



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

www.fcindy.org
317.257.5397

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46240

@FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 24, 2019

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7:00 P.M.

*Please speak the **bold**-printed words in unison. Asterisk (*) indicates those who choose to may stand. Headphones are available for those who may need assistance. Please see an usher.*

HARP & CELLO

JAZZ DUO

CHOIR & CELLO

In the Bleak Midwinter

Under Winter Moon

Rossetti, Hoslt, arr. Baker

A. Beck

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

Pastor Carol Sowle

UNISON PRAYER

This Christmas Eve we light the Christ candle to remind us that this moment is precious. This moment is holy. This moment is powerful. This moment is love. This moment is full of hope and possibility. This moment is all we need. This is our Christmas prayer. On this silent and holy night, Amen.

Congregational Singing

*HYMN #116

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs 1 & 7)

New Century Hymnal

*HYMN #135

O Come, All You Faithful (vs 1 & 3)

New Century Hymnal

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

Pastor Carol Sowle

CHOIR

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

French Melody, 17th c.

Arr J. Raney

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Carol Sowle

SERMON

The Greatest Joy

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

JAZZ DUO

Winter's Retreat

Baker, Oprisko

Congregational Singing

HYMN #125	Angels We Have Heard on High (vs 1-2)	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>
HYMN #133	O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs 1-2)	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>
HYMN #144	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs 1)	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>

MEDITATION	What Child Is This	Dix, arr. Baker
------------	--------------------	-----------------

OFFERING TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

BELL CHOIR	Away in a Manger/Still, Still, Still	Laura Ann Page
------------	--------------------------------------	----------------

*DOXOLOGY

The Christmas Child has now come near. We share our gifts with peace-filled cheer.
This Christmastide brings newfound love that comes to us from God above.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Please use caution when lighting your candle.

Congregational Singing

HYMN #134	Silent Night	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>
-----------	--------------	---------------------------

CHRISTMAS PRAYER & THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Do not let us enter into temptation, but rescue us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Congregational Singing

HYMN #132	Joy to the World
-----------	------------------

*BENEDICTION		Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
--------------	--	---------------------

POSTLUDE	Angels We Have Heard on High	Traditional, arr. Baker
----------	------------------------------	-------------------------

Join us for coffee, refreshments, and joyful Christmas celebration in the church parlor.

Welcome home! We celebrate being a Just Peace making church with an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the LGBTQ community since 1994. We welcome first time guests and include **all ages** in our worship service. We believe we are called by Jesus to be a transforming presence for God in the world. We are a place to **belong**, a place to **heal** and a place to **love**. **At First Congregational we recognize God as a loving, creating, all-encompassing Spirit who is not limited by usual human boundaries. Therefore, we practice the use of inclusive, expansive, and non-gendered language when speaking of and to God.**

The Church Office is closed December 24 – January 1.

Pastoral Care: While Pastor Sarah is visiting family for the holidays, Pastor Carol may be reached at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com

National Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

We celebrate our church staff:

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
Pastoral Care Associate, Pastor Carol Sowle
Office Administrator, Shannon Abbott
Music Designer/Organist, Sean Baker
Choir Director, Julie Houston
Student Pastor, Cassidy Hall
Olivia Beeman, Nursery Attendant
Jess Tyler, Nursery Attendant

We celebrate our church leadership:

Rich Gibson, Moderator
Lianna Campos, Vice Moderator
Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey, Clerk
Jim Lootens, Treasurer
George Meier, Financial Secretary

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Pastor Carol Sowle, Worship Leader
Isaac Beaumont, sting bass Margie Hanna, cello
Wendy Muston, harp Bob Cook, Bell Choir Director

To the parents of our young children

God put the wiggle in children, please don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. Preschool age and younger may use the Nursery or children of all ages are invited toward the front using the Playground if you like. Keep children engaged by quietly explaining the parts of the service, actions of the pastor, worship leaders, and musicians. Sing, pray, and speak the responses; children learn worship behavior by copying you. The way we adults welcome children in church directly affects how they respond to the Church and to one another. Let all ages know that they are at home in this house of worship. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

To the members of our congregation

The presence of children is a gift to our church and to our community. They remind us that we are to share and pass on our faith. It is a gift to have children among us. Please welcome our children and encourage their parents with a warm smile.

Thank you.