

*First Reformed United Church of Christ*  
*Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols*

**December 24, 2011**

Prelude "Christmas Lullaby" arr. Whitworth

\*Chimes Sounding the Hour

\*Choral Call to Worship

\*Call to Worship

Liturgist: The grace of God brings you salvation this day.

**People: For a child has been born for us,**

Liturgist: A son has been given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;

**People: And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Liturgist: Indeed the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.  
Let us worship the Lord!

\*Hymn "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" No. 102

Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

The Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles

Thomas, Sauni, Ashley, Sarah, and Abigail Johnson

Hymn "O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful" No. 117

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful Grace revealing Christmastide!  
Jesus came to win us from all sin within us: Glorify, glorify the Holy Child!

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful Love revealing Christmastide!  
Loud hosannas singing and all praises bringing,  
May Thy love, may Thy love with us abide.

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful Peace revealing Christmastide!  
Darkness disappeareth, God's own light now neareth,  
Peace and joy, peace and joy to all betide.

**All: The light overwhelms the darkness of our lives. The "in-between" time, the time spent on our journey seeking our Savior, has led us to this moment. Sing to the Lord a new song, all the earth. The Lord is King. Let the heavens be glad, and let all the earth rejoice. Amen.**

**A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

"Ding Dong Merrily on High"

Ding dong! merrily on high In heav'n the bells are ringing:

Ding dong! verily the sky Is riv'n with Angel singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

1) Genesis 22:15-18

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

No. 104

Angels, from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations, ye have seen His natal star:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

2) Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

No. 108

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.

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 men on earth!

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.

3) Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

Anthem: “In the Bleak Midwinter”

4) Luke 1:26-35, 38

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

No. 112

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!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

O sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!

Now to our God be Glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

5) Luke 2:1, 3-7

“Away in the Manger”

No. 109

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.

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.

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 Thee there.

6) Luke 2:8-16

Anthem: "On a Night of Wonder"

7) Matthew 2:1-12

"We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar.  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Prayer and praising all men raising, Worship Him, God on high.

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Myrrh is mine: it's bitter perfume Breaths a life of gathering gloom.  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.

Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect Light

Offering

The Offertory

\*Offertory Response {*tune: Doxology*}

To God all glorious heavenly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful songs of thankful praise.

\*Offertory Prayer

\*Hymn

"Joy to the World"

No. 120

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

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns: Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

8) John 1:1-14

"The First Noel"

No. 118

The first Nowell the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
In fields as they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord.  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

Receiving the Light

*(Ushers come down the center aisle and light the candle of the first person in each pew. You will receive your light from one another. The person receiving the light, tip your candle so that the person with the light may keep their candle upright. When everyone has received the light, please stand to sing.)*

\*Hymn "Silent Night" No. 101

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! Darkness flies, all is light;  
Shepherds hear the angels sing; Alleluia! Hail the King!  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Guiding Star, lend thy light!  
See the eastern wise men bring, gifts and homage to our King!  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous Star, lend thy light!  
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King!  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

\*Benediction

\*Postlude "Silent Night" Grüber

**\*Those who are able please stand**



Minister ..... Reverend Robin Keating  
Liturgist ..... Tom Danze  
Choir Director ..... Paul Freeman  
Organist ..... Lee Ann Peele  
Greeters ..... Doug and Barbara Sink

# First Reformed United Church of Christ



## Christmas Eve

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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