Our Mission:

to be a visible and prophetic presence in the church and in the world,
to steadfastly proclaim the radically inclusive love of God,
to be open to, and celebrate differences; to honor thinking for oneself,
to faithfully work for the inclusion of, and justice for all people, regardless of
age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, race or national
origin, or any particular element of a person’s total humanity, and for all of
God’s creation.

Please join in where words are shown in bold type.
Please stand if you are able for items with an asterisk*.

Centering ourselves with the sound of the chime
and the Land Acknowledgement

Prelude           Music of the Season           Dr. Marc Dickey
Carols of the Christ Child
   Trumpet Tune on Angels, from the Realms of Glory
   Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
   Go Tell It on the Mountain
Song of the Magi
Dance Prelude on “Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella”
Carol Setting of “Good King Wenceslas”
   arr. Joe Utterback

Carol Prelude on “Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head”
   Appalachian carol; setting, Gilbert Martin

Chorale and Giga from “Five Lyric Pieces”
The First Noel
   performed by Jubellance, directed by Tracy Halter-Balin
A Reading

John 1:1-5

As the Light enters the Sanctuary

Carol #118

Of the Parent’s Heart Begotten

The choir will sing a verse; please then join in on the verse below.

Blessed dawning of salvation as the Word is breathed in grace
Into earthly flesh receiving God incarnate taking place;
Now the light of God revealed through the Child of human face,
forever and forever.

The Lighting of the Christmas Candle

One:  We do not need to search the wild world.

MANY:  We have been found – right where we are.

One:  The God of Love born among us, born in us,

MANY:  Born as a light, born as a hope,

One:  Born without a pillow.

MANY:  In the place where he was homeless

One:  All of us are at home.

*Processional Hymn #135  O Come All You Faithful

See page 8

*Unison Prayer of Invocation

The Rev. Tom Emanuel

God who breathed the world into being and called it good, something is
born tonight – something that melts even the crustiest heart. O God use
this night. Use our feelings. Breathe your compassion on to this world
and make it so easy for us to live together. Make it so easy that no one
remembers what anger or jealousy feels like. Make it so easy that
despots give it up and people need less. Let housing and food and
safety be a human right. May war machines rust, and nobody care about
power over anything. Make loving as simple as taking a breath. Make
giving the thing that gets us dancing. Make music the sound of the city.
Make joy the only fuel we need. AMEN.

Welcome

The Rev. Anne Hoffmann

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7  Daphne Marquez
Special Music
Away in a Manger
arr. Sandra Eithun
Bellissimo
With a procession of characters from the manger

A Reading
The House of Christmas
by G.K. Chesterton

One: There fared a mother driven forth
Out of an inn to roam;

ALL: In the place where she was homeless
All men are at home.

One: The crazy stable close at hand,
With shaking timber and shifting sand,
Grew a stronger thing to abide and stand
Than the square stones of Rome.

ALL: For men are homesick in their homes,
And strangers under the sun,
And they lay on their heads in a foreign land
Whenever the day is done.

One: Here we have battle and blazing eyes,
And chance and honour and high surprise,
But our homes are under miraculous skies
Where the yule tale was begun.
A Child in a foul stable,
Where the beasts feed and foam;

ALL: Only where He was homeless
Are you and I at home;

One: We have hands that fashion and heads that know,
But our hearts we lost – how long ago!
In a place no chart nor ship can show
Under the sky’s dome.

ALL: This world is wild as an old wives’ tale,
And strange the plain things are,
The earth is enough and the air is enough
For our wonder and our war;
But our rest is as far as the fire-drake swings  
And our peace is put in impossible things  
Where clashed and thundered unthinkable wings  
Round an incredible star.

One: To an open house in the evening  
Home shall men come,  
To an older place than Eden  
And a taller town than Rome.  
To the end of the way of the wandering star,  
To the things that cannot be and that are,  
To the place where God was homeless  
And all men are at home.

Carol #139, vv. 1, 2 & 4  
The First Nowell  
See page 10

Scripture  
Luke 2:8-14

Anthem  
Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light  
Sanctuary Choir

Christmas and the Folk Traditions  
Rev. Hoffmann  
Paul Boyd-Batstone, ukulele

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat.  
Please put a penny in the old man’s hat.  
If you haven’t got a penny, a ha’penny will do.  
If you haven’t got a ha’penny, then God bless you!

Scripture  
Luke 2:15-20  
Milo Penner

Special Music  
O Holy Night  
by Adophe Adam  
Megan O’Toole, soprano

The Christmas Story  
As told by Rev. Hoffmann and Rev. Emanuel

*Carol #144, vv. 1 & 2  
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
See page 12
Prayers of the People

Prayer Response: “God of Mercy, Hold Us in Love”
by Marty Haugen

Leader: In peace, in peace we pray to you …

Leader: Help us, comfort us all of our days …

Our Common Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the people of the earth!
With the bread we need today, feed us.
For the hurts we inflict on one another, forgive us.
In the time of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For your reign is in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.
Offering
The Invitation
Offertory

Hallelujah!
by George Frideric Handel

Scan above for our secure online donation site.

