

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
1201 JEFFERSON ST., MUSKEGON, MI 49441
WEBSITE: www.fccmuskegon.org

RE-BROADCAST OF CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 27, 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.

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.