

Christ United Methodist Church and
First Congregational United Church of Christ

Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 24, 2025

Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”
Cantabelle Ringers
Directed by Dennis Dell

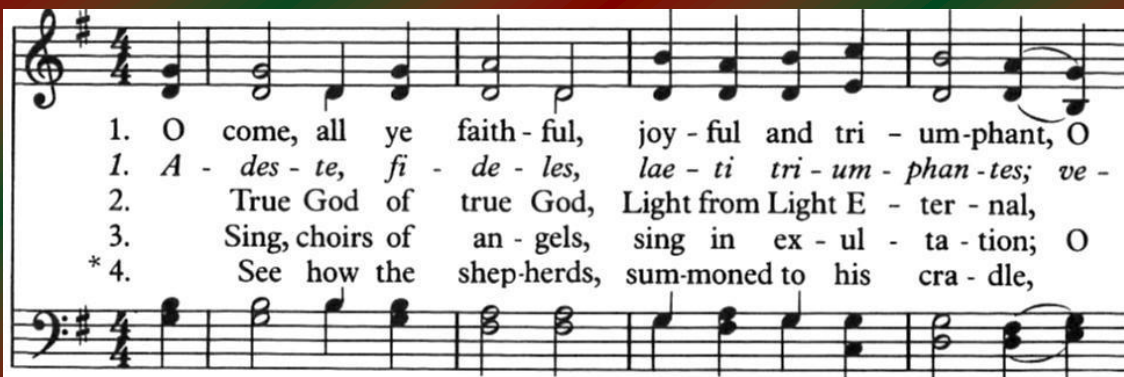
John Behnke
arr. Stephenson

Welcome

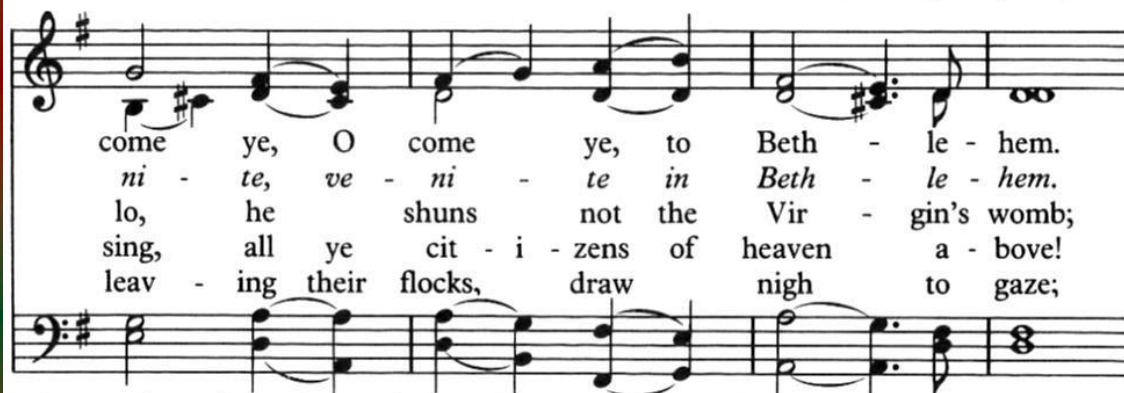
Processional Carol

“O Come, All You Faithful” (vs.1-3)

