

*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/FCUCCAppleton 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/

Hearing Loop



There is a color-coded map by the AV desk at the back of the Sanctuary if you'd like to find out where you can get the best reception using our hearing loop.

If you have any questions, ask one of the ushers to help you.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24, 2022

9:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, Interim Associate Minister for Congregational Life
Clergy for Communion Rev. Carol Dibiasio-Snyder; Rev. Ralph Dibiasio-Snyder; Rev. Peggy O'Connor

PRELUDE

<i>Music of Christmas</i>	Various
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, <i>organ and piano</i>	
<i>Carols of Christmas</i>	Trad.
String Quartet	
<i>There's a Star in the East (Rise Up Shepherd!)</i>	Spiritual
Joel Jicha, <i>bass</i>	arr. Jicha
<i>All Is Well</i>	W. Kirkpatrick/M. W. Smith
Michael Murphy, <i>tenor</i>	
<i>Come Love, Come Lord</i>	R. Vaughan Williams
Jack Murphy, <i>tenor</i>	Text by Richard Crashaw

WELCOME AND GREETING

A CAROL (Congregation stands for stanzas 2 and 3)

Once in Royal David's City H. J. Gauntlett
arr. D. Willcocks

Stanza 1, Kris Glenn, *soprano*; Stanzas 2 and 3, ALL

- *2. He came down to earth from heaven (stanza 3 on next page)
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

* Please rise, in body or in spirit

- *3. **Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Karianne Carr & Kristin Alheim and family

One: This night the words of faith are fulfilled. The promises of God are true.
The gifts of God are real.

**All: God is stronger than empires and wiser than despair. God gives us the
gifts of hope and love among life's richest blessings.**

One: The wonder of this miracle lifts our spirits and brings us joy. For the
promise of God has come to us. God's light burns in our hearts. So, we
light the candle at the center of our wreath, the Christ candle.

A BIDDING 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.**

A CAROL FOR CHOIR

Merry Christmas (from The Three Kings)

Anders Öhrwall

Sanctuary Choir John Aaholm, *percussion*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 6:1-8 (OT, p. 778)
Elliott Niblock

God commissioned Isaiah to be a prophet of the Advent.

RESPONSE

Leader: This is what God has done for us.

People: Thanks be to God!

A CAROL #148

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9 (OT, p. 784)

Heidi Erstad

Isaiah foretells Christ's birth and kingdom.

RESPONSE

Leader: This is what God has done for us.

People: Thanks be to God!

A CAROL #151

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

St. 1 & 2- ALL St. 3 - *Organ, only (meditate on text)* **St. 4 - ALL**

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-35 (NT, p. 69)

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear the Son of God.

RESPONSE

Leader: This is what God has done for us.

People: Thanks be to God!

*A CAROL (see bulletin, p. 9)

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-23 (NT, p. 1)

Rev. Nick Hatch

St. Matthew tells of Christ's Holy birth.

RESPONSE

Leader: This is what God has done for us.

People: Thanks be to God!

A CAROL FOR CHOIR

The Cherry Tree Carol

Traditional English Carol

*This carol text from the 1500's presents a somewhat feminist counter-story,
as Joseph is put in his place by Mary, with God's full cooperation!*

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7 (NT, p. 71)

Barbara Schmidt

The Christ child is born.

RESPONSE

Leader: This is what God has done for us.

People: Thanks be to God!

A DUET

Virgin's Slumber Song

Max Reger

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

SIXTH LESSON

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

Bill Lenz

St. John Reveals the Mystery of the Incarnation.

RESPONSE

Leader: This is what God has done for us.

People: Thanks be to God!

A LULLABY

Excerpt from *Geistliches Wiegenlied, Op. 91* (A Sacred Cradlesong) Johannes Brahms

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

*You who hover around these palms, in night and wind,
You holy angels, silence the tree-tops! My child is sleeping. . .*

MEDITATION

"If Only"

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

*A CAROL #135

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

A CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

A MUSICAL OFFERING

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

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

(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

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, who promised to send a Redeemer to your people, we confess that we have not trusted your promise but have busied ourselves with so many distractions. We give presents but fail to be present with one another.

We welcome friends but fail to welcome the stranger, the sojourner in our midst. We celebrate the holiday but ignore the holy-ness of this precious birth.

We pack up our Christmas stuff within days and forget to cherish the trust gifts of your Son, Jesus. Forgive us. Help us to see the real gifts of Christmas all around us. Help us to find our way to the manger tonight. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

(Gluten-free elements are available from an usher.)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Still, Still, Still

arr. N. Luboff

Sanctuary Choir Lori Murphy, *violin*

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit, as we receive the gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CLOSING CAROL #142

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Stanza 1, sung in German by ALL with guitar,
then Stanzas 1, 2 and 3 sung in English by ALL.

1. *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
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.

THE BENEDICTION

*SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #132

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES
arr. D. Willcocks

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729 (In Sweet Rejoicing)

J. S. Bach

TONIGHT'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ and piano*

Sanctuary Choir

Dr. Karen Leigh-Post, *mezzo-soprano*; Lori Murphy, *violin*; Melanie Riley, *soprano*;

Joel Jicha, *bass*; Jack Murphy, *tenor, violin, piano*; Michael Murphy, *guitar, tenor, cello*;

John Aaholm, *percussion*; Kris Glenn, *soprano*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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The church office will be closed Monday, December 26 and Tuesday, December 27.

In order to receive a tax credit on church donations for the 2022 year, all contributions must be received in the church office by 3:00 PM on Thursday, December 29 or postmarked by December 31.

December 25, 2022 at 9:30 AM

Christmas Day

Rev. Nick Hatch

In-person and livestreaming

Scripture Reading: Psalm 98

Music: Congregational Carols; Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Dylan Schang, *tenor*

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

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!

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 LNWymns.com (admin. Music Services)
 Music Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

BRING A TORCH
 9.9.10.9.8

Gifts for the 2022 Advent Display

In celebration of:

The parents of Pat Hansen and Bill Lenz, given by Pat Hansen and Bill Lenz
My greatest loves; daughter, Quinn and goddaughter, Bellamy

In honor of:

Friends in Christ, given by Jane Hempel
Peter Larsen, given by Dave and Julie Gamm
Malin Joel Cartier & Harlow Karen Cartier
Pastors Nick, Susan and Mary Jo, given by Rick and Sue Detienne

In loving memory of:

Carlton and Arlene Beyer, given by Joan and Steve Hawkins
Adele & John Bowman / Marion & Elmer Gosse, given by Karen and Dick Gosse
Philip Edmund Crawford, given by Karen Crawford
Joel Cartier & Karen Gibson
Dolores & Jack Frederick and Judy & Norman Clay,
given by Dave & Carolyn Frederick family
Thomas Hempel, given by Jane Hempel
Loved ones lost, given by the Murphy and Murphy-Pociask families
Margie & Warren Gamm, and Dominick & Nancy Piccione,
given by Dave and Julie Gamm
Everett Erstad, John Mendonca, and Dorothy Heckner Mendonca,
given by their children and grandchildren
Rev. Harvey Kandler, given by Nancy Kandler and family