

Christian Service of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love) December 20, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

**indicates for those who are able to stand*

We Gather Together

Welcome and Mission Announcements Rev. Dr. James Brewer-Calvert
Passing of the Peace of Christ (*Afterward please be seated in a spirit of worship.*)

Prelude *In the Bleak Midwinter* G. Holst

*Entrance Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem* 144

*Call to Worship -*Adapted from Psalm 80: 1, 2b, 3* Ruth Lutz

One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead your people like a flock! Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Many: Restore us, O God; let your face shine that we may be redeemed! Amen!

*Unison Prayer of Invocation Ruth Lutz

May this offering of our lives and sacrifices for the love of Jesus Christ be acceptable in the eyes of God. May our prayers, praises, and practices in this experience of holy worship come from the very depths of our selves. May we be both blessed and a blessing in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Glory 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. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – The Love Candle Amy and Rev. Michael Yandell
(*Please See Insert for Liturgy*)

We Receive the Word

Lessons from the Holy Scriptures Julie Fleming

Isaiah 9: 1-7 (*Pew Bible OT Page 638*)

Matthew 1:18-25 (*Pew Bible NT Page 001*)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

“The Call”

An Original Christmas Pageant in One Act

Cast of Characters In Order of Appearance

Mary	Tori Jackson
Gabe	Theo Jackson
Joseph	Will Kidd
Innkeeper	Jacob Tate
Host of Angels	Chancel Choir

Pageant Production

Written By: James L. Brewer-Calvert

Director: James L. Brewer-Calvert

Sound: Jay Norton

Costumes and Props: Barbara Sims-King

Pageant Choral Anthem *Going to Bethlehem*

We Respond to the Spirit

Communion Hymn *Away in a Manager* 147

Invitation to Faithful Stewardship and the Lord’s Table Pastor

Prayers for the Bread and Cup Julie Fleming and Yolanda Lewellyn

Words of Institution 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

One: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said,

Many: “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

One: In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,

Many: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

One: For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

(Christ invites you to partake of Holy Communion. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us. You may partake of communion by intinction. Please come forward, take a wafer and dip it into the chalice. Holy Communion will also be served by our Deacons to those in pews who choose to not come forward and wish to partake.)

Unison Prayer of Commission

God our help: We thank you for this supper, shared in the spirit with your son Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Him and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.

We Are Led Out By the Spirit

Invitation to Discipleship Pastor

(You may join First Christian Church by transfer of membership, confession of faith, or by renewal of the vows of your baptism. Please come forward during the hymn.)

*Hymn of Going Forth *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* 150

*Benediction Pastor

Postlude *Let All Together Praise Our God* P. Manz

Welcome home! We are delighted that you are here today. Please fill out the Visitor/Member Card so we may have a record of your participation.

If you wish for a prayer joy or concern to be shared aloud during worship, please complete the back of the card now. Deacons collect prayer cards before our pastoral prayer. If your prayer request is confidential or you simply do not want it shared aloud, you may place your card in the offering plate alongside our collective tithes and offerings. On Monday morning our Prayer Ministry will lift up to God your prayer requests.

We kindly request that, unless you are on-call for professional reasons, all cell phones and electronic devices be turned off during worship. Thank you.

The Holy Scriptures for today may be found printed in the bulletin insert.

**Carols, Candlelight, and Communion
Christmas Eve Services**

Thursday, December 24th at 6 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Worship Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 27th at 10:30 a.m.



Welcome Home!

**First Christian Church
of Decatur**

(Disciples of Christ)

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Resolve to Love, Agree to Differ, Unite to Serve, Break Bread Together