



Making Room

December 24, 2023 7 p.m.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Welcome to our Community Christmas Eve worship!

Our prayer is that you will be richly blessed through our time together this evening.

PRELUDE		Nancy Thompson
RINGING OF THE BELL	Bill Peterson	
GREETINGS AND OPENING PRAYER		Rev. Jesse Kearns
HYMN CH #148	<i>“O Come, All Ye Faithful”</i>	Nancy Thompson
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH—“THE CHRIST CANDLE”	Margaret Swick	

How does a weary world hold onto hope,
practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

How does a weary world combat cruelty?

How does a weary world shine a light into
our bleakest night?

We do all these things with God’s help.

For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.

Tonight, Christ draws near.

Tonight, we light the Christ Candle.

Tonight, we are not alone.

God is near. Love has drawn close.

Rejoice! For God loves this weary world.

Amen.

[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
CHILDREN’S STORY:	<i>“The Unfriendly Beasts”</i>	Rev. Gail Hill
HYMN CH #147	<i>“Away in the Manger”</i>	Nancy Thompson
SCRIPTURE READING	Isaiah 9:2-7	Tom Hill

ANTHEM

Joshua Hegg

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 1:17-25

REFLECTION

“Making Room”

Rev. Gail Hill and
Rev. Jesse Kearns

HYMN CH# 143

“Joy to the World”

Nancy Thompson

A PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Mary Kearns

*OFFERING

Margaret Swick

OFFERTORY

Nancy Thompson

SENDING FORTH THE LIGHT FROM THE CHRIST CANDLE

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

Rev. Gail Hill

*Our offering this evening will go to **Chico Housing Action Team** as they launch Everhart Village, a unique housing solution project in collaboration with Butte County Mental Health.

Hearing assistance devices are available at the sound booth

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. 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 and FaceBook Live for those who are unable to attend live.

Participants:

- Rev. Gail Hill, Pastor of Chico First Baptist Church
- Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Tom Hill, Deacon, Chico First Baptist Church
- Bill Peterson, Member, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Rev. Mary Kearns, Chaplain, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Joshua Hegg, pianist, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Nancy Thompson, pianist, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Margaret Swick, member, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Credits

- “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
- “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Words: John Francis Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others. Music: John Francis Wade, 1743; desc. David Willocks, 1961. Desc. © 1961 Oxford University Press. CCLI# 31054 Words: Public Domain, Music: Public Domain
- “Away in a Manger” Words: Anonymous (19th century) Music: Attr. James R. Murray, 1887; harm. LBW, 1978. Harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.
- “Joy to the World” Words: Isaac Watts, 1719 Music: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848 Words: Public Domain. Music: Public Domain. CCLI # 5663860
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CHRIST
THE SAVIOR
IS BORN!

O Come, All Ye Faithful

103

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, 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. O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,
 high - est!
 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

Away in a Manger

147

Unison

1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look
 ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky, and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

WORDS: Anonymous (19th century)
 MUSIC: Attr. James R. Murray, 1887; harm. LBW, 1978

AWAY IN A MANGER
 11 11.11 11

Harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, used by permission
 of Augsburg Fortress

Alt. tune: CRADLE SONG

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Joy to the World

143

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, and
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 And won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848

ANTIOCH
 CM w. repeat