

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic equipment. Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available in the narthex. Childcare is available for infants through preschoolers in Room 237.

Welcome!! We are glad you are here. You are invited to continue the worship experience we share tonight on Sundays, (beginning January 5 at 8:30 and 10:45am. Sunday School and Confirmation are at 9:30am.

We will have only **one service at 10:45am on December 29**. There will be no Sunday School or Children's Worship but childcare is available for infants through Kindergarten.

The church building will be **closed on December 25, 26, and January 1**.

Offering: The gift you bring to honor the Christ Child tonight will be used to support **Zoe Empowers**, where it will be used to support a group of vulnerable orphans in Zimbabwe. ZOE uses an empowerment model rather than a traditional charity model. For more information, visit their website at www.zoeempowers.org.

Thank you to those who donated poinsettias. You may pick up your poinsettia after tonight's service, Friday during office hours, or Sunday, December 29.

Service Music—Chancel, Epworth and Alumni Choirs; Phil Lantry, piano; Josiah van Dyck, oboe;

Kristen van Dyck, violin

Music—One License A-731491

Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister

Howard Pippin, Associate Minister

Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus

Dean Wagner, Director of Music/Organist

Tim Zuschin, Assistant Chancel Choir Director

Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries

Jennifer Brooks, Director of *Weekday Christian Preschool*

Contact Information

245 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

330-923-5241

Office Hours: M-F 9am-3pm

infofumccf@gmail.com

www.firstchurchcf.com



Angels
FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Christmas Eve Worship

8:00pm

December 24, 2024

Prelude & Greeting

Call to Worship

Do not be afraid, for see I am bringing you good news of a 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.

(Please stand)

Carol—O Come, All Ye Faithful

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. Refrain.
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten not created; Refrain.
 3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; Refrain.
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; Refrain.
- Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Scripture Reading—Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Seated)

Carol—O Little Town of Bethlehem (Forest Green/British Tune)

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.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!
3. 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.

Scripture Reading—Isaiah 35:1-6

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Homily

In all things we listen for your voice, to do your will. Teach us to pray:

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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—What Child Is This? - Johnson

(Please stand)

Doxology (Tune #229, Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)

**Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son, Glory to the Holy Spirit, Glory to the three in one. Here we offer to you gladly, all the gifts that you impart;
As we glory in your presence, giving from a grateful heart.**

The Lighting of the Candles

(As the light is brought to your row, dip your unlit candle into the flame of the lit candle being offered. Then as you offer the light to the person beside you, hold your candle upright, letting that person dip their candle into the flame.)

(Seated)

Carol—In the Bleak Midwinter

1. In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone: Snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
2. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise Man I would do my part; yet what can I give him; give my heart.

(Seated)

Carol—Silent Night

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories steam from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!
3. 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.
4. 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!

(Extinguish candles)

Closing Prayer

Postlude—Carillon de Westminster—Vierne

Scripture Reading—Luke 1:26-35, 38

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Seated)

Carol—Away In A Manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.
2. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Scripture Reading—Luke 2:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Seated)

Carol—It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. 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, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.” The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing, and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Scripture Reading—Luke 2:8-14

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Seated)

Carol—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. 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 th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain.
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th’incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Refrain.
3. 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. Refrain.
Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Scripture Reading—Luke 2:15-20

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(Seated)

Carol—Once In Royal David’s City

1. Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed; Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. 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, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. 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 know; and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Anthem—Were You There on That Christmas Night?—Sleeth

Lighting of the Christ Candle— Dale Gilbert and Millie Keyser

Sing: Love came down at Christmas, love, all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.

For anyone who has walked in darkness, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

For anyone who has ever felt forgotten, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

For anyone whose patience has been put to the test, a new light has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

For anyone in search of the way, the truth, and the life, a new day has dawned!

O come, let us adore him!

Sing: Love came down at Christmas, love, all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.

Anthem—All is Well—Larson

Offertory—Away in a Manger—Dan Forrest

Prayer of Dedication

Our thanks be to God, the creator

Who brings us all that we have.

Our thanks be to God, the Savior

Who gives us back our lives.

Our thanks be to God, the Spirit

Who keeps us close by God’s side,

O Lord, take what we offer you—gifts of self, time, goods. Use them, for they are yours.

Thanks be to God.

(Seated)

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