Christmas Eve

at
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
Bloomington, IN

December 24, 2021
8:00 pm
Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air.
Dispels with glorious splendor,
The darkness everywhere.
True man but very God,
From sin and death he saves us,
And lightens every load.

Of the Father's Love begotten, ere the worlds began to be;
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he;
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see
Evermore and Evermore.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
This is he whom heaven taught singers
Sang of old with one accord,
Whom the scriptures of the prophets,
Promised in their faithful word,
Now he shines, the long-expected,
Let creation praise its Lord:
Evermore and evermore.

-Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (4th cent.) tr. John Mason
German Carol (15th cent.), tr. Theodore Baker, 1894

*Please stand as you are able.*
The Prophet Speaks

Scripture            Isaiah 11:1-2, 6-9

*Congregational Carol    O Come, All Ye Faithful    ADESTÉ FIDELES
#148 (vss. 1, 2 & 4)

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 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
   Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
   Glory to to God, all glory in the highest;
   (Refrain)

4 Yea, Lord we greet thee, born for our salvation,
   Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
   Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
   (Refrain)

Words and Music: John Francis Wade, 1743

The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary


Carol                The Linden Tree        14th Century German Melody
Nick Stevens, tenor  Sara Dailey, mezzo-soprano       arr. Crawford R. Thoburn

In heaven stood a linden tree
   “Hail Mary, blessed virgin mild,
   With pure white flowers laden;
   With God you have found favor,
   Yet not a bloom was fair as she,
   You shall conceive and bear a child,
   Sweet Mary, chosen maiden.
   To all the world a Savior.”

Great Gabriel, God’s angel bright,
   “My soul does magnify the Lord!
From high above came winging
   I am His servant lowly;
To one, the purest in God’s sight,
   Be all according to His word,”
A joyful message bringing.
   Said Mary, meek and holy.

Away the angel flew to share
   The news of Mary’s duty;
   The Blossom of all Beauty.
   --traditional German, tr. K.A. Hindenlang

The Birth in Bethlehem

Scripture            Luke 2:1-7

Carol Anthem        Jesu Parvule     Tim Blickhan

(text continued on next page)
Jesu Parvule

O newborn child,
Offspring of Love
On Mary's knee
And Refuge of
The refugee,
Thou art exiled
Thyself. Yet only
In Thee can lonely
And lost mankind
Come-to and find
Its home - the manger

Where, Lord, Thou art a stranger.

-Tony Stoneburner

Prayer for a Christmas Eve

Congregational Carol 144  O Little Town of Bethlehem  ST. LOUIS

1 O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see the 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 to-night.

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!
   Your voices raise to God in praise; And peace to all on earth.

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

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
   Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us to-day.
   We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
   O come to us, abide with us, Our God, Emmanuel.

   Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868  Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

The Angels and the Shepherds

Scripture  Luke 2:8-14

Scripture

Luke 2:8-14
THE LORD’S SUPPER

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God most high.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Invitation to Communion

Congregational Communion Carol 162
What Child Is This GREENSLEEVES

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?

Chorus:
This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Words: William C. Dix, c. 1865
Music: English Melody (16th C)

2 Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. (Chorus)

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, rich and poor to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. (Chorus)

Here, betwixt ass and oxen mild,
Sleep, sleep, sleep my little child
Angels from on high, hover in the sky
Keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

Here betwixt rose and lily white,
Sleep, sleep, sleep my son tonight.
Angels from on high, hover in the sky
Keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

Here in the crib, secure from harms,
Sleep, sleep in your mother’s arms.
Angels from on high hover in the sky.
Keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

Here in the crib, secure from harms,
Sleep, sleep in your mother’s arms.
Angels from on high hover in the sky.
Keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

The Word Made Flesh

Scripture  
John 1:1-5

*Congregational Carol 145  
Silent Night

Choir: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, alles schläft, einsam wacht. 
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar, holder Knabe im lockigen Haar. 
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

Congregation:

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 stream 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.

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young  
Music: Franz Gruber, 1818  
arr. Raymond Leppard (1927-1919) – in memoriam

BENEDICTION

MOMENT OF SILENCE

BENEDICTION RESPONSE  
Lullaby on a Christmas Chorale  
Richard Felciano (b. 1930)

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Make thee a bed, soft undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber kept for thee.

POSTLUDE  
Toccata on Il est né. Le divin Enfant  
(He is born, the divine Child)  
Denis Bédard (b. 1950)  
Jihye Choi, organ

Please extinguish your candle before leaving your pew.
Worship Participants

Worship Leaders: Rev. Will Jewsbury and Student Associate Pastor Sarah Lynne Gershon

Musicians
Jihye Choi, organ
Lorentz Wu, flute
Sara Dailey, mezzo-soprano
Libby Goodwin, alto
Nick Stevens, tenor
Colin Anderson, bass
Members of the First Christian Church Sanctuary Choir

Thank you to Joe Lee who created the artistic rendering of the Bethlehem Manger during our Family Service and also thanks to Bob Bernacki who constructed the frame and canvas.

Join Us Sunday at 10:00 am!
As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, join us the day after Christmas, Sunday December 26, for an informal service complete with favorite carols, communion and a cookie exchange to follow! Worship will begin at 10:00 am both in person and online at www.fccbloomington.org.
Staff

Interim Pastor
Rev. Will Jewsbury

Student Associate Pastor
Sarah Lynne Gershon

Music Ministry
Dr. Jan Harrington, director
Jihye Choi, organist, handbell choir
director and assistant music director

Youth and College Ministries
Ashlyn Reynolds, youth director
Hayley Norris, college ministry intern

Administrative Staff
Jennifer Fettchenhauer, administrator
Eve Schultes-Ridge, assistant

Finances
Shari Sprinkle, treasurer
Tom Trippel, asst. treasurer
Melissa Jackson, Patti Parkes, Mary
Swarthout, financial secretaries

Childcare Ministry
Lily Hoover & Gabby Johnson

Wedding Ministry and
Jazz Vespers Ministry
Linda Abe

Security and Sunday Caretaker
John Adams

Contact Us
812-332-4459 | fcc@fccbloomington.org
www.fccbloomington.org

Ways to Give to FCC

Automatic Payment with your Bank

Mail Checks to FCC at:
205 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, IN, 47408

Online Giving link on our website:
www.fccbloomington.org

Text to Give:
844-298-8978

Include the amount in your text message line.
You may receive a text reply with a link and
instructions to complete your contribution.

An Invitation to Community

As God has welcomed us, we welcome you.

With all our differences--
in age, ability and physical condition,
in race, cultural background and economic status,
in sexual orientation, gender identity & family structure--

God has received each one
with loving kindness, patience and joy.

All that we are together
and all that we hope to be
is made more perfect
as the richness of varied lives
meets the mystery of God’s unifying Spirit
and we become the Body of Christ.