

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Sunday December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve



“Martha was distracted with all her serving, so she went to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve all alone? Tell her to help me.’ But the Lord answered her, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; but only one thing is needful right now. Mary has chosen the better portion, and it shall not be taken away from her.”

– Luke 10:40-42

Welcome To Our Church Family!

Pre-Service Music

Welcome & Call to Worship

Advent Candle Lighting – Bill Trubilowicz, Moderator

Hymn #180 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem” – John Warstler

(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.

(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.

1st Reading – Isaiah 9:2-7 – Toby Jones, reader

Special Musical Offering – “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” – Eloise Jones

2nd Reading – Luke 10:38-42 – Hugh Hansen, reader

Hymn #203 – “Away in a Manger” – John Warstler

(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 side until morning is nigh. (3) 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 the there.

Christmas Eve Offering

Offertory Music – “Were You There on That Christmas Night” (#215)

The Doxology

3rd Reading – Luke 2:1-7 – Hugh Hansen, reader

The Message – “The Innkeeper’s Lament” - offered by Toby Jones, pastor

Special Music -

Vince Chew & Shelley Fisher

Christmas Prayers

Hymn #186 – “Silent Night”

(1) Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright ‘round yon virgin mother and child; holy infant to 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 a far, heavenly hosts sign 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.

Final Charge & Blessing

Postlude

Merry Christmas!

From the Staff of First Congregational Church, Charlevoix MI

Prayer Requests

Healing	Marv Smith- Covid-19 Earl Bennett- Surgery Marilyn Dumbauld- Surgery	Marty and Marge Merz– Covid-19 Rick Wright- Covid-19		
Prayers	Nick Jones– Stroke Alice Schad- cognitive difficulties	Covid-19 Patients Teachers, staff and students First Responders & Essential Workers		
Grieving	Family & loved ones of Barb Dowty			
Joys	The birth of our Savior!			
Thursday 12/24	Friday 12/25	Saturday 12/26	Sunday 12/27	Monday 12/28
7:00 pm Virtual Christmas Eve Service	Merry Christmas		10:30 am live-streamed Worship	6:00pm Pantry

Just a Reminder about the Church Employee Christmas Donations

Don't forget to send your Christmas donations to our dedicated staff – Larry, Leah, Roger, Shelley, and Toby – by using the church website or via a check, in accordance with the email you received from our Moderator Bill Trubilowicz last week. Thank you for making our great staff's season bright!

