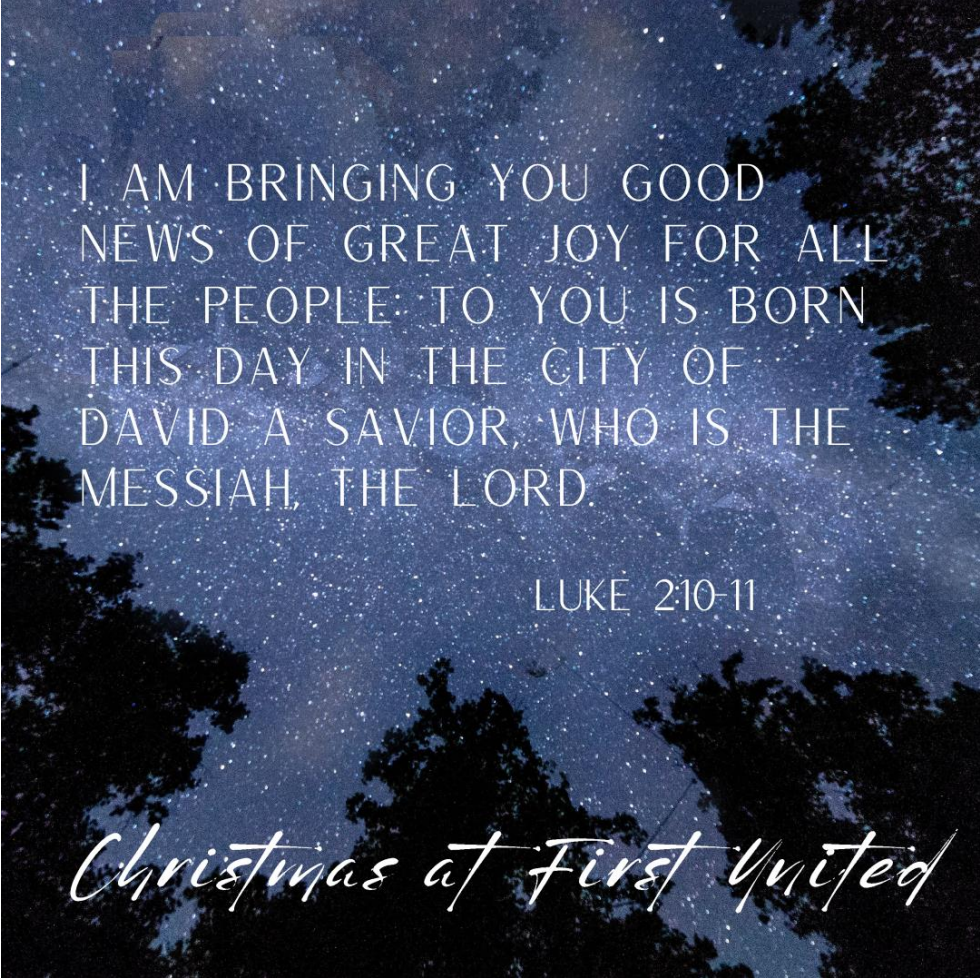


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve, 5 p.m.



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.

LUKE 2:10-11

Christmas at First United

An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

**Indication to stand in body or spirit*

PRELUDE

Noëls by Louis-Claude Daquin

Mark Sudeith

WELCOME

Jay Premo- Hopkins, Caroline Raducha,
Romy Auch, & Jackson Hickok-Fletcher

We invite you to please sign the connections pew pad and pass it down the row.

*THE ADVENT WREATH

The Premo-Hopkins Family

Today we add to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Today we light the Christ candle,

And remember with joy that Christ has come into the world.

Bearing hope for a world in turmoil,

The Prince of Peace who walks amidst strife and violence,

Spreading Joy to those who know too much of weeping,

Born of the love that is at the heart of the mystery of God.

Please join us in reading this prayer by Howard Thurman:

I will light candles this Christmas,

Candles of joy despite all the sadness,

Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,

Candles of courage for fears ever present,

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,

Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,

Candles of love to inspire all my living,

Candles that will burn all year long.

The light has come into the world!

The Christ candle is lit.

*CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (Blue hymnal no. 38, vv. 1 & 4)

It came upon the midnight clear, / That glorious song of old,

From angels bending near the earth, / To touch their harps of gold:

**“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, / From heav’n’s all-gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay, / To hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, / By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years / Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth / Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song / Which now the angels sing.**

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

John Edgerton

WE HEAR THE STORY

As we hear the Christmas story, please remain seated for all hymns

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Blue hymnal no. 44, v. 1)

**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 streets shineth / The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years / Are met in thee tonight.**

THE ANNOUNCEMENT – LUKE 1:26-32

Jackson Hickok-Fletcher
& Grant Kuipers

SPECIAL MUSIC

Willa Albrecht

Dormi Jesu by Bernard Sexton

Dormi Jesu. Mater ridet
quae tam dulcem somnum videt.

