



11:00 pm Worship Service

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023



GATHERING

Prelude

Greeting

Call to Worship John 1:1-5

Hymn: What child is this (UMH 219)

Prayer

Gospel Acclamation: Angels we have heard on high (UMH 238 Refrain)

Glo - - - - - ri - a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!

Glo - - - - - ri - a, in ex-cel-sis De - o!

Scripture Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

Silence

Prayers of the people (The Lord's Prayer and Carols)

We come to God with our prayers as we say the Lord's prayer together.

Gracious God, teach us to pray, as Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

We pray for the world and your church, divided by race, language, religion, class, gender and sexuality, saying:

**Our Father in Heaven**

We pray for your church. For the people bearing Christ's name, saying:

**Hallowed be your name.**

We pray for those who are deprived of justice, peace, freedom and hope, saying:

**Your Kingdom come.**

We pray for people who exercise power, for governments, business, unions and the media, saying:

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**

Offertory Carol: O little town of Bethlehem (UMH 230)

We pray for those who lack food, shelter, clothing, medical care and love, saying:

**Give us today our daily bread**

We pray for all who turn away from the neighbor in need, saying:

**Forgive us our sin**

Carol: It came upon a midnight clear (UMH 218)

We pray for those who hurt or abuse us, who treat us with little respect, all this, saying:

**We forgive those who sin against us**

Carol: As with gladness those of old

As with glad - ness those of old, did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
As they of - fered gifts most rare, at that man - ger, rude and bare,

As with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
So may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,

So most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.  
All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ to thee, our heav - en - ly King.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), alt.  
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher (1786-1872)

DIX, 7.7.7.7.77

We pray for those enduring sickness, facing death, mourning the loss of a loved one, coping with unemployment, filled with despair.

We pray for those contemplating suicide saying:

**Save is in the time of trial**

We pray for those who live with the threat from war and terrorism,

And those who live in fear of violence in their own homes and schools, saying

**Deliver us from evil**

We pray all this for our hope and trust is in you, for you alone can save us, saying

**The kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN.**

Silence

Solo: O holy night - Adolphe Adam

Confession and Pardon (UMH p.12)

+Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Communion Setting C (UMH pp. 20-22)  
Post communion Prayer

## SENDING

+Lighting the Christ Candle

Arise, shine, dear people, for our Light has come!

**Christ is the World's true Light, on our paths and in our lives.**

Receive the light and let its warmth and glow be in your hearts this night.

**May the glory of the Lord shine through us for the world.**

+Sharing the Light of Christ

*The candlelight will be passed to people in the center aisle. The light is then passed from person to person down the pew. Please hold lighted candles upright; slide the cup down, tip the unlighted candle, and slide the cup back to protect the flame.*

Hymn: Silent night (UMH 239)

+Benediction

Postlude

*Please recycle the bulletins at the exit if you do not plan to take them with you.  
Please leave your candle at the exit.*

+ stand, as able

\*see text below

UMH = red United Methodist Hymnal

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## Worship Leadership

**Preacher:** Rev. Grace Imathiu

**Liturgist:** Rev. Britt Cox

**Scripture Reader:** Omando Bastian

**Lighting the Christ Candle:** Omando Bastian

**Music Assistant:** Cody Michael Bradley

**Soloist:** Christine Mando

**Usher:** Malissa Lindsey

**Audio:** Frank Montagna

*First Church celebrates Communion (Eucharist) every Sunday: in the Sanctuary at the 10:30 am service on the first Sunday of the month and in Tittle Chapel at 11:45 am on all the other Sundays. All are invited.*

# Christmas Poinsettias

## In Loving Memory of:

All the saints from William and Nancy Brown  
Steve Armstrong from Carol Kreikard, Eric and Brian Armstrong,  
Hazel Barnett from Carol Barnett  
My parents, Harry and Virginia Barnes from Sandra Gordon  
Robert and Martha Baumberger from Bruce Baumberger  
Ethelyn Bond from George Bond  
Jack Cappozzo by Glynis and Dan Doyle  
Joan and Bill Doyle from Glynnis and Dan Doyle  
Carl Lawrence Godman by Fay Godman  
Barb Gorman from Jean Clipperton & Miles Shultz  
My Grandparents from Leah Holzwarth  
Our Grandparents from Lindsay Theile & Justin Sabrsula  
Dan and Betty Heiple, Ed and Lois Grodsky from Teresa and Rich Grodsky  
Anita Hill from Robert Thompson  
Marie and Karl Hinz from Cate Whitcomb and Jack Hinz  
David Hay Jones by Grace and Erik  
John and Vera Kerastas/Harold and Jamaline Werner from John & Barbara Kerastas  
Bette Mitchell by Jill Althage and Louise Sprengelmeyer  
Our Parents from Constance and Hugh Williams  
Fredrick and Barbara Poole from Mary Poole  
Dr. Jean Sindab from Joe Agne  
Debbie Wagner from Bryan and Caroline Wagner  
Bill and Dorothy Whitcomb from Cate Whitcomb and Jack Hinz  
Dale and Edythe Williams from Eileen Chamber

## In Honor of:

Fay Godman for 62 faithful membership at First Church - Evanston  
Our beloved family from Don and Patty Baker  
My wonderful children from Lori Colbert  
The Ministry of First Church Staff from Britt Cox  
Colin McDonald and Rebecca Beiter from Mary and Bob Hetzel  
The Choir from Jane Koten  
Sean, Ian, and Kieran Monahan from Ken and Bertha Monahan  
Dabney Frierson James *from* Courtney Zirkle

## Prayers

*The people of Gaza and the West Bank given by* Don and Diane Baker,  
Peace from Mary Poole