

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
24 DECEMBER 2019 – 8:30 P.M.
CHRISTMAS EVE



Nativity '75, Watanabe Sadao, courtesy of Minneapolis Institute of Art

An open community united in love and justice

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

GATHERING MUSIC

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Rejoice, Jerusalem!
In Dulci Jubilo
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Go Tell It on the Mountain

arr. Julian Chin
Thomas Gouin
Paul Manz
Johannes Brahms
arr. Julian Chin

WELCOME

Please sign and pass the connections pew pad

John Edgerton

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Blue hymnal

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the king of angels!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

A CHRISTMAS CREED FROM LATIN AMERICA

Alicia Reese

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel which began in Bethlehem.

I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was no room in the inn. I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history, for whom the kings of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud.

I believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind and the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Savior. I believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the proud, and with his life, showed that it is more important to serve than to be served, and that the greatest joy is in giving your life for others. I believe in peace, which means justice among all peoples and nations and love among all. I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness and the transforming power of the gospel. I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change if, with humility and faith, we kneel before the manger. I believe that I must be the first one to do so. Amen.

MUSICAL INTROIT

Angels We Have Heard On High

arr. Stanley Thurston

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Pareja Family

On this Christmas Eve, we arrive at the manger. As we wonder what this birth means to us, we recall the lights that marked our journey back to Bethlehem.

The light of hope... (Candle is lit)

The light of peace... (Candle is lit)

The light of joy... (Candle is lit)

The light of love... (Candle is lit)

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light would shine and a child would be born to us. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, "Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!" John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God's glory—full of grace and truth. Rejoice, people of God!

The light has come into the world!

The Christ candle is lit as we sing.

*CAROL 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Blue hymnal

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!" *(continued, next page)*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

THE GOOD NEWS IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

Readers: John, Michelle, Gabriel, Daniella, and Samuel Chapman-Rienstra

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7, OT p. 638

SONG

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38, NT p. 56

CAROL 22

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

Blue hymnal

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn King!**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!**

**Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations: ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn King!**

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal, Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn King!**

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-7, NT p. 58

CAROL 49

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Blue hymnal

**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.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and helpless, is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16, NT p. 58

CAROL 53

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Blue hymnal

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

FIFTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12, NT p. 2

CAROL 66

We Three Kings

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

Blue hymnal

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
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 for ever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light! *(continued, next page)*

Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshiping God most High.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

REFLECTION AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

John Edgerton

SILENT PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERTORY

Ding Dong! Merrily On High

French Carol, arr. David Haas

GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

*LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Lydia Mulkey

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 through your neighbors.
Receive the light from a friend in Christ.
Hold the light, enjoy it, and be thankful.

***CAROL 60**

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Blue hymnal

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.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

John Edgerton

***CAROL 40**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Blue hymnal

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

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Christ rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nation prove
the glories of God's righteousness
and wonders of God's love, and wonders of God's love,
and wonders, wonders of God's love.

SENDING MUSIC

Someday at Christmas

Stevie Wonder



STICKY CHURCH. December 29 - 11 a.m. in Centennial Hall - End the year with sticky faith alongside family and friends! Worship will be interactive and kid-friendly, filled with intergenerational fun. Together we'll sing and pray and hear the stories of scripture, munch on breakfast, sing some more, and clean the space before going on our way.

OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING supports mission and programming at First United. Ten percent of the offering will be shared with the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL) and will be used for Syrians who have been displaced from their homes inside Syria. Displaced families need help with heating fuel for their homes, food, and housing costs during the brutally cold winter months. Without the help provided by NESSL global partners, they suffer greatly and may begin the difficult and dangerous process of trying to immigrate to another country.

Thank you for the many ways that you contribute to the mission of First United.

WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED. JOIN US ANY SUNDAY.

We're glad you're here to share our Christmas Eve service. Learn more about our church:

WORSHIP. Worship is our time to praise and grow closer to God. Worship each week includes song, prayer, learning, silence, and giving. Children participate fully in worship. We offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play for children five and under in our nursery. A member of the pastoral staff preaches every Sunday to lead the congregation in interpreting the word of God. To learn more about First United's approach to preaching, contact Lead Pastor John Edgerton, 708-386-5215 (ext. 101) or jedgerton@firstunitedoakpark.com.

EDUCATION FOR ALL. Church school and adult education classes are held at 9:30 every Sunday morning from September through late May. Children focus on Bible study, singing, and mission. Adult ed focuses on issues from Bible study to faith journeys to church history to current events to international conflicts. To find out more about the church's education classes, contact Lydia Mulkey, Associate Pastor of Education, at 708-386-5215 (ext. 103) or lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com.

NURSERY SCHOOL. First United offers our NAEYC-accredited First United Nursery School. An open house for parents interested in enrolling children ages 2-5 will be Tuesday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. Contact Nursery School Director Joan White at 708-848-4910 or jwhite@firstunitedschool.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY. On Sunday nights we welcome youth to FUJI (junior highs) and FUSH (senior highs) for dinner, fellowship, service projects and more. Both groups take weekend retreats to bond, relax, play and just chill. For more information, contact Alicia Reese, Pastoral Associate for Youth & Congregational Care, at areese@firstunitedoakpark.com.

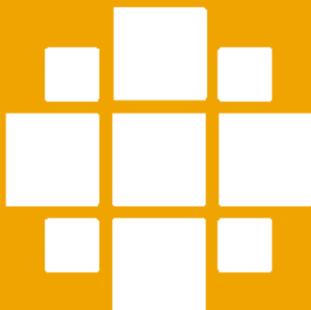
MUSIC. First United offers our weekly Sanctuary Choir, our Casavant organ, and occasionally the added music of our Handbell Choir and church school children. Singers interested in joining our Sanctuary Choir can contact William Chin, Director of Music, at 386-5215 (ext. 108) or bill@firstunitedoakpark.com. Music at First offers a series of concerts throughout the year, continuing with the fifteenth annual "Twelfth Night" concert on January 12, 2020 at 4 p.m. featuring choirs and other musicians from the Oak Park musical community in a free performance.

NEWCOMERS. We are a union church of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. We seek to be an inclusive expression of Christ's body celebrating our diversity while finding our unity in Christ. We are a More Light/Open and Affirming congregation, committed to full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in membership and ministry. Interested in learning more? A New Members' class will start in late winter. Contact Lydia Mulkey, Associate Pastor for Education, at 708-386-5215 (ext. 103) or lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com for more information.

MISSION. We have mission partners that work both within the church and in the wider community, from Chicago's Austin neighborhood to the Middle East. We offer hands-on opportunities to tutor, to work with a refugee family, to help with the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry housed in our basement, and much more.

We're a church that "walks the walk," which is reflected in the three paths of our Vision 2020 statement. We are moving from:

- **Words to witness** in our relationship with God.
- **Individualism to intimate fellowship** with other members of the church community.
- **Charity to changing structures** in our relationship with the world.



First United Church of Oak Park

An open community united in love & justice

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**CONTACT THE FIRST UNITED OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 AM TO 5 PM
708.386.5215**

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First United Church Nursery School	708-848-4910, www.firstunitedschool.com
Housing Forward	708-338-1724, www.housingforward.org
Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry	708-386-1324, www.oprffoodpantry.org
The Kid's Kloset, children's clothing ministry	susanzaruba@gmail.com
Cluster Tutoring	773-378-5530, www.clustertutoring.org

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