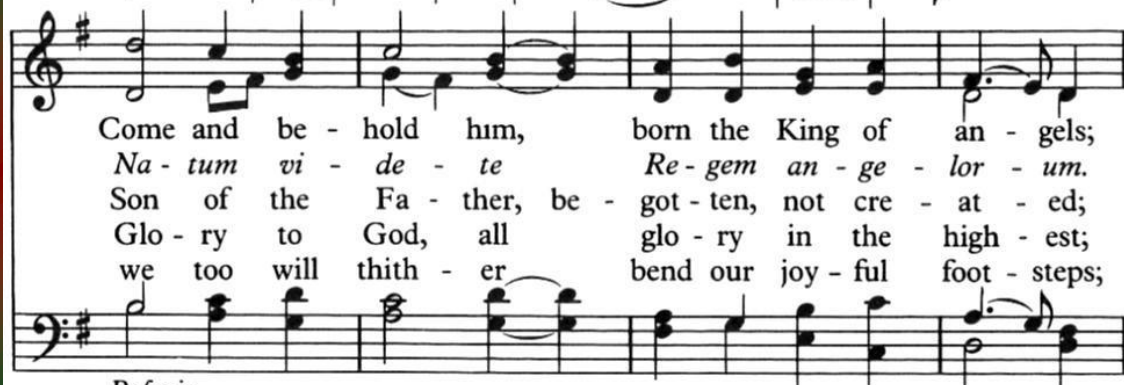
UMH #234



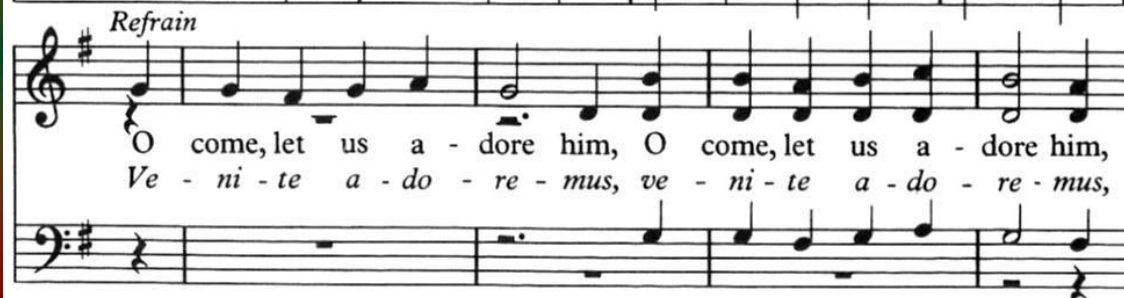
1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 1. *A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -*
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
 * 4. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,



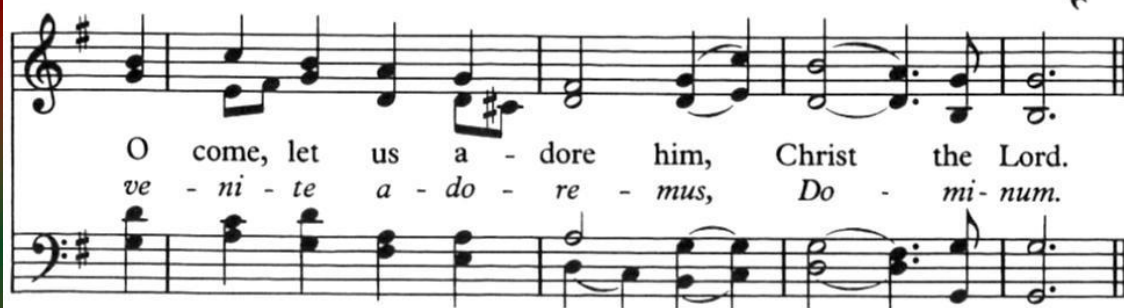
come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.
ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;



Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

**“Advent’s Holy Light”
The Storle Family**

Choir

Reader 1: “While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped in the bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.” Luke 2:6-7

Reader 2: Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn fabric full of years folds in the warmth of parental love, animals and shepherds crown the night, glowing with adoration, while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

People: Tonight, we give thanks for every child among us, each new birth- regardless of circumstance- reminds us of the precious life, the potential for tomorrow, the promise of God.

Hymn

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

UMH #229

Unison

1. In-fant ho - ly, in-fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle
 2. Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing

stall; ox-en low-ing, lit-tle know-ing, Christ the babe is Lord of
 new saw the glo-ry, heard the sto-ry, tid-ings of a gos-pel

all. Swift are wing-ing an-gels sing-ing, no-els ring-ing, tid-ings
 true. Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the

Interlude, Ending

bring-ing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 mor-row: Christ the babe was born for you.

WORDS: Polish carol; trans. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1925 (Lk. 2:6-20)
 MUSIC: Polish carol; arr. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1926; harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1964
 Harm. © 1965 Abingdon Press

W ZLOBIE LEZY
 447.447.44447

The Bidding Prayer & 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Carol

“There is a Song in the Air” (vs. 1, 2, 4)

UMH #249

1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
 2. There's a tu - mult of joy o'er the won - der - ful birth,
 3. In the light of that star lie the a - ges im - pearled;
 4. We re - joice in the light, and we ech - o the song

There's a moth - er's deep prayer and a ba - by's low cry!
 for the vir - gin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
 and that song from a - far has swept o - ver the world.
 that comes down through the night from the heav - en - ly throng.

And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
 Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
 Ev - ery hearth is a - flame, and the beau - ti - ful sing
 Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van - gel they bring,

for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
 for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
 in the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!
 and we greet in his cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!

WORDS: Josiah G. Holland, 1874
 MUSIC: Karl P. Harrington, 1904

CHRISTMAS SONG
 66.66.12 12

save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
 side him from the cold would hide him.
 fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
 save us; peace and love he gave us.

