

Welcome!

**First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ**



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
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.*

Order of Worship

PRELUDE	Pifa from <i>Messiah</i>	G.F. Handel
GREETING AND INTRODUCTION		Rev. David Denoon, <i>Pastor</i>
*GATHERING HYMN		
<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>		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; <i>Refrain.</i> 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; <i>Refrain.</i>		
*BIDDING PRAYER		
	<u>Pastor:</u> God be with you. <u>People:</u> 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		Nancy Rudolph
<i>From the Law</i>	Genesis 3:8-15	Pew Bible, p. 3
<i>Carol</i>	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> Rebecca Novak & Ernestine Carter	The "O" Antiphons
SECOND LESSON		Rod Cooper
<i>From the Law</i>	Genesis 22:15-18	p. 17
<i>Carol</i>	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> Anne Gerst, piano	Norman Dello Joio
THIRD LESSON		Sharon Love
<i>From the Prophets</i>	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	p. 625
<i>Carol</i>	<i>The People Who Walked in Darkness</i> Leon Burke, bass; Anne Gerst, piano	G. F. Handel
FOURTH LESSON		Cynthia Matlock
<i>From the Prophets</i>	Micah 5:2-4a	p. 849
<i>Carol</i>	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i> Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,	C. F. Alexander

Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for a bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
Jesus came to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
Sheltered in a rustic stable, cradled in a common stall;
With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

FIFTH LESSON

From the Gospels

Luke 1:30-31, 35-37, 39-45

Johari Hunt

p. 931

Carol

Mary, Did You Know?

Mark Lowry

Leon Burke, bass; Anne Gerst, piano

SIXTH LESSON

From the Gospels

Luke 2:1-7

Phil Shoulberg

p. 877

Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish carol

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall.
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all!
Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning dew.
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, Christ the Babe was born for you!

SEVENTH LESSON

From the Gospels

Luke 2:8-16

Danny Smith

p. 931

Carol

O Holy Night

A. Adam

Leon Burke, organ; Anne Gerst, piano

EIGHTH LESSON

From the Gospels

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Merrimon Ramout Boyd

p. 877

**Sharing the Light*

*As the 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.*

**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

Rev. Denoon

p. 966

**Carol*

Joy to the World!

Isaac Watts

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

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

arr. Charles Callahan

We happily acknowledge our readers of scripture and ushers, and the wonderful musical gifts of our accompanists, soloists, and duet – Anne Gerst, piano; Ernestine Carter & Rebecca Novak, vocal duet; and Dr. Leon Burke, III, organ and vocal solo.