FIRST CHURCH IS A COMMUNITY THAT IS GROWING
IN GRACE AND REACHING OUT WITH LOVE.

CHRISTMAS EVE

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

With joy we welcome your presence today, wherever you are.
Please join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship together.

Prelude ................................................................. Dr. Jaebon Hwang

Christmas in Sicily
Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

In Dulci Jubilo

Berceuse Paraphrase
George Baker (b. 1951)

Register Your Attendance

Welcome In-Person and Online Community .............................. Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

Words of Inspiration

“Christmas renews our youth by stirring our wonder.
The capacity for wonder has been called our most pregnant human faculty,
for in it are born our art, our science, our religion.”
~ Ralph Sockman
Introit

Once in royal David’s City

He came down to earth from heaven

Not in that poor, lowly stable

who is God and Lord of all,

with the oxen standing by

and his shelter was a stable,

we shall see him, but in heaven,

and his cradle was a stall;

set at God’s right hand on high.

with the poor and mean and lowly,

Then like stars his children crowned,

lived on earth our Savior holy.

all in white, his praise will sound.

(Cecil Frances Alexander)

The Child is born

God has taken on flesh.

The One for whom we have waited is here.

The One who teaches us to sing and dream,

who showers us with love and grace,

who prepares us for hope and peace.

The One for whom we have waited is here.

Processional Hymn #234: O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1-3, 5-6)

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:

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;

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;

   O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

   Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

4. The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown, of all

   the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown.

5. Child for us sinners poor and in the manger,

   we would embrace thee with love and awe.

   Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

6. 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, Christ the Lord.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

This is the night in which God comes to us.

This is a night for us to embrace Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

We light the Christ candle as we usher Christ in to our world.

We greet You, O God, this night of nights, with wonder.

Enter into our lives as hope.

Enter into our world through us. Amen.

Anthem

The Holly and the Ivy

The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown, of all

the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown.

O the rising of the sun, the running of the deer, the playing

of the organ sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn and Mary

bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall and Mary bore

sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all. (English traditional)

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin
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 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.

Hymn #230: O Little Town of Bethlehem

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. How silently, how silently,
   the wondrous gift is given;
   so God imparts to human hearts
   the blessings of his heaven.
   No ear may hear his 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 today.
   We hear the Christmas angels
   the great glad tidings tell;
   O come to us, abide with us,
   our Lord Emmanuel!

Prayer for Illumination .......................................................... Grace Tuuholoaki

Holy God,
In the reading of the scriptures, may Your Word be heard.
In the meditations of our hearts, may Your Word be known.
In the faithfulness of our lives, may Your Word be shown.
Amen.


Hymn #218: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (vs. 1-2, 4)

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.

4. 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.
Second Lesson: *Matthew 1:18-25* .............................................................. Rev. Tamara Walker

**Hymn #211: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1-2)**

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*


**Hymn #217: Away in a Manger (vs. 1-2)**

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. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes; I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Fourth Lesson: *Luke 2:8-16* .................................................. Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

**Anthem** .................................................................................. Jubilee Singers

*A La Nanita Nana*

*Spanish carol; arr. Ruth Artman (1919-2010)*

*A la nanita nana, nanita ea.*

Sleep, my precious Jesu, may love surround You. Through this holy night may peace attend You. To the world, little Savior, angle voices singing, “Glory in excelsis Deo!” through the night sky ringing!

Shepherds are filled with wonder at the news! Carols in the night! Leave their flocks on hillside Darkest night is filled with glory! Peace and joy! Heaven’s story! Gentle breezes are blowing; bright star is glowing!

Here in a lowly manger shepherds find a tiny stranger; Fall on knees before Him, to worship and adore Him. (R. A.)

Fifth Lesson: *Matthew 2:1-11* ................................................... Karl Backus

**Anthem** .......................................................... Jubilee Singers; Karen Voogd, flute

*Come, All Ye Shepherds*

*Jay Rouse*

Come, all ye shepherds, ye children of earth. Come ye, bring greetings to you heavenly birth. For Christ the Lord to all now is given, to be our Savior sent down from heaven. Come, welcome Him!

Angels and shepherds together we go; seeking the Savior from all earthly woe. While angels, winging, His praise are singing; heaven’s echoes ringing, peace on earth bringing, good will to all! We will adore Him, bow down before Him, worship Christ, the King!

*Come and worship! Worship Christ the newborn King!*

*(Jay Rouse and Traditional Bohemian Carol)*

Homily: “Reprioritizing the Gift” ........................................ Rev. Trudy D. Robinson
Anthem ........................................................................ Chamber Choir

Now May We Singen
Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

This babe to us that now is born, wonderful works He hath ywrought, He would not loss what was forlorn, But boldly again it brought;

And thus it is Forsooth ywis, He asketh nought but that is His. Now may we singen as it is, Quod puer natus est nobis (because a boy is born to us).

This bargain loved He right well, the price was high and bought full dear. Who would suffer and for us feel as did that Prince withouten peer?

His ransom for us hath ypaid; Good reason have we to be His. Be mercy asked and He be prayed, who may deserve the heavenly bliss.

To some purpose God made man; I trust well to salvation. What was his blood that from him ran but fence against damnation?

Almighty God in Trinity, Thy mercy we pray with whole heart, Thy mercy may all woe make feel and dangerous dread from us to start. (15th cent. English)

Worship Through Gifts & Offerings

Offertory ..................................................................... Dr. Jaebon Hwang

Cantique de Noël
Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

THE LIGHT COMES INTO THE WORLD

Distribution of the Light

Hymn #239: Silent Night, Holy 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 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!

Benediction ............................................................... Rev. Trudy D. Robinson

• Recessional Hymn #246: Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
   Let earth receive her King;
   Let every heart prepare him room,
   and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
   Let all their songs employ;
   while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
   repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
   nor thorns infest the ground;
   he comes to make his blessings flow
   far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
   and makes the nations prove
   the glories of his righteousness,
   and wonders of his love.

(Please place your candle in the box at the door as you leave the Sanctuary.)
FIRST CHURCH WELCOMES YOU IF...

You are single, married, divorced, gay, transgender, filthy rich, dirt poor, o no habla inglés,

You are a crying newborn, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds,

You can sing like Aretha Franklin or cannot carry a tune in a bucket,

You’re “just browsing”, just woke up, or you just got out of jail,

You’ve been a Methodist your whole life or haven’t been in church except for your little niece’s baptism years ago,

You’ve got an AARP card but have yet to grow up, or you’re a teenager growing up, too fast.

We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, tree huggers, latte-sippers, vegans, junk-food eaters,

We welcome those who are in recovery or struggling with addiction,

We welcome you if you’re having problems or if you’re down in the dumps or if you don’t like “organized religion,” this church is for you,

If you blew all your money in Vegas, you’re welcome here,

We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, those who work too hard, those who don’t work,

can’t spell or found us because Grandma wants you to go to church,

We welcome all those who are inked, pierced or both,

We welcome you if your ancestors arrived in chains, below the decks, captained those ships, or have been on this land since the beginning of time,

We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now (all of us could use a prayer right now),

We’d also like to welcome you if you had religion shoved down your throat, or you got lost on YouTube somehow and ended up here by mistake.

We welcome tourists, seekers, doubters, bleeding hearts…and you!

May the Peace of Christ, which passes all understanding be with you this day, and all the days going forward.