

THE STORY OF OUR SERVICE

The ecumenical candlelight Christmas Eve service started in 2011 when the pastors of New Vision United Church of Christ and First Christian Church decided to hold a joint service. In 2015, First Baptist Church came on board. In 2017, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship joined in for this special celebration, and this year Chico Friends Meeting joins us. In 2020, we had gathered via Zoom during the COVID shutdown, then in 2021, we met both in person and on Zoom, and decided we would continue to offer the service via Zoom for those who are unable to attend live.

Participants:

- Rev. Bryan Plude, Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Chico
- Rev. Gail Hill, Pastor of Chico First Baptist Church
- Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Rev. Mary Kearns, Chaplain, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Chris Perske, pianist, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Barbara McElroy, Music Director, Chico First Baptist Church
- Joshua Hegg, pianist, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Megan Johnson, Worship Associate, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Margaret Swick, member, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Credits

- “O Come, All Y Faithful” Words: Latin hymn, attr. To John Francis Wade, ca. 1743; tr. Frederick Oakley, 1841, alt. Music: John Francis Wade, ca. 1743. CCLI# 31054
- “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” Text: Henry W. Longfellow. Music: Jean Baptiste Calkin. Text and Music: Andrew Culverwell © Copyright 1976 MANNA MUSIC, INC., 25510 Avenue Stanford, Suite 101, Valencia, CA 91355. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.
- “Silent Night, Holy Night” Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, 1863. Music: Franz Gruber, 1818 Words: Public Domain, Music: Public Domain CCLI# 27862
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Songs of Christmas

December 24, 2022 7 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Chico



Welcome to our Community Christmas Eve worship!
Our prayer is that you will be richly blessed through our time together this evening.

PRELUDE	Chris Perske
RINGING OF THE CHIME/ LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE	Rev. Bryan Plude and Megan Johnson
GREETINGS AND OPENING PRAYER	Rev. Bryan Plude
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH—“THE CHRIST CANDLE”	Rev. Gail Hill and Margaret Swick

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

[The Christ Candle is lit]

UNISON PRAYER

*Divine Love,
Tonight we light the Christ candle. It shines on younger and older. It shines as we sing familiar carols. It shines on our retelling the story through Scripture and song. It shines on our world. You are the candle tonight and on Christmas Day. We promise to be the candle from then on as the body of Christ. Amen.*

INTRODUCTION OF THEME	Rev. Jesse Kearns
COMBINED CHOIR ANTHEM	“Carol Medley”
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:	Goodnight Manger
SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 2:8-14
REFLECTION	Rev. Bryan Plude
ANTHEM	“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”
SCRIPTURE READING	Matthew 1:18-23

REFLECTION	Rev. Jesse Kearns
HYMN	“O Come All Ye Faithful”
SCRIPTURE READING	Isaiah 52:7-9
REFLECTION	Rev. Gail Hill
HYMN	“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”
*OFFERING	See Insert
OFFERTORY	Megan Johnson
SENDING FORTH THE LIGHT FROM THE CHRIST CANDLE	Chris Perske
CAROL	“Silent Night, Holy Night”

“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, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;

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.

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.”

(Extinguish your candles before you leave the sanctuary and place them in a container in the narthex as you leave. May the Light and Love of Christ go with you into the world.)

BENEDICTION

***Our offering this evening will go to North State Shelter Team as they continue to address Butte County’s housing crisis**

Hearing assistance devices are available at the sound booth

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phunt, O come ye, O
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E-ter-nal, lo, He
 3. Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion, O sing, all ye
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap-py morn-ing, Je-sus, to

come ye to Beth-le-hem! Come and be-hold Him, born the King of
 shuns not the vir-gin's womb; Son of the Fa-ther, be-got-ten, not cre-
 cit-i-zens of heaven a-bove! Glo-ry to God, all glo-ry in the
 Thee be all glo-ry given; Word of the Fa-ther, now in flesh ap-

an-gels!
 at-ed.
 high-est! O come, let us a-dore Him, O come, let us a-dore Him,
 pear-ing!

O come, let us a-dore Him, Christ the Lord!

WORDS: Latin hymn; attr. to John Francis Wade, ca. 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
 MUSIC: John Francis Wade, ca. 1743

ADESTE FIDELES
 Irregular with refrain

152 I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

He will be their peace. Mic. 5:5

1. I heard the bells on Christ-mas day Their old fa-mil-iar
 2. I thought how, as the day had come, The bel-fries of all
 3. And in de-spair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on
 4. Yet pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor
 5. Then ring-ing, sing-ing on its way, The world re-volved from

car-ols play, And wild and sweet the words re-peat Of
 Chris-ten-dom Had rolled a-long th'un-bro-ken song Of
 earth," I said, "For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of
 doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right pre-vail, With
 night to day—A voice, a chime, a chant sub-lime Of

peace on earth, good will to men.
 peace on earth, good will to men.
 peace on earth, good will to men."
 peace on earth, good will to men."
 peace on earth, good will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
 The cannon thundered in the South,
 And with the sound, the carols drowned
 Of peace on earth, good will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
 The hearth stones of a continent,
 And made forlorn the households born
 Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Two verses between v. 2 and v. 3
 that were excluded from hymnal

TEXT: Henry W. Longfellow
 MUSIC: Jean Baptiste Calkin

TEXT and MUSIC: Andrew Culverwell
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WALTHAM
 L.M.