



*Joint Christmas Eve Service*  
December 24, 2020 7 p.m.  
FCC Chico's Zoom Room  
**Room Number – 3976292569**  
**Password - 5303433727**



**Welcome** to our Joint First Baptist and First  
Christian Christmas Eve Service!

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

I. Prelude – Canticle of Joy (Sing Joy, Joy to the  
World, Ode to Joy) recorded by Barbara McElroy

II. Hymn – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” -  
(Phil Frankenberg)

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 angelic hosts proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest Heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

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Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! the herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

III. Prayer/Invocation – (Bill Peterson)

IV. Lighting the Advent Wreath (First Christian)

V. Hymn – “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Phil Frankenberg)

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in the dark street 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  
And praises sing to God, the King  
And peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous Gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven  
No ear may hear His coming  
But in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive Him still  
The dear Christ enters in

VII. Scripture: Luke 2:8-20 (Mary Kearns)

“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those  
whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

VI. Children's Story – *Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale* by Martin Waddell with illustrations by Jason Cockcroft (Pastor Gail Hill)

VII. Scripture: John 1:14, 16 (Tom Hill)

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a parent's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace."

VIII. Reflections on the Incarnation - (Pastors Gail Hill and Jesse Kearns)

IX. Hymn: "The First Noel" (Nancy Thompson)  
The first Noel 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  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

X. Light from the Christ Candle (Pastors Gail Hill and Jesse Kearns with Joshua Hegg's choir leading "Silent 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.

CHRIST  
THE SAVIOR  
is BORN!

## 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.

### Participants:

- Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Chaplain Mary Kearns, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Rev. Gail Hill, Pastor of the Chico First Baptist Church
- Barbara McElroy, Musician, Chico First Baptist Church
- Phil Frankenberg, Musician, Chico First Baptist Church
- Nancy Thompson, Musician of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Joshua Hegg, Musician of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Bill Peterson, Elder of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Tom Hill, Deacon, Chico First Baptist Church

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