

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	"O Come, All Ye Faithful"	Nancy Thompson
LIGHTING OF THE ADVE	NT WREATH—"THE CHRIST CANDLE" Margaret S	wick

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 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:	"The Unfriendly Beasts"	Rev. Gail Hill
Hymn CH #147	"Away in the Manger"	Nancy Thompson
SCRIPTURE READING	Isaiah 9:2-7	Tom Hill

ANTHEM

Scripture Reading Reflection

HYMN CH# 143

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

"Making Room"

"Joy to the World"

A PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE *OFFERING OFFERTORY 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

*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

Joshua Hegg

Rev. Gail Hill

Rev. Gail Hill and Rev. Jesse Kearns Nancy Thompson Rev. Mary Kearns Margaret Swick Nancy Thompson

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:

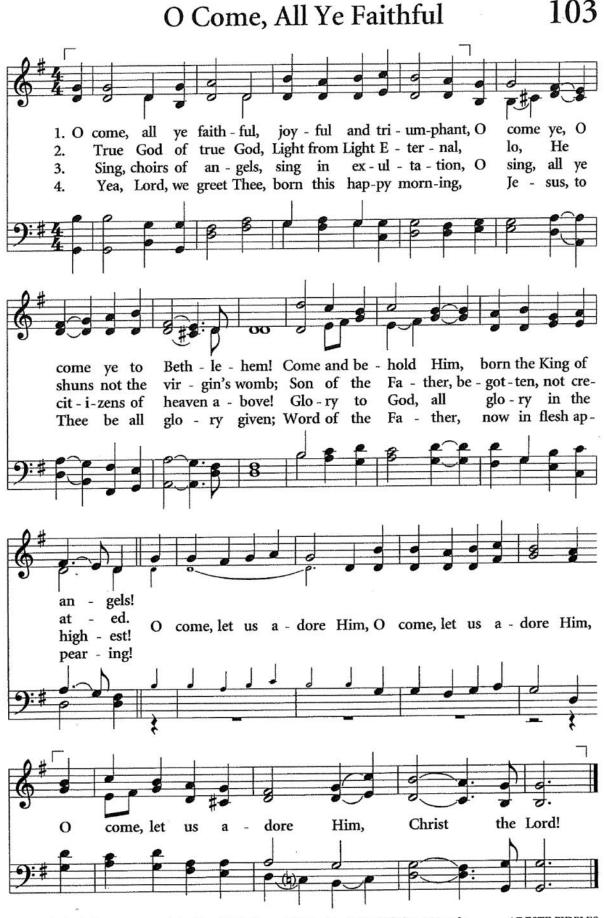
- Rev. Gail Hill, Pastor of Chico First Baptist Church
- Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Tom Hill, Deacon, Chico First Baptist Church
- Bill Peterson, Member, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Rev. Mary Kearns, Chaplain, First Christian Church (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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CHRISTMASTIDE

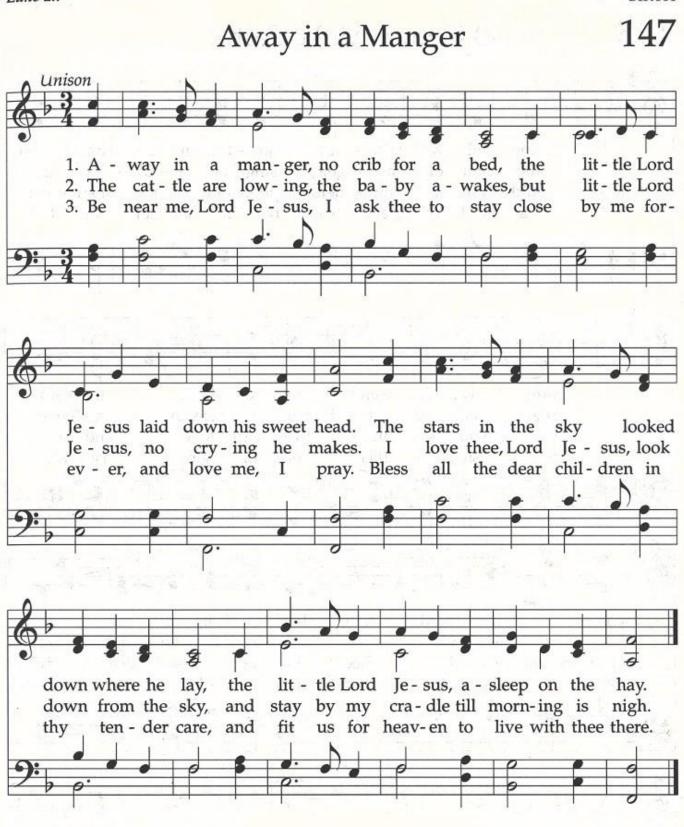


WORDS: Latin hymn; attr. to John Francis Wade, ca. 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt. MUSIC: John Francis Wade, ca. 1743 ADESTE FIDELES Irregular with refrain

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Luke 2:7

BIRTH



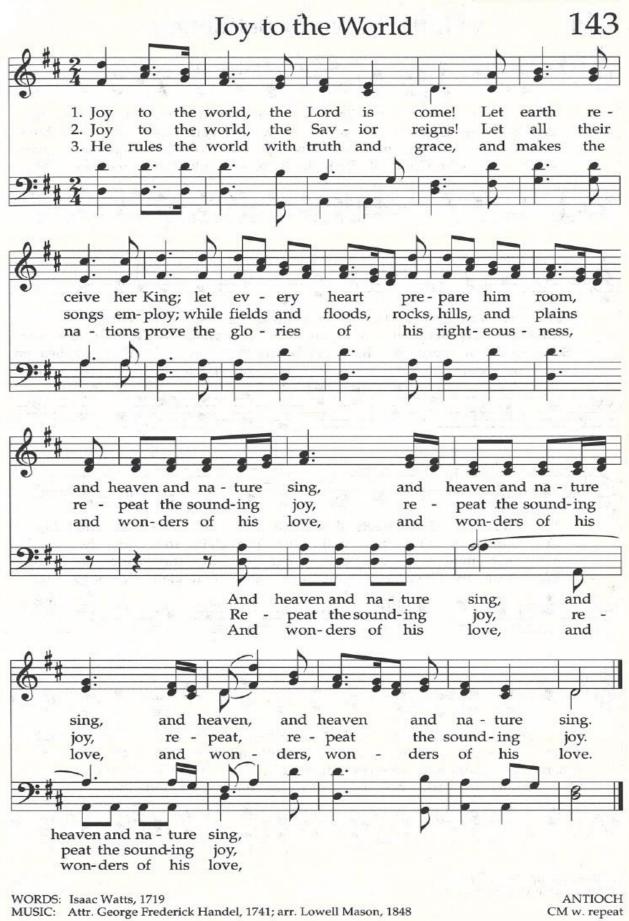
WORDS: Anonymous (19th century) MUSIC: Attr. James R. Murray, 1887; harm. LBW, 1978 AWAY IN A MANGER 11 11.11 11

Alt. tune: CRADLE SONG

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JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



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