

**First United Church  
of Oak Park**

**24 Dec 2011 Christmas Eve  
8 and 11 pm Services**



*An open community united in love and justice*

848 Lake Street – Oak Park, Illinois 60301

708.386.5215 [www.FirstUnitedOakPark.com](http://www.FirstUnitedOakPark.com)

# 24 Dec 2011 Christmas Eve

## 8 and 11 pm Services

\* Please stand if you are able—**Speak in unison at the bold face areas**

### GATHERING MUSIC

*O Hail This Brightest Day of Days* J. S. Bach  
*Greensleeves* Richard Purvis  
*Pastorale* J. S. Bach

PROCESSIONAL *Gaudete* Piae Cantiones  
\*CALL to WORSHIP (from Psalm 96) Julie R. Harley

O sing to the Lord a new song.  
**Sing to the Lord, all the earth!**  
Sing to the Lord, bless God's name.  
**Tell of the Lord's salvation from day to day.**  
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.  
**God is to be revered above all gods.**  
Honor and majesty are before the Lord.  
**Strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.**  
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.  
**Then all all the trees of the forest sing for joy before  
the Lord.**  
For God is coming!

MUSIC *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* John Gardner  
(Peter Todd, percussion)  
(Dancers at 11 pm service: Katy Dammers, Madeline Gillette, Sydney  
Gillette, Amy Stolz, Sophie Poe, Karina Donayre and Anna Wight)

LIGHTING the CHRIST CANDLE and THE ADVENT CANDLE Bob Berry (8 pm)  
Rick and Ruth Steele (11 pm)

A verse from "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Let all mor-tal flesh keep\_\_\_ sil - ence And with fear and  
tremb - ling\_\_\_ stand; Pon-der noth-ing earth - ly\_\_\_ mind - ed  
For with bles-sing in his\_\_\_ hand Christ our God to earth de -  
scend - - - eth Our full hom-age to de - mand.

All things promised have come to pass.  
Listen to the words of the prophet.

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger  
who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion,  
"Your God rules."*

*Listen! Your lookouts lift up their voices;  
they sing out for joy.*

*In plain sight they see the Lord returning to Zion.*

*Break into song together, you ruins of Jerusalem!*

*The Lord has comforted his people,*

*and he has redeemed Jerusalem,*

*and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Isaiah 52:7-10)*

We light all four candles and the Christ candle tonight,  
for salvation is born among us. Rejoice!

**We walked in darkness, and now Christ lights our way. Rejoice!**

Joy to the world, Christ is born.

**Joy to the world, Christ is born.**

PRAYER of ADORATION

Glory to you, almighty God,  
For you sent your only-begotten Son,  
That we might have new life.  
**Glory to you, Jesus Christ,  
For you became flesh and dwelt among us  
That we might become your people.**  
Glory to you, Holy Spirit,  
For you direct and rule our lives.  
**Glory to you, almighty God,  
And to your Son, Jesus Christ,  
And to the Holy Spirit,  
Now and forever! Amen.**

\*HYMN 41  
(blue hymnal)

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Marylen Marty-Gentile (8 pm)  
Leah Fowler (11 pm)

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came  
among us as light shining in darkness.  
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,  
Or trusted good news to be good.  
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,  
Expecting little, and hoping for less.  
(Time for silence.)  
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,  
So that we may receive the fullness of your grace,  
And live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

DECLARATION of GOD'S GRACE

Hear the good news!  
**Who is in a position to condemn?**  
Only Christ, and Christ died for us,  
Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us,  
Christ prays for us.  
**Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.**  
**The old life has gone; a new life has begun.**  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.  
**Amen.**

*\*PASSING the PEACE*

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.** (*Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.*)

(Please remain seated during the next four hymns)

**HYMN 44**      *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vs. 1 – 3)  
(blue hymnal)

ST. LOUIS

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Rob Leveridge (8 pm)  
Ellen Drews (11 pm)

Luke 2:1-7 (NT, p. 58)

**HYMN 49**      *Once in Royal David's City* (vs. 1 – 2)  
(blue hymnal)

IRBY

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Rob Leveridge (8 pm)  
Ellen Drews (11 pm)

Luke 2:8-14 (NT, p. 58)

**HYMN 56**      *The First Nowell* (vs. 1 - 2)  
(blue hymnal)

THE FIRST NOWELL

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Rob Leveridge (8 pm)  
Ellen Drews (11 pm)

Luke 2:15-20 (NT, p. 58)

**HYMN 53**      *What Child Is This* (vs. 1 - 2)  
(blue hymnal)

GREENSLEEVES

**PRAYER of DEDICATION**

Julie R. Harley

OFFERTORY

*Rosa Mystica*

Chrysogonus Waddell

*Our Christmas Offering will support the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and the Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ, as well as the ministries of First United.*

SCRIPTURE READING:

Marylen Marty-Gentile (8 pm)

Rob McMahon-Lovell (11 pm)

John 1:1-14 (NT, p. 91)