*Doxology: Old Hundredth (Hymn No. 7)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God with all the hosts above;
Praise God in wonder, joy and love.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Chiming of the Christmas Hour & Reading

From “Creation,” by James Weldon Johnson

Then God reached out and took the light in his hands,
And God rolled the light around in his hands
Until he made the sun;
And he set that sun a-blazing in the heavens.
And the light that was left from making the sun
God gathered it up in a shining ball
And flung it against the darkness,
Spangling the night with the moon and stars.
Then down between
The darkness and the light
He hurled the world;
And God said: That’s good!

*Carol #134
Silent Night
See page 14

Please join in after Charlie Carlos sings verse one in Spanish.

Please tip your candle to receive the light.
Keep your candle vertical as you pass on the flame.

You will extinguish your candle at the end of the Benediction.
*Benediction*  
Rev. Hoffmann and Rev. Emanuel

**Choral Response**

**Postlude**  
Chorale Improvisation on “Still, Still, Still”  
by Paul Manz  
Dr. Dickey

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**Coming Up at First Church**

See our website for more information: firstchurchlb.org

**December**

Sunday, 12/26, 10 am  
Informal Service of Lessons and Carols

**January**

Saturday, 1/8, 10 am  
Paddlers Group at Bayshore

Saturday, 1/15, 10 am  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Celebration

*Join us as we march in support of justice and equity.*

Tuesday, 1/18, 10 am  
Senior Coffee and Conversation

*All fully vaccinated seniors are invited.*

**February**

Friday, 2/4, 7 pm  
Game Night

Sunday, 2/13, 9:30 am  
Souper Bowl of Caring

*Tackle hunger with monetary and canned food donations.*

Sunday, 2/27, 10 am  
Service of Celebration: Quinquagesima Sunday!

*A musically delightful service celebrating the last Sunday before Lent*

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To subscribe to our newsletter, contact the office: office@firstchurchlb.org.
Adeste Fideles
(O Come, All You Faithful)

Luke 2:11–15; John 1:14
Latin, 18th century; attrib. to John Francis Wade
Transl. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others; alt.

1 A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve-
O come, all you faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God of true God... Light of true Light...
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 A - men, Lord, we greet you, born this hap - py morn - ing;

ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
come now, O come now to Beth - le - hem.
born of the Vir - gin’s womb in hu - man form;
sing, all you mes - sen - gers of heav - en - ly love:
Je - sus to you shall all glo - ry be given;

Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lo - rum.
Come and be - hold the rul - er of all an - gels:
Tru - ly our God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed:
“Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est”:
Word of our God... now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come in ad - o - ra - tion, O come in ad - o - ra - tion,

The Latin text and tune of this familiar hymn are found together in several eighteenth-century manuscripts signed by John F. Wade. Wade lived among a group of English Catholic refugees in northern France.

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES Irr. with refrain
English melody, 18th century
John F. Wade’s Cantus Diversi, c. 1743
Harm. Collections of Motets or Antiphons, 1792
venite adoremus. Domine num.
O come in adoration: Christ is Lord!
The First Nowell

Luke 2:8–20; Matt. 2:1–12

Traditional English carol; alt.

1 The first Nowell, the angel did say,
2 They looked above and saw a star
3 And by the light of that same star
4 This star shone bright in the northwest,
5 Then entered in those magi three,

was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
shining in the east, beyond them far,
three sages came from country far;
o’er Bethlehem it seemed to rest,
and bending low upon their knee,

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep.
And to the earth it gave great light,
To seek for a king was their intent,
And there it did both stop and stay,
They offered there, in great reverence,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
and so it continued both day and night.
and to follow the star wherever it went.
right over the place where Jesus lay.
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Refrain

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.

Though perhaps of earlier origins, this anonymous English carol first appeared in print in the nineteenth century. “Nowell” stems from the Latin novellae (news) and is used as a joyous greeting to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL Irr. with refrain
Traditional English melody
Harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871
Descant, Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing


1 Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the Christ-child bring;
2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
3 Hail the Bearer of God’s peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness,

Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinner reconciled!
Late in time the Savior comes, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Light and life our Savior brings, risen with radiant, healing wings.

Joyful, all you saints arise, join the triumph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh, the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Mildly laying glory by, born that we no more may die,

With the angel host proclaim, “Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!”
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us second birth.

This hymn by Charles Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism, is firmly wedded to Felix Mendelssohn’s music. Composed for the four hundredth anniversary of the invention of printing, the music was adapted to this hymn fifteen years later.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D. with refrain
From Felix Mendelssohn’s “Festgesang,” 1840
Arr. William H. Cummings, 1855
Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the Christ-child bring!”
Charlie Carlos will sing the first verse in Spanish; please join in afterwards.