



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE



DECEMBER 29TH, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Welcome

Wi-Fi Password Welcome!

Please silence your cell phones, but please check-in with our Church App and via social media.

For Parents and Children

Activity Bags for children (teal, 2-5 years, navy blue, 6-10 years) hanging in back of sanctuary; professionally staffed nursery, infancy through 6 years old, available downstairs; Hearthside Parenting room, with diaper-changing station, privacy for nursing mothers, and livecast of worship, provided in church office (use side exit and follow the signs).

Live@FCC

Sunday worship is live streamed. Please help support this ministry by sitting in the front two sections. The two sections behind the side aisles are reserved for our guests and for privacy. Children's time is not live streamed.

Sunday Brunch

Please join us for brunch downstairs. Today's Menu: Egg, cheese, potato casserole; fruit and cookies.

Interested in Membership?

Contact Pastor Craig, call (309)-762-0787 or email craig@fccmoline.org.

Resources

Ushers can provide large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers.

Open and Affirming: fccmoline.org/ona

We are an ONA church, covenanting with all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression or identity. All people are welcome to participate fully in the life of the church, including the rites, sacraments, and leadership of the congregation.

Today
from the life
of the church

Life of the Church: Refugees

A quick glance at statistics shows that there are about 70 million international migrants/refugees who have been displaced worldwide. That is a lot of people in need of hospitality.

Our church assists World Relief in receiving refugees, and also The Community Resource and Learning Center, Inc. at Bethel Wesley United Methodist Church in offering English as a Second Language instruction in a Family Literacy program. That means there is a place for the young children as well.

Our daughter Rebecca works at a refugee center in Thessaloniki, Greece, aiding those fleeing violence in Syria, Afghanistan and other parts of the Middle East.

Our daughter Taylor teaches English Language Learners at a Somali centric school in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The program I am part of in Guatemala and Southern Mexico was originally called "Guatemala Refugee Ministries," organized to assist Guatemalans fleeing violence and entering Mexico for safety.

There are many ways to help folks like Mary, Joseph and Jesus today, all around our world. My daughters and I joke that assisting refugees is the family business.

Pastor Michael

Gathering of God's People

PRELUDE

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

For Our God said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely";
and he became their savior in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

***OPENING PRAYER**

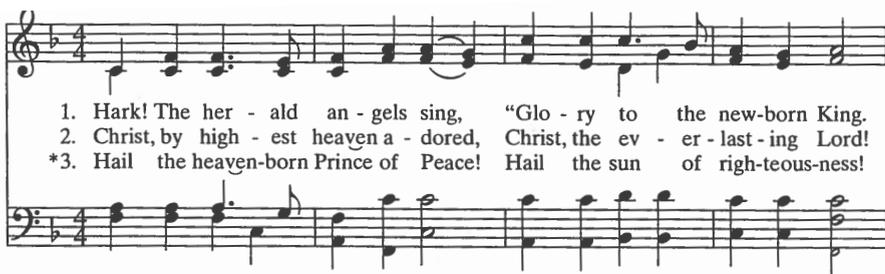
Let us pray, **Almighty God, you have poured upon us a new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

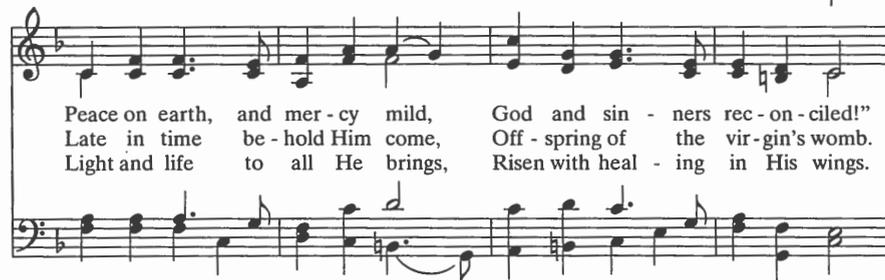
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
(Music on the next page)

** Indicates when to stand in body or spirit*

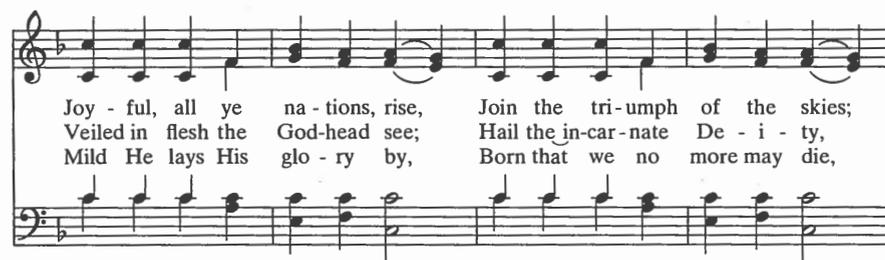
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



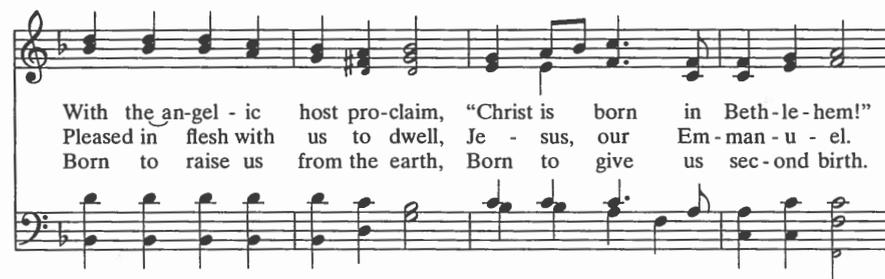
1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King.
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
*3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Silence is kept for reflection.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,

**We open our hearts to you, O God.
Search us and know us.
Reveal all that we keep inside.
To you, O God, we confess our sins,
Known and unknown.
Forgive us, renew us,
And lead us in your ways of justice and peace.
Make us reflections on the radiant love
Of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***SONG OF PRAISE**

Magnificat



Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a Do - minum.



Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Proclaiming the Good News

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us,
and the great favour to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, 'Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely';
and he became their saviour
in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise God in the heights.

Praise the Lord, all you angels;

sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;

sing praise, all you shining stars.

Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,

and waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

who commanded, and they were created,

who made them stand fast forever and ever,

giving them a law that shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps;

fire and hail, snow and fog,

tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars;

wild beasts and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds;

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the world;

young men and maidens,

old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

whose name only is exalted,

whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

The Lord has raised up strength for the people

and praise for all faithful servants,

the children of Israel,

a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

SCRIPTURE

HEBREWS 2:10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’

And again, ‘I will put my trust in him.’

And again, ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*GOSPEL

MATTHEW 1:18-25

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Michael Swartz

***HYMN**

TUNE: Greensleeves (e.g., “What Child Is This”), traditional English

What child is this who fled that night
From Herod’s wrathful order?
As Rachel wept
The family kept
On pressing toward the border.
This, this is Christ our king:
A refugee, a stranger.
Pray, pray for all like him,
The Babe, the son of Mary.

Responding to the Good News

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Sending in Mission

***HYMN OF SENDING**

*Joy to the World
(Music on the next page)*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

SERVING TODAY

Ushers/Greeters

Cliff Carlson
Don Shearer
Linda Shearer
Mary Curry

North Door Greeters

Bill Keller

Bus Driver

Dieter Harle

Lector

Phil Koenig

Liturgist

Mary Newcomb

Live@FCC

Dave Geenen

Guest Musician

Lynne Stukart, Flute

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Associate Pastor

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