

christmas
eve

SERVICE

December 24, 6:00 pm



Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 24, 2020 | 6PM

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

Worship at 6:00 pm

Diverse in Thought | United in Faith | Called to Serve

WELCOME

Helen Hempfling and Bruce Ervin

PRELUDE

Christmas Medley
Bedford FCC Bell Choir

arr. Sondra Tucker

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY, & LOVE

(You are invited to light your candles as you worship at home)

Introit

The Father's Love

William Roger Price (b. 1955)

Of the Father's Love begotten, ere the worlds began to be;
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he;
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see
Evermore and Evermore.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air.
Dispels with glorious splendor,
The darkness everywhere.
True man but very God,
From sin and death he saves us,
And lightens every load.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
This is he whom heaven taught singers
Sang of old with one accord,
Whom the scriptures of the prophets,
Promised in their faithful word,
Now he shines, the long-expected,
Let creation praise its Lord:
Evermore and evermore.

-Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (4th cent.) tr. John Mason
German Carol (15th cent.), tr. Theodore Baker, 1894

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL 148

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(verses 1, 2, & 4)

ADESTE FIDELES

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:

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

Scripture

Luke 1:26-31, 46-48

Carol

Rosa Mystica

Chrysogonus Waddell, O.C.S.O. (1930-2008)

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bear Jesu:
Alleluia.

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in Persons Three:
Pares forma. (Incomparable, perfect form)

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space:
Res Miranda. (O thing of Wonder)

The Angels sang, the shepherds too:
Gloria in Excelsis Deo:
Gaudeamus. (Let us rejoice)

Leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth:
Transeamus. (Let us pass over.)

-Medieval Traditional

The Birth in Bethlehem

Scripture

Luke 2:1-7

Congregational Carol 144 O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

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.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth.
Your voices raise to God in praise;
and peace to all on earth.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our God, Emmanuel.

Words: Phillip Brooks, 1868, alt Music: Lewis H Redner, 1869

The Angels and the Shepherds

Scripture

Luke 2:8-14

Carol

On Christmas Night

SUSSEX CAROL

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth

When sin departs before Thy grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and forevermore. Amen."

-attr. Luke Wadding , 1684

The Shepherds Worship

Scripture

Luke 2:15-20

Congregational Carol 155

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ, who comes in lowly birth.
Come, adore on bended knee
Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See within a manger laid,
Christ, whom choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Words: Traditional French carol; tr. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt.

Music: French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barns, 1937

Harm. Austin C. Lovelace, 1964, alt.; dec. Richard E. Gerig, 1956

The Word Made Flesh

Scripture

from John 1 and 3

Congregational Carol 143

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

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.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: attr. George Frederick Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848

INVITATION TO GIVING

*Tonight's offering will support the ministries of the Christian Church
in Indiana, including camper scholarships and peace ministries.*

Offertory Carol

In the Bleak Midwinter
Sara Bredemeyer, flute

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
arr. Robert Lau (b. 1943)

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate —
Jesus Christ.

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But His Mother only,
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, —
Give my heart.

-Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Prayer of Dedication

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God most high.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion Carol

Liz Culpepper, alto

Here, betwixt ass and oxen mild,
Sleep, sleep, sleep my little child
Angels from on high, hover in the sky.
Keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

Here in the crib, secure from harms,
Sleep, sleep in your mother's arms.
Angels from on high hover in the sky.
Keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

Manger Carol

Joseph Andreola, baritone

Here betwixt rose and lily white,
Sleep, sleep, sleep my son tonight.
Angels from on high, hover in the sky
Keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

On this fair night of holy joy,
Sleep, sleep, sleep my little boy.
Angels from on high, hover in the sky
Keeping watch above the incarnate God of love

13th Century French Carol

arr. Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)

-Traditional French 13th Century Carol: trans. Charles Winfred Douglas

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SPREADING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO THE WORLD

Scripture

John 1:1-5

Congregational Carol 145

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Choir: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, alles schläft, einsam wacht.
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar, holder Knabe im lockigen Haar.
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

Congregation:

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,
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.

(Raise up candle)
Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born,
Christ, the Savior, is born.

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young

Music: Franz Gruber, 1818

arr. Raymond Leppard (1927-1919) – in memoriam

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Choral Response Thee with Tender Care (from *Christmas Oratorio, part 3*) J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Thee with tender care I'll cherish;
Live to thee, die to thee:
Thus I shall not perish,
but with thee abide forever,
joyfully, peacefully,
where life endeth never.

POSTLUDE

The Rejoicing George Frederic Handel
Mary Ruth Yates, organ



Worship Participants

Rev. Helen Hempfling
Rev. Bruce Ervin

Readers

Susan Maxwell-Lewis
Jack Maxwell

Lighting of the Candles

Mitzi Flynn

Jono Palmer, Bell Choir Director
Mary Ruth Yates, Organ
Ginny Jones, Violin

Bell Choir

Cathy Allman
Bonnie Fye
Ginny Jones
Christie Maxwell
Ashley Maxwell
Mona Miller
Jackie Robbins
Mary Ruth Yates

Ashlyn Reynolds, Photography & Graphics
Jono Palmer, Video and Audio Editing

Ways to Give to FCC

Mail Checks to FCC at:

1101 15th St

Bedford, IN 47421

In Person

Wednesday 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

and slide it under the Treasurer's door

*Please designate gifts that are meant for the

***We are Disciples of Christ.**

A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

*Disciples of Christ
Statement of Identity

Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Bruce Ervin

E-Mail:

pastor@firstccbedford.org

Music Ministry:

Choir Director: Jono Palmer

E-Mail:

music@firstccbedford.org

Organist: Mary Ruth Yates

Administrative Assistant:

Mitzi Flynn

E-Mail:

firstccbedford@gmail.com

Custodian: Steve Harrell

Church Office Hours

Wednesday: 11:00 am—1:00 pm

Social Media:

Web Page: www.firstccbedford.org

Facebook: First Christian Church
Bedford - DOC

Camp Facebook: Bedford Camp &
Conference Center

An Invitation to Community

As God has welcomed us, we welcome you.

With all our differences--

in age, ability and physical condition,
in race, cultural background and economic status,
in sexual orientation, gender identity & family
structure--

God has received each one
with loving kindness, patience and joy.

All that we are together
and all that we hope to be
is made more perfect
as the richness of varied lives
meets the mystery of God's unifying Spirit
and we become the Body of Christ.

This service was pre-recorded in various segments to allow the worship leaders to strictly follow guidelines regarding social distancing.