

**Welcome to the Community Church of Richmond
United Church of Christ**



**Our Church at Worship on Christmas Eve 2022
8:00 PM**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

*This, tonight, is the meeting place of heaven and earth.
For this, tonight, is the stable in which God keeps his appointment
to meet his people.*

*Not many high are here, not many holy,
not many innocent children,
not many worldly wise, not all familiar faces,
not all frequent visitors.*

But, if tonight only strangers met, that would be enough.

*For Bethlehem was not the hub of the universe,
nor was the stable a platform for famous people.*

*In an out-of-the-way place which people never thought to visit –
there God kept and keeps his promise;
there God sends his Son.*

- Christmas Prologue, The Iona Community, in Cloth for the Cradle

*All hymns are from the red hymnals at the end of your rows, except
“It Came upon the Midnight Clear.”*

GATHERING MUSIC

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Hope Molozaiy

CAROL

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

RED Hymnal #89, v. 1 & 2

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS

*Tonight we relight the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that
we have lit throughout Advent.*

*Over one hundred people from the ages of two to eighty years old,
were asked to fill in the blank for the statement: “My story is...”*

From the voices of different generations, hear their answers.

OPENING PRAYER

One: O Holy God, we need this story – this Christmas story.
We need this story of ordinary people who were brave;
this story of love that changed the world;
this story of angel choruses that give reason to hope and
starlight that reminds us to look up.

**All: In a battered and bruised world,
we gather around your Word
like people gather around a fire to warm themselves.**

One: So we are here together to warm ourselves by your light,
because we need this story.

**All: So today we pray:
scoop out space in us to truly listen.
Quiet our minds.
Open our hearts.
Kindle the fire. Amen.**

CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Black hymnal, #131

TIME OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

One: Holy God,

We admit—we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

All: We are not familiar with angel choruses.

One: We have not walked many miles to be counted,

All: and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.

One: We don't fully understand this story, so we admit,
sometimes we hesitate to tell it.

Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there
is a love bigger than we could imagine,

All: we whisper this good news.

One: Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,

**All: we simply leave them unlocked,
hoping folks will figure it out.**

One: Instead of telling the next generation why this night
matters so much,

All: we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.

One: Forgive us for our silence.

All: Forgive us for our hesitation.

One: Forgive us for failing to share your good news.

**All: Plant this story of love so deep in our bones
that we cannot help but share it
from generation to generation. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

CAROL "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Red #94
verses 1 & 2

WE LISTEN TO THE CHRISTMAS STORY

A WORD FOR ALL AGES

The children are invited to join the pastor at the front of the church at this time.

MARY HAS HER BABY The Gospel According to Luke 2:1-7

CAROL “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Red #99
Verses 1 & 2

ANTHEM “Child of Hope” Chancel Choir

The anthem ends with the congregation joining the choir.

When Kim gives us the signal, we will join and sing:

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His
heav’n!**

**No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ
enters in.**

ANGELS SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT JESUS

The Gospel According to Luke 2:8-18

One: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night. Then the angel of
the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord
shone all around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them,

**All: “Do not be afraid; look – I am bringing you good news
of great joy for all the people:**

One: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you:

**All: You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and
lying in a manger.”**

One: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the
heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**All: “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”**

One: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,

All: “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

One: So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.
When the shepherds saw this, they told what had been told to them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

All: Mary treasured all these words and carried them in her heart.

One: And the shepherds returned to the fields, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and see.

CAROL “Angels We Have Heard on High” Red, #90

GOD CALLS FOREIGN TRAVELERS

The Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12

MESSAGE God with Us, On Purpose

WE RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

CAROL “The First Nowell” Red, #100
verses 1, 2, & 3

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers

The 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.

