

Dear Visitors and Guests,

We are so grateful to welcome you to this Holy night of Christmas Eve, thank you for choosing this congregation to join in Worship.

Whether it was an invitation from a family member or friend, or by your own motivations. Whether you are from out of town or are a local, whether you have been thinking about coming for a while or without any forethought at all you somehow ended up here - it is the work of the Holy Spirit that we found one another this precious night.

Tonight's is a service where we remember a miraculous birth, to a mother who when asked to serve God in this most unusual way, proclaims, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." (Luke 1:47) Mary knew it wouldn't be easy, and that along with the joy and pride of being Jesus' mother, there would be heartbreak and mourning too.

Being a follower of Jesus in today's day and age is not unlike Mary's experience, in that we know the Christ-like life leaves us both miraculously joyful and heart-wrenchingly tender. A life dedicated to Jesus certainly isn't always easy, but it is always good.

This congregation is Open & Affirming. Which means, we celebrate all people as sacred creations of a loving God. We embrace the fullness of human diversity (as designed and made by God) - across orientations, identities, experiences, and backgrounds. The time of the church deciding who is worthy of God's love and a place at God's table is long past. We simply refuse to be gatekeepers of what God intends to be a gift for any and all who will receive it.

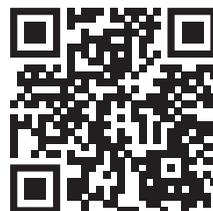
If you are looking for a church that will welcome you genuinely, make room for you and all that you will bring, challenge your assumptions and inspire your values, encourage and empower your spiritual growth, center those the world leaves on the margins, and support life-giving ministries of reconciliation and transformation - you have found the right community of faith.

A rich and meaningful relationship with God is possible, and if you need help finding such a connection to the Holy - welcome to First Christian Church. We rejoice in accompanying you on your journey of faith.

Merry Christmas & a blessed New Year, from all of us here at First Christian Church!

### Staff

Rev. Adam Bradley	Lead Pastor
Rev. Mason Fitch	Pastor
Heather Woods	Music Ministry Coordinator
Brian Woods	Organist
Brandy Ganschow	Child Care
Diane Pfoff	Office Manager
Lynn Hutton	Bookkeeper
Brandy Ganschow	Interim Custodian



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December 24, 2025

6:00 pm

## First Christian Church



[fccpeoria.org](http://fccpeoria.org)  
socials: @FCCPeoriaIL

## Christmas Eve Worship

† indicates standing, if able

Prelude *A Carol Medley* - arr. Smith

Processional #125  
*Come, O Long-expected Jesus*

Welcome

†Call to Worship

*One: Tonight old fears die and new hopes come to life. The promise is fulfilled!*

**Many: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

*One: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.*

**Many: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

*One: Our candles illuminate the story. Dawn invades midnight. The Light of the World has come.*

**Many: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

*One: And this light is a light for all; igniting a flame in the soul, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God come-alive in human flesh within us and among us now and always.*

**All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all!**

†Opening Hymn #148  
*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Rev. Mason Fitch & Children  
Carol Response *Behold, He Comes! The Darkened Night* words on screen

Pastoral Prayer

Three Gifts of Christmas Offering  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem* - Redner/Price

### Lessons & Carols

#### Lesson One

Scripture: Luke 1:8-20

Meditation

Carol Response: #162 What Child Is This? vs 1 & 3

#### Lesson Two

Scripture: Mathew 1:18-21

Meditation

Carol Response: #149 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* vs 1 & 2

#### Lesson Three

Scripture: Mathew 2:13-15a

Meditation

Sanctuary Choir *The First Noel* arr. Jay Rouse

#### Lesson Four

Scripture: Luke 1:26-30a

Meditation

Carol Response: #155 *Angels We Have Heard on High* vs 1 & 4

#### Lesson Five

Scripture: Luke 2:1-14

Meditation

Carol Response: #150 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* vs 1 & 2

Bearing Witness to the Night

*One: On this holy night, God chose a manger, not a throne.*

**Many: And holiness took on human form.**

*One: On this holy night, the poor were the first to know.*

**Many: And heaven sang to the earth.**

*One: On this holy night, love became flesh.*

**Many: And the world has never been the same.**

*O Holy Night*  
Spencer Randolph & Parker Carls

†Spreading the Candlelight #145  
*Silent Night*

†Benediction

†Congregational Response #143  
*Joy to the World*

Postlude

*The Joy of Christmas* - arr. Smith