

Welcome to *The Church of the Open Door*.
Our door is open to you at whatever point you are in your journey of faith.

Donating to First Congregational UCC

If you are enrolled in automatic contributions, you may still participate in the weekly offering by submitting a Giving Card, found in the pews. Pledge cards are available in the pews and may be placed in the offering plates at any time. Checks can also be mailed to the church.

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

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

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.

Video recordings of our live stream services can be found at: www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/previous-livestream-services/

Written transcripts of the sermon can be downloaded at: www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/sermon-transcripts/

Upcoming Worship Schedule

December 26, 2021

First Sunday after Christmas

Rev. Nick Hatch

Livestreaming at 9:30 AM

Scriptures: Psalm 148

Music: Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Congregational Carol sing; Kris Glenn, *soprano*

Lay Reader: Kris Henke

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24, 2021

7:00 PM

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

PRELUDES (selected from the following)

Still, Still, Still

Austrian Folk Melody

What Is This Lovely Fragrance

traditional French Carol
settings by Paul Manz

Stille Nacht (Silent Night)

Austrian Carol
setting by Gerald Near

He Whom Shepherds Came Praising

14th c. Carol

In Bethlehem is Born to Us a Child

French Song
settings by Helmut Walcha

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ and piano* Lori Murphy, *violin*

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Michael Murphy, *guitar* Lori Murphy, *violin* Jack Murphy, *piano*

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

Michael Murphy, *tenor*

There's a Star in the East (Rise Up Shepherd and Follow)

Spiritual
arr. Joel Jicha

Joel Jicha, *bass*

O Holy Night

Adolph Adam

Cassie Glaeser, *soprano*

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

The Wexford Carol

Irish Carol
arr. E. Hagenberg

Vocal Ensemble, with Lori Murphy, *violin*, and John Aaholm, *percussion*

* Please rise, in body or in spirit

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward all.

People: The God of joy arrives, lighting the path and lifting the weary world.

Leader: Jesus is Emmanuel – He is God with us.

ALL: Glory to God in the highest – let us welcome the newborn Christ into our hearts!

***OPENING CAROL #132**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

arr. Willcocks

FIRST GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:46-55 (NT, p. 68)

CAROL (see bulletin, p. 7-8)

Canticle of the Turning

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

Solo Voices on verses; **ALL sing the Refrains**

SECOND GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20 (NT, p. 71)

***CAROL** (see bulletin, p. 6)

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

MEDITATION

“Do You See What I See?”

Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Ave Maria

Bach/Gounod

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed
art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. . .*

Jack Murphy, *tenor*

(During this time, you are invited to a virtual offering. Please visit our webpage and click “Give” to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256).

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SOLO

I Sing of a Maiden

William B. Goldberg
anon. 15th century text

I sing of a maiden that is makeles (matchless); King of all kings to her son she ches (chose). He came also stille there his mother was, as dew in Aprille that falleth on the grass. He came also stille to his mother's bower, as dew in Aprille that falleth on the flower. He came also stille there his mother lay, as dew in Aprille that falleth on the spray. Mother and maiden was never none but she well may such a lady Goddess mother be.

Dr. Karen Leigh-Post, *mezzo-soprano*

CHRISTMAS EVE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

DUET

Virgin's Slumber Song

Max Reger

Cassie Glaeser, *soprano* Dr. Karen Leigh-Post, *mezzo-soprano*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

John 1:1-14 (NT, p. 111)

CLOSING CAROLS

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.**

Stanza 1, sung in German by the Vocal Ensemble, with guitar

Stanzas 1, 2 and 3 sung in English by ALL.

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.**
2. **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!**
3. **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.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo (In Sweet Rejoicing), BWV 729

14th c. Melody
setting by J.S. Bach

TONIGHT'S MUSICIANS:

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ and piano*; Lori Murphy, *violin*; Michael Murphy, *guitar, tenor, cello*; John Aaholm, *percussion*; Cassie Glaeser, *soprano*; Dr. Karen Leigh-Post, *mezzo-soprano*; Jack Murphy, *tenor, piano, violin*; Joel Jicha, *bass*; John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*.

