

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*"No matter who you are,
or where you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

Senior Minister
Rev. Tim Vander Haar

Sunday, December 29, 2024

1201 Jefferson Street
Muskegon, Michigan 49441
231-726-3254

www.fccmuskegon.org

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 29, 2024**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

What Child Is This?, by Robert Hobby

GATHERING PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**O God, help us to live as a family
united in love and respect.**

**May the love you have shown in Jesus
Be our model always of what it means to love.**

**May we find peace and joy in learning to see
Ourselves and each other through your eyes.**

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

WORDS: Attr. John F. Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)
MUSIC: John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

ADESTE FIDELES
Irregular

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Steve Chapman

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

MESSAGE

WHO IS THIS CHILD?

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

What Child Is This?

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On
2. Why lies He in such low es - tate Where
3. So bring Him in - cense, gold and myrrh, Come

Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for
peas - ant, king to own Him; The King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, Let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him.

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mar - y.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

. . . ending with the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

IL EST NE, by Raymond Haan

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.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

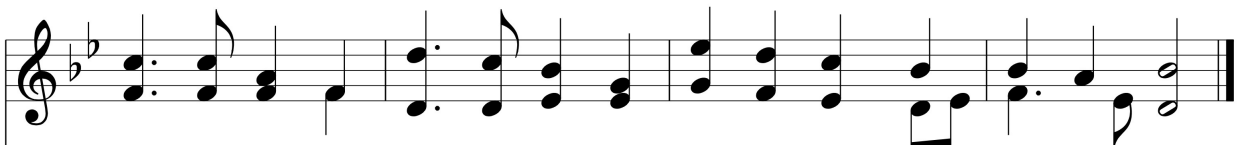
Angels, from the Realms of Glory



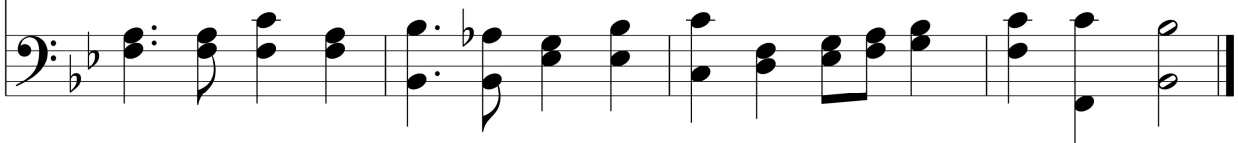
1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,



you who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:
seek the great De - sire of na - tions, you have seen the na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.



WORDS: James Montgomery (1771-1854)
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)

REGENT SQUARE
8.7.8.7.8.7

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying, by Paul Manz

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Senior Minister
John Mattson	Organist
Kendyl White	Cantor
Joe Singerling	Liturgists/Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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We welcome Steve Chapman to our FCC family this morning. Here is a bit about him. With degrees from Kalamazoo College and Columbia University, I spent 20 years teaching biology, serving as high school principal, and directing major wilderness programs, followed by 25 years as a management consultant and executive coach. I have lived for extended periods in Ohio, New Mexico, and Tennessee. Now retired and living in North Muskegon, I like to cook (especially unusual things that most people wouldn't think to make from scratch) and carve decoys and other nature-themed items from wood. I have one son, who lives near Austin.

Westshore GSA Youth Group next meeting is on Monday, Jan. 6, 2025 from 7 to 8 pm.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters K-N please bring cookies or treats during the month of January.

Homemade; Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated.

The Women's Single Group will meet on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 1 pm. at The Brunch House, 3065 Henry Street in Muskegon. A signup sheet is at the Welcome Center or contact Judy Dewall.

Just a reminder our church office winter hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm.

Let's Make A Mess! Painting Class will be January 15, 2025 – 1:00 pm. This class is an Acrylic Liquid Pour Art. Please sign up for the class at the Welcome Center if you can join us. Look for a material list of items to bring to class or contact Nancy Doctor or Barb Kartes.

Still time to donate to Veteran's of the Cross. We collected at our Christmas Eve Service but there is still time for those who wish to donate.

The FCC Mobile Food Pantry will be on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 10:00 am. Volunteers please be here by 9:30 am.

Thank you to all who participated in the "Sneaker Challenge". Results at a later date.

First Congregational Church, UCC is an Open and Affirming Community

"We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love."

Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21