

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM



— The Church of the Open Door —

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 24 Highlights and First Congregational

TODAY: “Christmas-in-a-Box” Family Service at 4:00 PM

TODAY: Service of Lessons and Carols at 7:00 PM

December 27: Congregational Carol Sing

Donating to First Congregational UCC

You are invited to donate via virtual offering. Please visit our webpage and click “Give” to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256. Checks can also still be mailed to the church.

References to God

References to God in traditional prayers, readings, and hymns in our worship may sometimes be gender specific. As we pray and sing together, you are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the full inclusiveness of the spirit of God.

Land Acknowledgement

Our church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee Nation. We acknowledge this indigenous community who stewarded this land throughout the generations and pay respect to their elders past and present.

Online Streaming and Podcasting

Audio and video recordings of our sermons and a written transcript are accessible at www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons.

You can watch a live stream of First Congo services on [Facebook.com/1stCongo](https://www.facebook.com/1stCongo) or at www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream.

Online Documents and Information

Official documents of First Congregational and links to announcements, news and other information reside on our website: www.firstcongoappleton.org.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2020

4:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Rev. Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Rev. Laurie Lyter Bright, Interim Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions

PRELUDE

Infant Holy; Away in a Manger; O Come, Little Children

Trad. Carols
arr. E. Hogan

Elizabeth Melchert, *piano and organ* Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

WELCOME & GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:6-7

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER

We thank you, God, for your gift of Jesus Christ to the entire world. We thank you that Christ's coming makes hope, peace, love and joy possible for every person. Encourage us to do our part to bring goodwill and peace to our families, our churches, our neighborhoods and the world. Now let your spirit put us in touch with you, the living God, through the words and music we hear today. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

BLESSING THE CHRISTMAS IN A BOX

THE LIGHT COMES TO THE WORLD

Introduction of the Candle

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Congregational carols led by Luke LaViolette, *boy treble*

1. 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.

THE ANGEL

Introduction of the Bell

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

1. **The first Nowell the angel 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.**

Chorus: **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

THE SHEPHERDS

Introduction of the Sheep

Away in a Manger

AWAY IN A MANGER

1. **Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**
2. **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

THE "PEOPLE OF WISDOM"

Introduction of the Star

Introduction of the Incense & Spices

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

1. **We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Chorus:

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

CLOSING WORDS

UNISON CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

Leader: On a night long ago, when the stars shone brightly in the sky,

People: Jesus Christ was born.

Leader: Underneath the light on one especially bright star,

People: Jesus Christ was born.

Leader: In a plain and simple manger,

People: Jesus Christ was born.

Leader: With animals gathered all around,

People: Jesus Christ was born.

Leader: Wrapped in a mother's embrace and a father's care,

People: Jesus Christ was born.

Leader: So that we might know God better,

People: Jesus Christ was born; let us celebrate today, tomorrow, and everyday to come. Amen!

POSTLUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

O How Joyfully/Joy to the World

arr. E. Hogan

arr. E. Hogan

arr. C. Berry

Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Elizabeth Melchert, *organ and piano*

Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

Luke LaViolette, *boy treble*

John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Thank you to Dave Frederick for serving as our lay reader tonight!

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Upcoming Worship Schedule

December 27, 2020 First Sunday after Christmas, Congregational Carol Sing

Livestreaming at 9:30 AM

Rev. Nick Hatch

Scripture Reading: Psalm 148

Music: David Cook, *assistant organist*; Kris Glenn, *soprano*

Lay Reader: Natalie Erstad



The Office is Closed On

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

New Year's Eve

New Year's Day

Happy Holidays!

Please note: In order to receive a tax credit on church donations for the 2020 year, all contributions must be received in the church office by 3:00 PM on Wednesday, December 30 or postmarked by December 31.

The Ministry

Reverend Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor

Reverend Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries

Reverend Laurie Lyter Bright, Interim Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions

Reverend Art Wille, Pastor of Visitation

John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

Colleen Berry, Director for Christian Education

Jennifer DeWitt, CYF Coordinator

Carolyn Frederick, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant

Holly Volkman, Administrative Assistant for Communications

Jane Malin, Administrative Assistant

Siri Witt, Bookkeeper

Jonathan Steffen, Technology Coordinator

Bart Forseth, Custodial Supervisor

Theresa Iacullo, Infant/Toddler Child Care Provider

Cassidy Behm, Infant/Toddler Child Care Provider

Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant

Mary Lou Cliff, Custodial Assistant

Lauren Micke, Weekend Custodial Assistant

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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