\*HYMN 29

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

(blue hymnal)

## The Sacrament of Communion and Candlelighting

Marylen Marty-Gentile and Julie R. Harley (8 pm)

Julie R. Harley and Leah Fowler (11 pm)

The Lord be with you,

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

SANCTUS

*Missa Emmanuel*

arr. Richard Proulx

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

*The pastor will pray, concluding with: "Great is the mystery of faith."*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

WORDS of INSTITUTION

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

SHARING the  
ELEMENTS

*Communion will be served by intinction. The congregation is invited to come to the front and back of the sanctuary to receive the elements. Bring your candle and worship bulletin with you, and walk along the two center aisles. Take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and commune. Then form a circle around the aisles of the sanctuary. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may join the circle anywhere around the outside aisles.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

*O Holy Night (8 pm)*

Adolphe Adam

The Band

*Joys Seven (11 pm)*

Stephen Cleobury

Sanctuary Choir

\*LIGHTING of ALL CANDLES

Rick Steele

Christ, the light of the world, gives each one of us light,  
So that we too may shine with gratitude, hope  
and love.

Receive the light that comes to you:

It comes from the Christ candle,

But it reaches you only through your neighbors.

Receive the light from a brother or sister in Christ.

Hold the light, enjoy the light, and be thankful.

Emmanuel. God is with us!

\*HYMN 60

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

**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.**

**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."**

**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.**

**Silent Night, Holy Night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels, let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

*\*CHRIST AMONG US*

Julie R. Harley

Christ among us, Light of the World,  
Heal our brokenness, and bring us to wholeness,  
Ease our pain, and bring us hope, strength and life.  
Give us a new heart, new hope, and a new song,  
That our prayers and deeds may be one.  
We ask it in your holy name, as we join in the prayer  
you taught us to say,

**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.**

Christ is the way, the truth and the life.  
Rejoice, believe and follow.  
Blow out your candles now,  
But take the light of Christ with you  
Out into the world.

*\*HYMN 40*

*Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her king;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing...**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy...**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found...**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love...**

*\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION*

Julie R. Harley

Go in peace.

**May the love that made the stars be your guiding light.**

May the love revealed in Jesus be your hope and  
inspiration;

**And may the love of the ever-present Spirit**

**Give you courage, joy and hope, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*SENDING MUSIC*

*In Dulci Jubilo*

J. S. Bach



**WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED CHURCH!** We're so glad you've joined us this evening. Our congregation strives to be *an open community, united in love and justice*. We are committed to growing spiritually as we serve together, learn together, and develop meaningful, lasting relationships.

**DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD, FAITH OR CHURCH?**

For many people, the celebration of Christmas opens a door to a deepening experience of faith. If you are seeking to grow in your relationship with God, we want to journey with you. Are you interested in learning more about Christianity? Do you have questions about God, faith or church? Do you want to increase the amount of love and justice in the world? We'd love to get to know you! You can contact Pastor Rob Leveridge at 708.386.5215 or [rleveridge@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:rleveridge@firstunitedoakpark.com), and you can learn about our ministries at [www.firstunitedoakpark.com](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com).

**WE'D ALSO LOVE TO WELCOME YOU AGAIN** tomorrow morning for worship at 11am. God bless you!

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** – Envision world peace! Your gift to our Christmas Offering will support the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries, as well as our own peace and justice work here at First United. Please use the Christmas offering envelopes mailed to your home or those in the pew racks.

**THANK YOU TO** Emory Mead, who designed our bulletin covers this season. Also, thanks to Carling FitzSimmons, Rosetta Sellers-Varela, and Saalik Ziyad for singing in this evening's services.

# 2011 Christmas Poinsettia Dedication

Helen and Nick Neumann	In loving memory of James and Helen, Fitzie and Walt, and Jamie
Helen Cooney Neumann	In memory of our father Al Balch from Portia, Jessica and Brandon
Clara Kearley	For homebound members
Nancy Waichler	For homebound members
Don and Priscilla Sibley	In memory of loved ones In celebration of grandchildren
Al, Georga and Alyssa Parchem	In praise for the birth of Sofie Anna Parchem
Laurie and Bill Bunkers	Leona Baker Van Der Tuin E. Wm. Bunkers Frank Bunkers
John and Michelle Chapman-Rienstra	In memory of (Michelle's parents) the Rev. James Chapman and Katie Chapman
Anna Sadowski	Beloved husband, Raymond Sadowski
Peggy Saecker	In loving memory of Peter and in honor of my three granddaughters
Janet and Bob Haisman	Sher Spooner's year of service for Holiday Food & Gift Basket
Rick and Marcia Ashton	Ralph and Marie Ashton
Betty Peaslee	In honor of Don and Ruth Peaslee
Paul Aeschleman	
Chris and Laura Damon and Connie Henderson-Damon	In memory of Andy and Kay Damon and Bill and Lenora Henderson
Bob Giles	Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Giles, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Haertel, Mr. and Mrs. John Hosty and Mrs. Anne Pericak