Welcome to this time of worship at FCC. As we gather, you are invited to greet one another.

As the prelude begins may we enter a time of quiet meditation, allowing the music and these words of the Psalmist to help us prepare to worship.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

From Psalm 148:3-5

PRELUDE              Silent Night (from A Nativity Suite)        Wilbur Held (1914-2015)
                      Patti Parkes, organ

WELCOME               Sarah Lynne Gershon

OPENING CAROLS (in the Caroling Songbook)

#23 (vss. 1, 2, 4, 5)   Once in Royal David’s City
                      Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848  Music: H. J. Gauntlett, 1849

#25 (vss. 1, 2 & 4)   The First Noel
                      Words: English Carol, 19th c.  Music: arr. John Stainer, 1871

#13  (vss. 1, 3 & 4)   It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
                      Words: Edmund H. Sears, 1850  Music: Richard S. Willis, 1849

MORNING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP (Congregation reads bold)

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone on the world the Light of knowledge, for by it, those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to adore you, the Sun of righteousness, and to know you, the Sunrise from on high!

O Lord, glory to you!

The Virgin has given birth to the Transcendent One,
The earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!

Angels with shepherds glorify Him!

Wise men journey with a star!

Since for our sake the Pre-Eternal God is born as a little Child!

Christ is born!

Glorify him!
SONGS OF WONDER (in the Chalice Hymnal)

#161 (vss. 1, 2, & 4) I Wonder as I Wander Traditional Appalachian Carol
#162 What Child Is This? GREENSLEEVES
Words: William C. Dix, c. 1865  Music: English Melody (16th C)

Children are invited to come to the chancel during the final verse of the “What Child is This?”

WORSHIP AND WONDER MOMENT FOR CHILDREN

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to share the peace of Christ by waving your hands. For those who are worshipping at home, reach out and share peace through emails, texts and phone calls in the days to come.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

SCRIPTURE  Colossians 1:15-20

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

People: Thanks be to God

SONGS OF JOY (in the Chalice Hymnal)

#143 Joy to the World ANTIOCH
#155 (vss. 1 & 2) Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA
Words: Traditional French Carol  Music: arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937
#170 (vss. 2 & 4) How Great Our Joy! Traditional German Carol

CHRISTMAS HOMILY  Eternity and Time are Joined Sarah Lynne Gershon

Hymn #16 (in Caroling Songbook) Love Came Down At Christmas Traditional Irish Melody
Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1885

INVITATION TO GIVING

As you leave the sanctuary at the conclusion of the worship service, please place your tithes and offerings in the trays located at each entrance to the sanctuary. You may also offer your gift online, by mail, through your bank, or by phone (see the insert). Please stand if you are able, as we praise God:

Offertory Hymn #174 (in the Chalice Hymnal) Brightest and Best STAR IN THE EAST
Prayer of Dedication for the Offering
THE LORD’S SUPPER
Leader: The Lord be with you.
   People: And also with you!
Leader: Lift up your hearts
   People: We lift them up to God.
Leader: Let us give thanks to God most high!
   People: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

Invitation to the Table
Prayer of Consecration for the Bread and Cup
Communion Hymn #12 (vss. 1, 2 &4) \textit{(in the Caroling Songbook)} In the Bleak Midwinter
Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1872 Music: Gustav Holst, 1906

Words of Institution and Partaking of the Bread and Cup
Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY
*Closing Hymn 145 (vss. 1, 2 & 3) \textit{(in the Chalice Hymnal)} Silent Night
Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young Music: Franz Gruber, 1818

Benediction \textit{“The Work of Christmas”} Howard Thurman
   When the song of the angels is stilled, \textbf{To find the lost,}
   When the star in the sky is gone, \textbf{To heal the broken,}
   When the kings and princes are home, \textbf{To feed the hungry,}
   When the shepherds are back with their flock, \textbf{To release the prisoner,}
   The work of Christmas begins: \textbf{To rebuild the nations,}
   To bring peace among brothers, \textbf{To make music in the heart.}

POSTLUDE
Gloria (We Have Heard on High) Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)
Patti Parkes, organ
   As you leave the sanctuary, please place your offering in the trays and take
      your bulletin and communion cup with you to the receptacles located outside the sanctuary doors.

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**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.

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**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.

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**Musicians**
Patti Parkes, organ
Jihye Choi, piano

**Staff**

Interim Pastor
Rev. Will Jewsbury

Student Associate Pastor
Sarah Lynne Gershon

Music Ministry
Jan Harrington, director of music
Jihye Choi, organist, handbell director and assistant music director
Garrett Spoelhof, Jazz Vespers music director
Ben Wesenberg, director of online worship

Youth Ministry
Ashlyn Reynolds, director
Haley 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

Wedding Ministry and Jazz Vespers Ministry
Linda Abe

Security and Sunday Caretaker
John Adams

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