

Christmas Eve

Lessons & Carols
December 24, 2021



First Congregational Church of Fresno

December 24, 2021|9:00pm

First Congregational Church of Fresno

bigredchurch.org

Welcome! Are you a guest with us, or interested in connecting with us?

Text “New” to 559-425-4050 and fill out the Connect Card.

(* Congregational may stand ... Responsive Readings: One/**All**)

Anticipation

Prelude

“Gesu Bambino” - P. Yon

Scott Horton, organ

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

Handbell Choir

- arr. D. Wagner

“Good King Wenceslas” - arr. Richard McKee

“Berceuse”- G. Faure

John Morrice, violin

Scott Horton, piano

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

John Morrice, violin

- arr. M. Mazzei

Gathering Carol

“One Candle Is Lit” (tune: Cradle Hymn)

Mary Anne Parrott, 1988, © 1995 Chalice Press
(from *Chalice Hymnal*, no. 128)
OneLicense.net License #A-711732

**Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear,
and signs of a cross in the distance appear.**

The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.

One candle is lit for the Christ-birthday here.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Linder/Rempel Family

Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.

O God, now we light the candle of your nativity!

With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, you come
to us. This is the time of light and resplendent joy.

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light would shine and a child would be born to us. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, “Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!” John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God’s glory—full of grace and truth. At Christ’s nativity, we now rejoice.

All: God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming) to us tonight. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. On this night, in every corner of the world, shine with your peace; and in every corner of our hearts, shine with your grace. Amen.

***Carol**

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

**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!***

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, In the highest: *refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *refrain***

Welcome & Invocation

Rev. Raygan Baker

The Christmas Story

First Lesson

**Luke 1:26-38
*The Message of the Angel***

**Liturgists: Wade &
Jeannie Hobson**

***Carol**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**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 all 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.**

Second Lesson

Luke 2:1-7 The Birth of Jesus

Choral Anthem

**“Fum, Fum, Fum”
- arr. H. Helvey**

**Chancel Choir;
Jane Davis-Maldonado
& Gina Fazio, piano**

Third Lesson

Luke 2:8-20 The Shepherds and the Angels

***Carol**

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, Which inspire your heavenly song.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn king.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***Carol**

“Joy to the World”

**Joy to the World, the Lord has 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 World, the Savior reigns!
Let all 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.**

Sharing the Light

Invitation To The Christmas Offering

Offertory “Christmas Meditation” - P. Rodriguez Scott Horton, piano

Blessing the Light

Passing of the Light “Et in Terra Pax” (And On Earth, Peace) Chancel Choir
- J. Purifoy

Invitation to Silence

Will end with beginning of “Silent Night”

***Carol**

"Silent Night"

**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.**

***Christmas Blessing**



How To Make Your First Givelify Donation

- 1 Download the free Givelify app



- 2 Locate our church

- 3 Tap the Give button

- 4 Tap an amount

- 5 Select an envelope

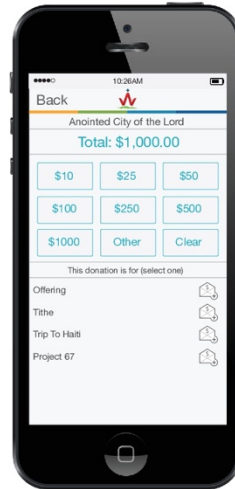
- 6 Tap Give Now

- 7 Create your account

- 8 Securely enter your payment information

- 9 Complete your donation

- Next time you use Givelify, you can save time with the **1-TAP GIVE NOW** button



Use this QR Code with your smartphone's camera app to give through Givelify



First Congregational Church of Fresno

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA, 93704 | Phone: (559) 227-8489

Office@bigredchurch.org | www.BigRedChurch.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00am-3:30pm

First time worshipping with us? Text "New" to (559) 425-4050 and fill out the Connection Card.

Pastor

Rev. Raygan Baker
rbaker@bigredchurch.org

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Caretaker

Pat Morales

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Office Manager

Erica Holland
office@bigredchurch.org

Communications Coordinator

Gabe Hernandez

Custodian

Gregory Chavarria

Assisting in Today's Service

Liturgists: Jeanne and Wade Hobson

Readers: Linder/Rempel Family

Music Director/Organist: Scott Horton

Ushers: Bruce Owdom, Sue Karibian,
Bob McParland

Technician: Patrick Lopez

FCCF Open and Affirming Statement

We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, race, age and gender.

As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.