



Established 1851  
Madison, Wisconsin

**December 31, 2017      The First Sunday After Christmas**  
**9:00 am Classical Worship**



**The Organ Pre-Service**

**Today we welcome organist Robert Haigler, who will be with us January-April as John Rafoth takes his annual sabbatical. More about Robert can be found in January "Tidings."**

*We welcome you to use this time to prepare for worship and direct yourself towards the presence of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Please keep silence in the Sanctuary during this time.*

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|--|------------------------|
| I. O Little Town of Bethlehem                                  | arr. Joshua Evanovich  |
| II. Noël Suisse  | Jean-François Dandrieu |
| III. Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen                               | Johannes Brahms        |
| IV. Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming                               | arr. Joel Raney        |
| V. The First Noël  | arr. Joel Raney        |
| VI. Of the Father's Love Begotten                              | Wilbur Held            |
| VII. Dance Prelude on Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella        | Christopher Uehlein    |
| VIII. Two Scottish Airs: Auld Lang Syne and Ye Banks and Braes | Robert F. Swift        |

***A Community Centered in Christ:  
gathering in love, growing by grace, going forth to serve.***

## *We Gather in Love*

The Introit    *Once in Royal David's City* (Irby)  
*Please join in singing the second verse of this carol.*

Hymnal No. 49

*Please stand for* The Call to Worship  
Arise! Shine! The Light you have been waiting for is here!  
**Darkness has been banished!**  
God's light of hope floods the earth  
**God's light comes to us all.**  
Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.  
**Prepare our hearts to receive this Light. AMEN.**

*Remain standing to sing*  
The Hymn of Praise    *Joy to the World!*

Hymnal No. 40  
(Antioch)

The Prayer of the Day

The Gloria Patri    Hymnal No. 579  
**Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.**  
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,**  
**world without end, Amen.**  
*You may be seated.*

The Prayer of Confession  
**Source of all hope, you invite us to live in the light and to experience the splendor of your glory. We confess that we are reluctant to embrace this new life, and choose instead to remain in the darkness. We allow our fears and hurts to hold us hostage, and our illusions to hold us back from new and real possibilities. You offer us unconditional love, but we expect our own love to be earned. Forgive us and create us anew in the image of your Son in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Our Silent Confession

The Assurance of Forgiveness  
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*Please stand for*  
The Response of Praise    *See Amid the Winter's Snow*  
*Please join in singing verses 2 and 3.*

Hymnal No. 51  
(Humility)

*Welcome—  
We're glad YOU  
are worshipping with  
us today!*

Thank you for silencing  
cell phones and other  
electronic devices  
before worship!



A Hearing Loop  
Is installed  
and available.  
Switch your hearing aid  
to "T-Cell".  
Please ask an Usher  
if you need assistance.

Congregational spoken  
responses appear  
in **bold type**.

Hymns and sung  
responses will be found in  
the **BLUE HYMNAL**  
under the seat  
in front of you.

*Please join us —  
after Worship today  
for coffee  
and fellowship  
in the Gathering Hall,  
outside of the Sanctuary.  
Whether you are  
a long-time member or  
a visitor, we'd like to  
get to know you!*

*Nowell*

or

*Noël?*

Whichever way you spell it, the meaning is the same: “a joyful shout expressing the exhilaration at the news of Christ’s birth.” The different spellings reflect the possible origins of the word — “Nowell” being the British spelling and “Noël” the French.

“The First Nowell” is one of the oldest Christmas “ballads” (a song which tells a story) in use today — relating the details of Christ’s birth. It ends with an admonishment: “then let us all with one accord, sing praises to our heavenly Lord.”

The author of “The First Nowell” is unknown, but clearly the carol was meant to relate the story of the birth of Jesus in a time when print copies of the Bible were in short supply, and most of the general population illiterate. A memorable tune and simple words provided a means for everyone to know this story so central to the Christian faith.

Sharing the Peace of Christ  
The peace of Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*Please remain standing to sing The 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. Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

Hymnal No. 592

## *We Grow by Grace*

News of the Church

The First Scripture Reading      Galatians 4: 4-7      Pew Bible, page 947

The Anthem    *Amid the Calm of Winter’s Rest*      Raymond Weidner  
*Amid the calm of winter’s rest, a humble maid  
at heaven’s request brought forth a child – earth’s holy guest. Alleluia!  
In Bethlehem of long ago, pure Love was born  
that we might know the freedom from all guilt and woe. Alleluia!  
A new year comes! So now embrace the season of God’s loving grace,  
and live to see our Savior’s face. Alleluia!*  
~ Raymond F. Weidner

The Second Scripture Reading      Luke 2: 22-40      Pew Bible, page 833

The Sermon      Back to Galilee, But Not Alone

The Invitation for Giving

The Offertory Anthem    *Judea*      William Billings  
*A virgin unspotted, by prophet foretold,  
should bring forth a Savior, which now we behold,  
to be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin,  
which Adam’s transgression involved us in.  
Refrain: Then let us be merry, put sorrow away,  
Our Savior, Christ Jesus was born on this day.  
God sent down an angel from Heaven so high,  
to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lie,  
and bade them no longer in sorrow to stay,  
because that our Savior was born on this day. [Refrain]*

(cont.)

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

### **Christ Presbyterian Church**

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Then presently after the shepherds did spy  
vast numbers of angels that stand in the sky;  
They joyfully talkèd and sweetly did sing:  
“To God be all glory, our heavenly King.” [Refrain]

To teach us humility all this was done,  
to learn us from thence haughty pride for to shun:  
the manger His cradle who came from above,  
the great God of mercy, of peace and of love. [Refrain]

### ***We Go Forth to Serve***

The Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (Sidebar)

Please stand to sing

The Sending Hymn *The First Nowell* (Nowell)

Hymnal No. 56

Verses 1 and 2: **ALL**; Verse 4: Quartet; Verse 6: **ALL**

The Benediction

The Choral Benediction *Nowell! Nowell!*

Hymn No. 56, reprise

The Organ Postlude *Pasticcio*

Jean Langlais

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### **Leading in Worship Today**

Rev. Dale Chapin, Preacher

Donna Wilson, Liturgist      Scott Wilson, Scripture Reader  
Kathleen Otterson, Music Director      Robert Haigler, Guest Organist

The Scholarship Singers Quartet:

Amalia Goldberg, soprano; Meghan Hilker, alto

John Bohman, tenor; Gavin Waid, bass

Greeters : Florentine and Kokou Amessepe, Alice Spencer

Ushers: Arlene Linn, Lead; Adam Wood,

Barbara Premo, Heather and Don Strong

Sound/Slides: John Itson

**Next Sunday, January 7**

**The Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

**Rev. Dale Chapin preaching: “Marked for Life”**

**Scripture: Mark 1: 4-11**

**The Organ Preservice at 8:30 am!**

Guest organist, Robert Haigler plays settings of seasonal carols by a variety of composers including Flor Peeters, Sigfrid Karg-Elert, and others .