

# 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 FAMILY SERVICE



*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 that worshipers are invited to stand in body or in spirit.  
You are encouraged to silence notifications on cellular devices.*

**PRELUDE** Pifa from *Messiah* G.F. Handel

**WELCOME** Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE 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**

*Traditions Remembered*

Moore Family

*Lighting the Christ Candle* (Responsive)

Jesus is born!

**Immanuel! God is with us!**

*A series of readers lead a brief ritual, and the Advent Wreath candles are lit.*

Response (Unison)

**Immanuel, God-with-us,  
thank you for being present when life unravels,  
and for giving us the strength  
to keep going toward your blessing.**

## A CHRISTMAS TABLEAU

**THE ANNUNCIATION**

*Scripture*

Luke 1:26-31

Read by Lauren Gomez

*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

Read by Phoenix Hill

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

Read by Laine Gomez

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

Read by Lauren Gomez

Carol

*What Child Is This?*

Dix

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

Read by Phoenix Hill

Carol

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

J. H. Hopkins, Jr.

## GIFTS FOR THE MANGER

*The Magi brought gifts to the Christ Child to honor him.*

*As we sing the next carol,*

*let us bring forward our gifts or monetary offerings.*

*All Gifts for the Manger will be given to Gateway 180 Homeless Services.*

*(Checks should be made payable to "FCCWG" with Gateway 180 on the memo line).*

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)

Led by Laine Gomez

Holy God, we bring our gifts and offerings to you  
**because the voices of prophets and angels remind us of something bigger,  
something greater you have in store for us.**

We believe when we trust you with our resources,  
**your divine majesty comes much closer to reality on earth.**  
May the offerings we give offer renewed and abundant life and love.

**Amen.**

**\*CANDLELIGHT CAROL**

*Silent Night*

Mohr, Gruber

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

*Ushers will provide fire for wax tapers.*

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**

Johari Hunt

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

arr. Charles Callahan

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**THE PARTICIPANTS**

**READERS**

Phoenix Hill, Lauren Gomez, Laine Gomez

**SHEPHERDS**

Warner Prange, Frank Schubert, Emma Rudolph

**ANGEL**

Trina Hill

**SHEEP**

Benton Prange

**HOLY FAMILY**

Emily Polaske (Mary), Marc Polaske (Joseph),  
Elle Polaske (James), Wally Polaske (Jesus)

**MAGI**

Mark Cereghino, Paul Cereghino, Anne Gerst

*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; **Leon Burke**, piano

*for their musical expertise, talent, and contributions to this service.*