Dormi Jesu blandule.

Si non dormis, mater plorat.

Inter fila cantans orat:

Blande veni somnule.

Sleep, sweet babe! My cares beguiling:

Mother sits beside thee smiling;

Sleep, my darling, tenderly!

*If thou sleep not, Mother mourneth,
Singing as her wheel she turneth:
Come, soft slumber, balmily!*

--poetic translation by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)

THE BIRTH – LUKE 2:1-7

Caroline Raducha

CAROL

Away in a Manger (Blue hymnal no. 25, v. 1)

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

THE ANGELS TELL THE NEWS – LUKE 2:8-14

Romy Auch
& Grant Kuipers

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High (Blue hymnal no. 23, v. 1)

**Angels we have heard on high, / Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply / Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; / gloria in excelsis Deo.**

SHEPHERDS JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM
LUKE 2:15-18

Jay Premo-Hopkins

CAROL

The First Nowell (Blue hymnal no. 56, v. 1)

**The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

THE WILD STAR – MATTHEW 2:1-11

Jackson Hickok-Fletcher

WE RESPOND

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Blue hymnal no. 41, v. 1)

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!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Caroline Raducha

Offerings are a sacred act of worship. We invite you to use the green giving cards in the pew rack to celebrate what you've already given or to make an additional donation.

OFFERTORY

Mark Sudeith

Greensleeves by Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. by Stanley Roper

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Alicia Reese

Amazing God, you love us so much that you came to us as an infant.

Born in a stable because there was no room at the inn.

You call us to love the world as we have been loved by you.

Wrapped in swaddling clothes, you slept in a manger because there was no crib.

You command us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Shepherds welcomed you.

You call us to create an inclusive church in which everyone is welcomed and loved.

No one was turned away from the stable door.

You keep calling us to open our doors, to welcome the outcasts, house the homeless, feed the hungry, and turn over the tables in the temple.

Lambs and cows, chickens and donkeys, adults and children, angels of all kinds surrounded you.

Help us create a world and a church in which all of your children are safe and loved, affirmed, welcomed, and fully accepted, where we all have a community of angels surrounding us.

One star brighter than the rest led the world to your door.

May our love and work in the world be a beacon of hope to the hopeless, a ministry of welcome to those who have been hurt by hatred, greed, or violence. May we always seek to make the powerful accountable, especially when they are us.

Dear child of Bethlehem, as we remember the stable and the manger, the dusty roads you walked and the cross on which you died, give us the faith and courage to tell your truth and make it our own. May your story guide us and help us claim the sacredness in our own lives and stories. Help us follow you with all of our hearts and minds and souls and strength, for you are our hope and our redeemer. Amen.

CAROL

What Child Is This? (Blue hymnal no. 53, v. 1)

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!

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

THE GIFT – JOHN 1:1-5;14

Lydia Mulkey, Caroline Raducha,
& Hank Ricordati-Klusens

*CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night (Blue hymnal no. 60, vv. 1-3)

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.**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Lydia Mulkey
& Teddy Ricordati-Kluskens

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Joy to the World! (Blue hymnal no. 40, vv. 1 & 2)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing, / And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, 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, / Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

SENDING MUSIC

Chorale Prelude on 'In Dulci Jubilo' by J. S. Bach

Mark Sudeith

As you leave, please deposit your candles in the baskets by the entrances.

Merry Christmas!

WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED!

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 & ministry.

ADULT EDUCATION

Faith formation doesn't end after Church School. Adult Education takes a variety of forms, from small, group Bible studies to Sunday morning speaker series. Watch the Thursday Eblast for the latest offerings.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP & OUR NURSERY

We love to have children in worship! Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary. We also offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play for children five and under in our nursery. Ask an usher for directions.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School is for children ages birth through 8th grade. Meeting Sundays at 9:45 a.m., we tell stories of the Bible using a lens of love and justice with singing, praying, and creating. Contact the office (office@firstunitedoakpark.com) to learn more.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

We hope you enjoy the music of our Sanctuary Choir and soloists in worship. COVID-19 has altered the way we do music, but music remains deeply important to our worship experience. For more information contact Bill Chin (bill@firstunitedoakpark.com).

YOUTH PROGRAMS – FUJI (JR. HIGH) & FUSH (SR. HIGH)

The youth groups meet on Sunday evenings from 5 – 6:30 pm here at the church. Contact Alicia Reese (areese@firstunitedoakpark.com) for more information.



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

an open community united in love & justice

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