Refrain

* Id - e - o - o - o, id - e - o - o - o,

id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

*therefore

1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant,

lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, fear, for
 king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1865 (Lk. 2:6-20; Mt. 2:1-12)
 MUSIC: 16th cent. English melody

GREENSLEEVES
 87.87 with Refrain

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given;
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 so God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars to - geth - er, pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868
 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
 86.86.76.86

Alt. tune: FOREST GREEN

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:8 -16

Choral Anthem

“Christmas Grace”

Ruth Elaine Schram

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

Carol

“The First Noel” (vs. 2-5)

UMH #245

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full rev - erent -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there, in

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

WORDS: Trad. English carol (Lk. 2:8-14; Mt. 2:1-12)

MUSIC: Trad. English carol; harm. from *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

THE FIRST NOEL

Irr. with Refrain

Sermon

“Do You Want to Hold the Baby?”

Rev. Paul Holland

**Receiving the Christmas Offering
We Offer Our Gifts**

Offertory

“Christmastime”

Arr. Lloyd Larson

Our ministries rely on the generosity of our members and friends. If you would like to make a financial contribution to support our work in Great Falls and beyond, you can send checks to P.O. Box 6303, Great Falls, MT 59406 or use the corresponding QR codes.

The offering this evening will be equally split between Housed Great Falls and Veterans of the Cross. Housed Great Falls is a 501©3 caring for people who are unhoused in Great Falls, MT. Housed Great Falls opens a Cold Weather Drop-in Center on nights when it is colder than 25 or below freezing with high wind/precipitation. Your donation will allow us provide hot and homemade meals and offer cold weather gear and resources to those living in the elements. Veterans of the Cross cares for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ. To donate to these organizations, please mark your donation “Christmas Offering”. If you intend your donation to go toward your pledge or the operations of the church, please mark “pledge”. Thank you.

First Congregational UCC Donations:



Christ UMC Donations:



Doxology and Presentation

UMH #94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, as we gather this evening, all our attention is focused on a baby, lying in a makeshift bed in an “it will have to do” stable. It is not lost on us that you sent your Son, our Savior, into the world among the poorest of the poor and told us: “This will be a sign to you.” As we present gifts to you, we pray they might reach those in greatest need, that they might lift those in the deepest despair, and they might turn peace and compassion to those who find themselves amidst conflict. We pray this in the name of the Holy Child, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen

Meditation

John 1:5

Prayer (Unison)

As lights are present in this holiday season, let there be a light within our hearts. As we turn on lights to our trees, and to our homes, we express hope for the light of Christ to be more and more evident in our world. May the light of Jesus’s presence shine in our forgiveness towards each other. May it shine in our expressions of justice and equality to all. May the light shine in the care we provide for each person. Let there be light, in our cities, in our families, and in our soul. Let there be light, in our cities, in our families, and in our souls. God, thank you for providing the light that dispels the darkness. Amen

Candle Lighting

Choral Anthem

“Peace, Peace”

Rick and Sylvia Powell

Benediction

Our Ministers This Evening:

Minister: Rev. Paul Holland
Lay Reader: Dr. Kelly Quick
Advent Candle Lighting: The Storle Family
Ushers: Dale and Nancy Dallmann, David Holland
Acolytes: Kaeden and Aalayah Dunn
Choir Director: Melissa Gilbert
Accompanists: Melissa Gilbert, Barb Swaby
Handbell Director: Dennis Dell

Thank you for sharing this holy evening with us
and for enriching our worship experience with your presence.

**Our Christmas poinsettias are made possible
through the following donations:**

Given By

In Loving Memory Of

The Baker Family

Jason Baker

Elaine Balzer

Husband, Jim Balzer

*Carol, Marilyn, Scott,
Bruce & Craig Davidson*

Parents, David & Marjorie Davidson

Lee & Chris Ebeling

Our Parents

Darlene Gardner

Husband, Church Gardner

Syneva Heupel

Husband, Willy Heupel

Bonnie Lane

*Son, Tom Lane
Daughter, Tammy Jo Lane Lasher
Mother, Celestia Whitmore
Brother, Robert Guffin
All other loved ones who have passed away*

*Members of
Christ United Methodist Church
And First Congregational United Church of Christ*

Honor of Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith

Linda Redding

*Husband, Ray Redding
Sister, Denise Harmon*

Carol Shipley

Husband, Ron Shipley

Sue Skees

Parents, Don & Margie Ninneman

Tom & Karen Spencer

Our Parents

Dennis & Sue Turton

Loved Ones

Lynne Weeks

*Husband, Jerry Weeks
Daughter-in-law, Sue Kosmerl*

Nancy Zadick

Mom, Alice Grieve

Nancy Zbinden

*Husband, Larry Zbinden
Sister, Leslie Gregg*

