



Sticky CHURCH

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
NEW YEAR'S EVE 2017**

Preparing for Worship

“He became a child so that you could become a full mature human being.”

- Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (4th Century)

*Please stand in body or spirit. Please silence cell phones.

Today's worship is meant to be interactive, expressive and intergenerational.

We will focus our time around eating and communing together. In the stage area there are materials for hands-on learners with space to spread out. The youth room will serve as a place for quiet reflection. Your tables have butcher paper on them to draw, color or journal. Snacks on the tables are for anyone who has the munchies before breakfast.

Our Life Together

Lydia Mulkey

Gathering as God's People

***Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation** (singing in unison)

Deborah Kapp

Christ manifested in the flesh, Christ revealed in the Spirit.

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice:
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

Christ contemplated by the angels, Christ worshiped by the Magi.

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice:
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this.
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

Christ believed in the world, Christ exalted in glory.

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice:
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to join the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

Loving God, through the birth of your child Jesus,
you have sent a new light into the world.
As we worship today, give us grace
that we might receive Christ's light into our lives,
and follow in his path of peace and love. Amen.

Listening for God's Word to Us

Christmas Carol Medley

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, lived on earth our savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread Had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind, to you and humankind."

"To you in David's town this day, is born of David's line
The savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign."

"The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All humbly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid, and in a manger laid."

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our savior's birth.

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

Reading: Matthew 2: 1-11

Michael Surratt

Silence

We will spend one minute in silence to rest our bodies and our voices as best as we are able. A bell will ring in the beginning and at the end of the silent time. You are invited to reflect on the scripture in song and in Bible story.

Sharing

Lydia Mulkey and Deborah Kapp

For the next five minutes, you are invited to share at your tables a word or a story that comes to your mind as you reflect on the stories and songs of Jesus' birth. What did you notice? What questions did the scripture bring up?

Christmas Carol: *We Three Kings*

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and forest, vale and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain

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

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

Refrain

Breakfast

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Lord, you were born in a simple stable, and received gifts from the Wise Men.
Please accept our gifts today, for we also love you and want to serve you. Amen.

Offering

Offering Carol

Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshiping God most high.

Refrain

Prayers of Intercession

Deborah Kapp and Lydia Mulkey

Our joys and concerns will be offered aloud this morning, as guided by the ministers. If you would like to record a prayer joy or concern on a pink card, for pastoral prayer later this week, please fill out a card and place it in the prayer basket before you leave.

Clean-Up Instructions

Closing Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth, the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wandering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

Charge and Benediction

News & Events

Please recycle your bulletin in one of the bins near the Sanctuary exits.

Dinner and a Movie: "Megan Leavey"

Friday, January 5; Dinner at 6 p.m. (\$5 donation), Movie at 6:30 (free)

In this true-life drama, U.S. Marine Megan Leavey and her bomb-sniffing dog build a bond of trust that sees them through over 100 missions during the Iraq War until an improvised explosive device injures them both. Sign up in the lounge or call Nancy Pennington, 708-386-9195

Next Sunday, January 7 - Epiphany

"Blessed" - Genesis 12:1-5; Matthew 4:25-5:12



First United Church of Oak Park

An open community united in love & justice

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