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

POSTLUDE

Sleigh Ride
Jared Cohen, piano

Leroy Anderson

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THE PARTICIPANTS

READERS

Gwen Denoon, Lauren Gomez, Phoenix Hill, Trina Hill

ANGEL

Adrianna Hoeper

HOLY FAMILY

Ruby Cohen (Mary), and Nina Thompson (Joseph)

SHEPHERDS

Emma Rudolph, Warner Prange, Gabe Cohen, Laine Gomez

MAGI

Paul Cereghino, Anne Gerst, Mark Cereghino

*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.*



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THE VISION of First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ, is to be a dynamic Christian community expressing God's love, hope, joy, and peace for all people.

OUR MISSION is to provide:

- Worship that praises God
 - ◇ Shows commitment to the teachings of Jesus
 - ◇ Celebrates the Holy Spirit in ways that express the diversity of our experiences
 - ◇ Encourages spiritual growth and commitment
- Educational activities that promote faith and intellectual growth for children and for adults.
- Advocacy and care for those in need in our community and throughout the world.
- Community that seeks justice, loves kindness, and walks humbly.
- Hope, love, and encouragement to all who seek our support.
- Grace and forgiveness for ourselves and all who seek the ministries we share in worship, music, and fellowship with others on life's journey.

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