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO THE INFANT KING

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (we say together)

**Wonderful God, in praise and celebration
we are here tonight,
but we do not gather for the sake of the past.
We gather because we have hope for the future.
Use us and the gifts we bring,
that we might bring your presence into our community
through loving actions. Amen.**

GOD SENDS US LIGHT AND LOVE

Poetic Reading of the Gospel according to John 1:1-5

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Lighting of Candles

Choir: "Peace, Peace"

Hymn of Praise: "Silent Night"

**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.**

BLESSING

CLOSING CAROL

"Joy to the World"

#313

POSTLUDE

Candle lighting, opening prayer, confession, and John 1 reading, from "From Generation to Generation" Words for Worship, by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org



**Thanks to all who donated poinsettias for our
Worship**

Bob & Judy Jooss Dedicated to the Community Church of
Richmond

Yvonne Kemp Dedicated in Memory of Lucille Lyght
and Thelma Kemp

Carol Sligting & Bill Haase
Dedicated in Memory of John Sligting
and Peggy Haase

Louise & Dick Strahs
Dedicated in Memory of Bill and Kenny

Marti Swanson Dedicated in Memory of Rick, Gary, Ken
and Mark

Karen Wootton Dedicated to the Glory of God

If you sponsored a poinsettia, please take it home with you
tonight so it may bring joy to you on Christmas Day.

Tomorrow there will be no service here. Everyone is invited our neighbors to the north at First Congregational UCC in Genoa City (624 Park St. in Genoa City). Their pastor, The Rev. Pat Handley will be leading worship which begins at 9:00 AM.

Next Sunday, January 1, 2023, is PAJAMA Sunday here, so come in your new holiday PJs, your favorite winter sweatsuit, or whatever is most comfortable for you on the first morning of the new year. Our neighbors from Genoa City are invited to join us as we share communion, receive star words, and pray for God's blessing on the year that is to come.

*O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin: John F. Wade, 1751

Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

ADESTE FIDELES Irregular

John F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

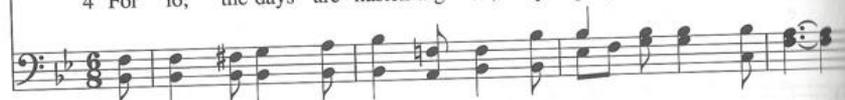
It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Edmund H. Sears, 1849; alt.

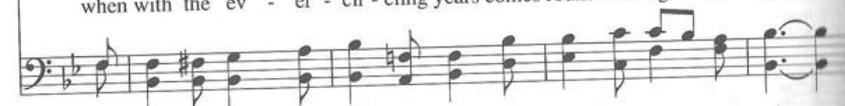
Luke 2:8-14



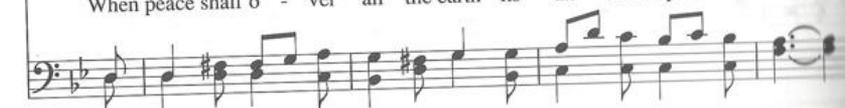
1 It came up-on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be-neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo, the days are hasten - ing on, by proph-et bards fore - told,



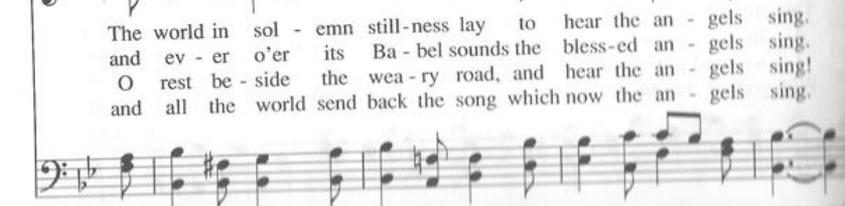
from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way, with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hover - ing wing,
 Look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.



Tune: CAROL CM

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D. with Refrain
Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of right - teous - ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings,

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

*O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Lewis H. Redner, 1868

Phillips Brooks, 1868

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y, And gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.
 Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

*Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French Carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.7. with Refrain
French Carol Melody

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply. Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

*The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL *Irregular with Refrain*

Traditional English Melody

Harm. by John Stainer, 1871.

Traditional English Carol

1. The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing
 3. And by the light of that same star Three
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er
 5. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where
 in the east, be - yond them far; And to the
 wise men came from coun - try far; To seek for a
 Beth - le - hem it took its rest, And there it
 prais - es to our heav'n - ly Lord, That hath made

they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave their great light, And so it con -
 king was their in - tent, And to fol - low the
 did both stop and stay, Right o - ver the
 heav'n and earth of naught, And with his

Refrain
 night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 blood man - kind hath bought.

*Joy to the World

ANTIOCH C.M.

Ps. 98:5-9

Attr. to Georg F. Handel, 1742

Isaac Watts, 1719

Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - lor reigns: Let men their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her king; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 And won - ders of his love, And

sing, And heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.