

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
**1201 JEFFERSON ST., MUSKEGON, MI 49441**  
**WEBSITE: [www.fccmuskegon.org](http://www.fccmuskegon.org)**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**December 24, 2020**

*In the evening you shall know that it is GOD who saves,  
and in the morning you shall see the glory of GOD.*  
Exodus 16:6-7

**WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**PRELUDE** *Still, Still, Still*  
Phil DeYoung

**GATHERING PRAYER**

As we gather, in Spirit if not in person, let us pray for the needs of God's whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; within our own nation and state, within this region and the city of Muskegon, and in this congregation.

And let us at this time remember in Christ's name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of the Lord.

Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh: and let us pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity and communion with all God's people and giving reverence to all that God has made. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to heaven; through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**HYMN INTRO** *Adeste Fideles* Phil DeYoung

**HYMN** *O Come All Ye Faithful*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 9:2-7 Barb Klingenmaier

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *He Is Born* Bells

**PSALM 96**

**MUSIC** *Lo How A Rose E're Blooming*  
Melissa Wikman, Piano; Diane Goodman, Cello

**EPISTLE READING** Titus 2:11-14 Roy Winegar

**HYMN** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*—2 verses

**GOSPEL READING** Luke 2:1-7 Donna Lachniet

**HYMN** *Away in a Manger*—2 verses

**GOSPEL READING** Luke 2:8-20 Scott Lachniet

**HYMN** *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
Piano/Organ Duet: John Mattson and Donna Hood

**SERMON** AND NOW THE GRACE OF GOD HAS APPEARED

**HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*—2 verses

**OFFERTORY**

**Invitation**

**Offertory Music** *Rejoice, Christ is Born*  
Motet Choir Video from Candlelight 2019

**Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father (Creator), Son (Christ), and Holy Ghost.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**BLESSING AND SENDING LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

The candles of Advent speak to us of Love, Joy, Peace and Hope.  
This white candle in the center reminds us that we may find the path to all  
these things our hearts desire in Jesus, the Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us,  
whose birth we now celebrate.

(The Christ Candle is lit.)

Christ is the Light of the World.

**May the light of Christ shine upon us, and within us, and through us.**

**HYMN** *Joy to the World*—2 verses

**POSTLUDE**

**Merry Christmas!**

## **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund**

For all the sacrifices that clergy and lay church workers have made in our congregations, over 100 years ago the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ created the **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund**, to help support them in retirement and during times of emergent need.

We have a tradition at FCC to use the offertory from this service to help support the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund. We are extending this offertory through next Sunday (December 27). You may go to our website to the Giving section at [www.fccmuskegon.org](http://www.fccmuskegon.org).

The Christmas Fund provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship.

**Join with others in the United Church of Christ to make "the light shine in the darkness" for those who have given so much to our church.**