



First United Methodist Church

*Welcome! We're glad that you are here.
To all who need comfort; all who need friendship;
all who are lonely and need companionship;
all who want sheltering love, all who sin
and need a Savior; and whosoever will
—we open wide our doors and say,
“Come; let us worship together.”*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24, 2020

PRELUDE Vivian Eaton

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

L The Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P **And also with you.**

L Beloved in Christ, we are gathered together on this Eve of Christmas to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ; to meditate upon the mystery of that Incarnation by which our nature is redeemed, and to receive with joy the message of our salvation.

P **“Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also; I the Lord have created it.”** (Isaiah 45:8)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L Christ is born; give him glory!

P **Christ has come down from heaven; receive him!**

L Christ is now on earth; exalt him!

P **O you earth, sing to the Lord!**

All **O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified! Alleluia!**

HYMN#234 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(Insert, verse 1 only)

CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION (In Unison)

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us. We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child. We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living. And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth. Amen.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

HYMN# 245 “The First Noel” (Insert,verse 1 & 2 only)

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS (Theme: Birth)

HYMN#240 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

(Insert, verse 1 only)

OFFERING OURSELVES

OFFERTORY PRAYER (In Unison)

Blessed Lord, you have given us your greatest gift—your very Word come to earth, to live with us and through us; you have filled us with your grace and truth—your holy child sent to free us from our bonds. How can we repay such divine generosity? Receive our thanks and praise. As you have given to us, so

now we share your gifts and your grace with a world in need. May this offering help bring your light and love to those who still wander in darkness. Accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born to us, Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE 1 Timothy 2:3-5 (NRSV)

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:10-11 (NRSV)

L: This is the word of God for the people of God.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN#246 “Joy to the World”

(Insert, verse 1 only)

CHRISTMAS DEVOTION AND COMMUNION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST FILLS OUR HEARTS

HYMN#239 “Silent Night, Holy Night” (Insert)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Vivian Eaton

You can also find our pre-recorded online service on [our Church Website.](#)



**First United
Methodist Church
Christmas Eve, 7pm**

*“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind, and with all your strength,
and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
--Jesus Christ*

2100 Chicago Ave, Savanna, Illinois 61074

Office phone: 815-273-2345

Email: office@firstumcsavanna.org

Web: www.firstumcsavanna.org

Pastor Dave Yim cell phone: 224-600-0446

Pastor Dave email: daveyim15@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/savanna.firstumc

ccli#2014483

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