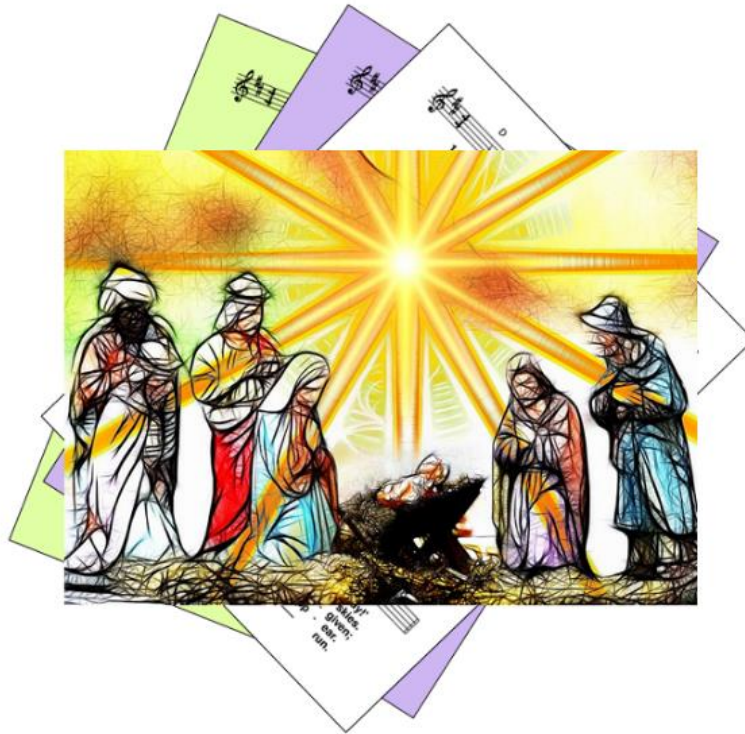


First Reformed United Church of Christ

Where People Discover...
The Love of God...
The Power to Love Others...
The Ability to Love Ourselves.

The Worship of God

December 24, 2020 7:00PM
Virtual Christmas Eve Service of Light



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

You are invited to have a candle to light during this service.

*I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of
joy despite all the sadness,
hope where despair keeps watch,
courage for fears ever present,
peace for tempest-tossed days,
grace to ease heavy burdens,
love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.*

~ Howard Thurman(1899 – 1981)

Prelude

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"
[Weldon Whipple]

Robert Wilson

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

Invitation to Worship

Rev. Horton

Hymn

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Ellen Peterson

Lighting the Christ Candle

Rev. Horton

Hymn

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Ellen Peterson

Scripture

Luke 2: 1-7

Rev. Mike Hooper

Saxophone Solo

"Away In A Manger"

Mike Price

Scripture

Luke 2: 8-20

Rev. Dr. Lee Jessup

Special Music

"O Holy Night"

Ellen Peterson

Meditation

John 1

Rev. Horton

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Scripture

John 1: 1-5

Rev. Horton

Sharing the Light

"Silent Night"

Ellen Peterson

You are invited to light your candle and sing along.

**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.**

**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. Horton

Postlude

"Improvisation on Still, Still, Still"

Robert Wilson

[The German Christmas Carol by Robert Wilson]