

First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



“Keep Christmas With You”

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

8:00 p.m.

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship
and relevant messages deepen spirituality
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

Mission Statement of First Congregational UCC, Grand Ledge Mi.

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor
Angela Spialek, Office Administrator
Nicole Finney, Child Care
Sue Sackett, Custodian
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Judy Nielsen, Organist
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • grandledgeucc.org

• 517-627-2336 • office@grandledgeucc.org

Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

GREETING

One: May the God of holy nights be with you!

Many: And also with you!

BELLS/CHIMES

INTROIT

“See the Little Baby”

Chuck Byam

CALL TO WORSHIP

Troy Arient and Chuck Byam

(Adapted from Psalm 96)

One: O sing to our God a new song; sing to our God, all the earth!

Many: Sing to our God, bless Their name; tell of Their salvation from day to day.

One: Those who dwell in shadow and sorrow have seen a great light. In the midst of suffering, we find a reason to rejoice. For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Many: His name shall be Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Holy One, Prince of Peace.

One: So let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

Many: Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy before God; for God is here. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who is born this night!

One: Halleluiah, Amen!

CAROL (green booklet #132)

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Maddy & Sara Gooley, Mary Lou Prevost,
Linda Gooley and Sue Sackett

CAROL (green booklet #130)

“Joy to the World! The Lord is Come”

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7 (pg. 624)

Leah Horn

ANTHEM

“What Child Is This”

Brandon Frost

SECOND READING

Luke 2:1-4 NRSV (pg. 933)

Lisa Reed

SPECIAL MUSIC

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Virginia Schiefelbein

THIRD READING

Luke 2:5-7 NRSV

Sarah Robinson

OFFERING

All money offered at this Christmas Eve service will be used to help individuals and families from the FCUCC community who are in need. Please write “Discretionary Fund” in the subject line and send checks to FCUCC 210 West Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

FOURTH READING

Luke 2:8-14 NRSV

Ron Erskine

SPECIAL MUSIC “Listen to the Silence of Night” Mary Lou Prevost and Linda Gooley

FIFTH READING Luke 2:15-18 NRSV Chris Cypher

CAROL (green booklet #116) “Angels We Have Heard on High”

MEDITATION “Keep Christmas With You” Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

MUSICAL REFLECTION “Still, Still, Still” Judy Nielsen

PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

SPECIAL MUSIC “Coventry Carol” Kelly Stuible-Clark

RECEIVING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
Please light candles at home and hold them as we sing with Ellen and Sarah.

CAROL (green booklet #138) “Silent Night, Holy Night”
 Ellen and Sarah Robinson

SIXTH READING John 1:1-5 (pg. 966) Bil Turner

BENEDICTION
*Please carefully extinguish the candle before you leave the sanctuary,
 yet carry the light of Christ with you always.*

BELLS/CHIMES



CREDITS

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ROSTER

Liturgist – Troy Arient and Chuck Byam

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Chad Frost

Music Coordinator – Brandon Frost

Pianist – Chuck Byam

Organist – Judy Nielsen

Musicians–Virginia Schiefelbein, Kelly Stuible-Clark, Ellen and Sarah Robinson, Linda Gooley, Mary Lou Prevost

Advent Readers –Mary Lou Prevost, Sara, Maddy and Linda Gooley, and Sue Sackett

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin: John F. Wade, 1711-1786
Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, and others

ADESTE FIDELES Irregular
John F. Wade's "Cantus Diversi," 1751

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
We would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord! A-men.

Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

ANTIOCH C.M.

Attr. to Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759

Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
 3 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, And
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 And won - ders of his love, And

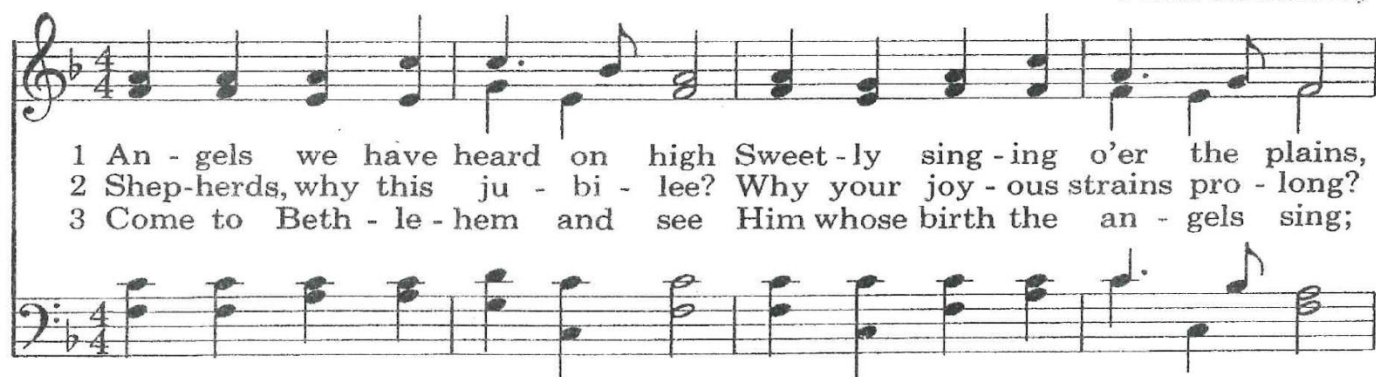
sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy. A - men.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing.
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

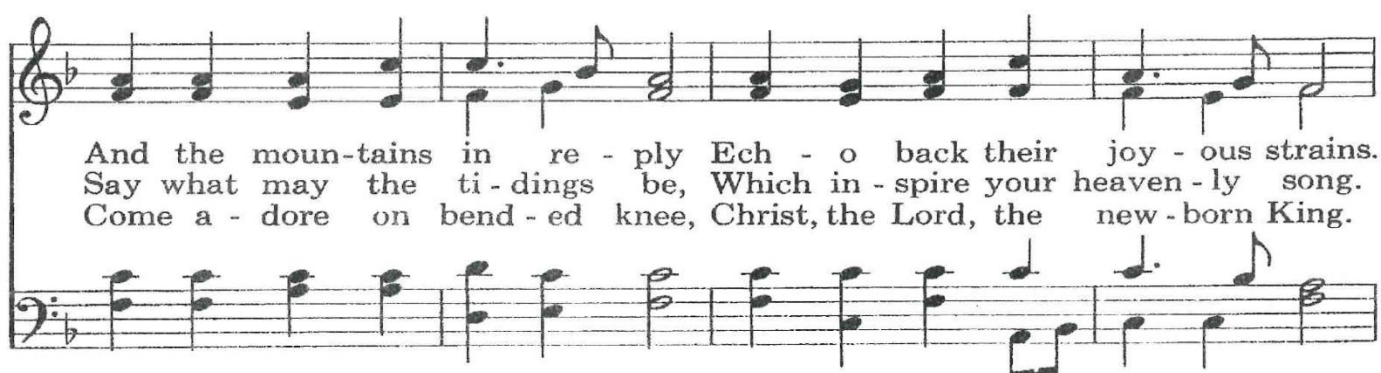
116

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French Carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.7. with Refrain
French Carol Melody


1 An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heaven - ly song.
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

Silent Night, Holy Night

Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848
Tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

STILLE NACHT Irregular
Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,
 Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, Heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 Ra - diant beams from thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Isaiah 9:2-7**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Luke 2:1-4**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)****The Birth of Jesus**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

Luke 2:5-7**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:8-14**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)****The Shepherds and the Angels**

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 Savior, 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 God favors!”

Luke 2:15-20**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

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 God 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.

John 1:1-5**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)****The Word Became Flesh**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.