Note to our families: Our First Congregational Children's Choir (grades 2-6) rehearses on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:15 PM (masked and distanced), resuming on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Youth Handbells (gr. 7 -12) also resume rehearsing that evening at 5:45 PM (masked and distanced.) For new registrations, please contact **John Albrecht at jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org** or call him at the church, (920) 851-8097. Thank you!

Love Has Come

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)

F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C B^b F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow - in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 B^b C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C B^b C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996
 MUSIC: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012
 Text © 1996 LNWwhymns.com (admin. Music Services)
 Music Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

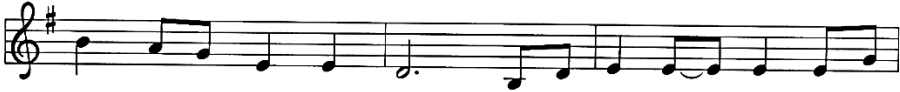
BRING A TORCH
 9.9.10.9.8

Solo Voices on verses;
ALL sing the Refrains

Canticle of the Turning



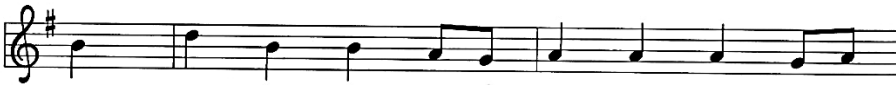
1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



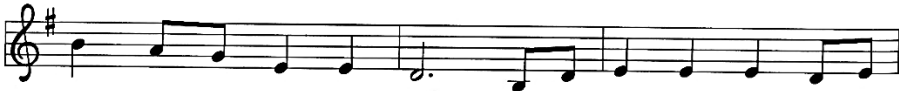
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: Irish traditional
Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN
Irregular



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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The church office will be closed, Monday, December 27 and Monday, January 3.

In order to receive a tax credit on church donations for the 2021 year, all contributions must be received in the church office by 3:00 PM on Thursday, December 30 or postmarked by December 31.

May the peace and hope of Christ's birth be with you now and in the days ahead.

Gifts for the 2021 Advent Display

In celebration of:

First Congo clergy and staff given by Rick and Sue Detienne

In honor of:

Our worship leadership given by Cheryl and Ron Reissmann

All the people who take part in the beautiful music for Christmas
given by Sharon Radke

In loving memory of:

Alicia Rose Arndt Dorn - best friend, young mother and wife, gone too soon from all
who still love her, given by Anne Brahe

Dan Benz, given by Gerry Benz

My brother John, given by Faye Binsfeld

Adele & John Bowman, Marion & Elmer Gosse, given by Karen and Dick Gosse

Everett Erstad and John Mendonca, given by Dan, Heidi, Natalie, and Ross Erstad

Jack & Dolores Frederick, Norman & Judy Clay, given by Dave and Carolyn Frederick

Vaughn Gehrt, given by Esther Gehrt

Brandon Groh, given by Ed and Cathy Groh

Clarence & Elaine Hartung, Gerald & Evelyn Desmond
given by Tony and Luann Desmond

Rev. Harvey Kandler, given by his family

Larry & Dolores Loomis, given by Mike and Linda Loomis

Dick & Joyce Sullivan, Bob & Andy Lacey, given by the Halletts

Evelyn & James P. Vercouteren, given by Beth Vercouteren

Gary Wisneski, given by Sue Wisneski

John Zeiss, given by Phyllis Zeiss

The Ministry

Reverend Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Reverend Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Reverend Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright, Pastor for Congregational Care and Mission
Reverend John T. McFadden, Pastor Emeritus
John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, Organist
Dianne Droster, Director for Children and Middle School Ministry
Carolyn Frederick, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant
Holly Volkman, Administrative Assistant for Communications
Beck Fritsche, Administrative Assistant
Siri Witt, Bookkeeper
Matt Feuerhelm, AV Coordinator
Bart Forseth, Custodial Supervisor
Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant
Pat Metoxen, Custodial Assistant
Lauren Micke, Weekend Custodial Assistant

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