

4 Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
alleluia to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born.

### Blessing and Dismissal

Sharla Hulsey

### Carol

CH #143

“Joy to the World”

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love.

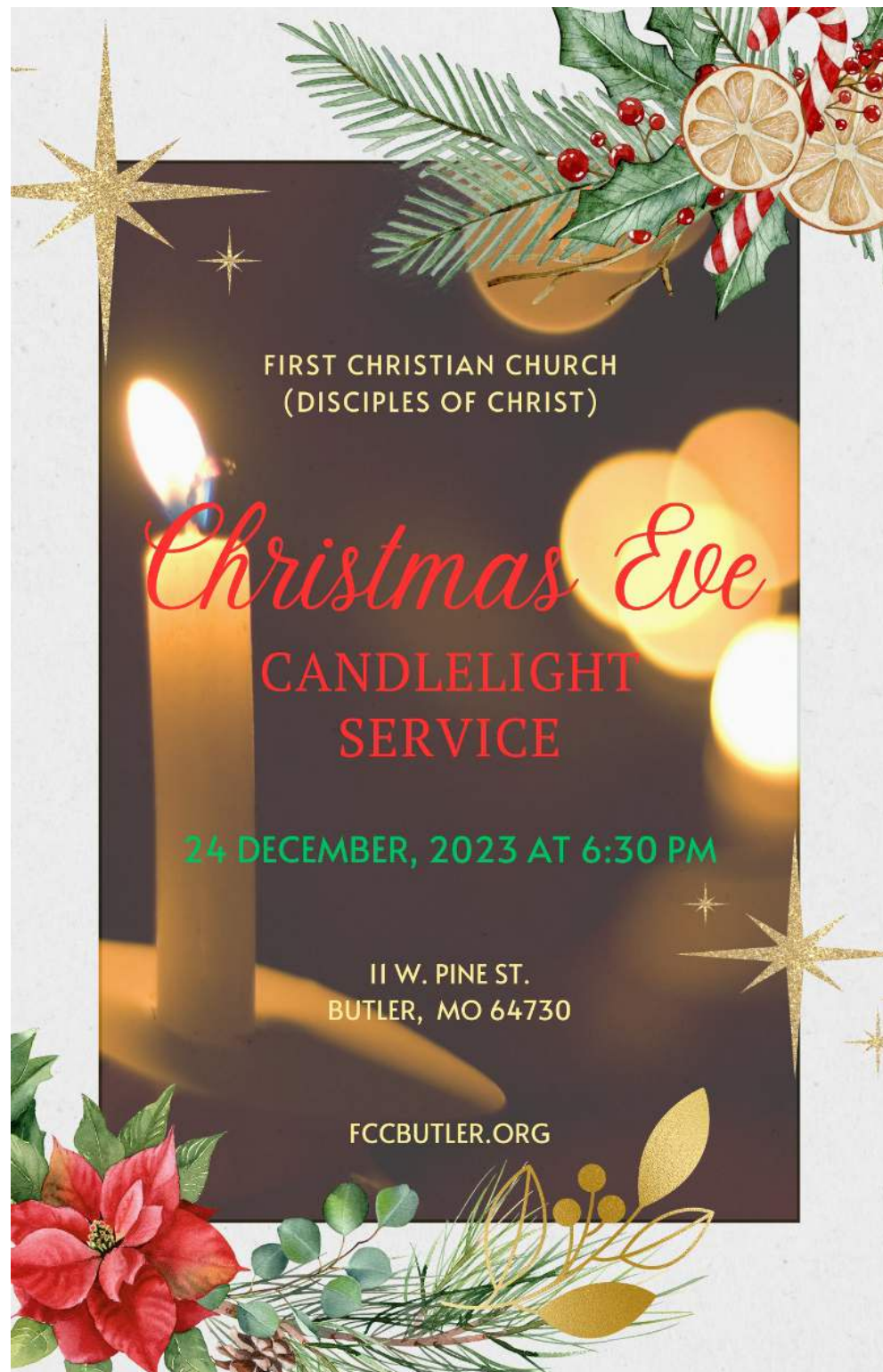


**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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**Sunday Worship @ 9:30 a.m.**



# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24, 2023

## Opening Solo

Rev. Sharla Hulsey

“Once in Royal David’s City”

## \*Call to Worship (please rise as able)

Shawn Quick & Congregation

Isaiah 9:2,6

**L:** The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;

**P:** those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined...

**L:** For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;

**P:** and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

## \*Opening Carol

CH #153

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

1 It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold;  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven’s all-gracious King!”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o’er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing;  
and ever o’er its Babel-sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

3 And you beneath life’s crushing load  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way,  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

## \*Opening Prayer

Shawn Quick & Congregation

**Glorious God, in Jesus your grace appears,  
bringing salvation to all.**

**Help us to ponder, with Mary, the wonder of that holy night,  
that we may proclaim glad tidings of peace  
and welcome Christ in our world. Amen.**

## Advent Candle Reading

“Candle of Love”

Sally Bremer

Voices of Advent: “The Woman Who Carried God in Her Womb”

## Carol

CH #128

“One Candle Is Lit”

1 Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.  
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.  
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

2 Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare  
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.  
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.  
One candle is lit for the reign of God’s peace.

**\* Please rise as able**

3 Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,  
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.  
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.  
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

4 Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,  
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,  
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.  
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

5 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.

Solo

“O Holy Night”

Lynda Perkins

### THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Scripture Reading

*Luke 2:1-7*

Lyssa Lile

Carol

“Away in a Manger”

CH #147

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Scripture Reading

*Luke 2:8-14*

Chuck Lewis

Carol

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

CH #155

1 Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Refrain:  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be,  
Which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ, who comes in lowly birth.  
Come adore on bended knee  
Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth. [Refrain]

4 See within a manger laid,  
Christ, whom choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise. [Refrain]

Scripture Reading

*Luke 2:15-20*

Phyllis McBrayer

Carol

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

CH #163

1 Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle-stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing,  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new,  
saw the glory, heard the story--  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you!

### Silent Meditation

### Special Music

“Little Bitty Babe in a Manger”

Adult Choir

### Call to Communion

*Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward, with  
bulletins, to receive the elements; then take a candle and form a circle  
around the outside of the sanctuary.*

### Communion Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

CH #164

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Listen now to what we say:  
News! News!  
Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now you hear of endless bliss:  
Joy! Joy!  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now you need not fear the grave:  
Peace! Peace!  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all,  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!

### Words of Institution

Sharla Hulsey

### Communion Prayer

Shawn Quick

### Sharing the Elements

### Scripture Reading: The Light of the World

*John 1:1-18*

Sharla Hulsey

### Carol

“Silent Night”

CH #145

1 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.

2 Silent night, holy night.  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 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.