

Greetings! My name is Jamie. I am one of the Pastors here at First UCC, SL and in RL, I am a hospital Chaplain and Ordained Minister in good standing with the UCC. As we gather together there is some technical information that most of you already know, but just in case someone doesn't:
The service will be in voice and text.
There is a copy of the service in the red book by the door to the sanctuary. You'll want to grab one of those if you need the YouTube links or want the lyrics for today's worship music.
Speaking of which, worship music will be in the media player.
If you get a message stating that the video is unavailable, please toggle media in your viewer; that usually fixes the problem.
And frequently in my worship service, folk end up dancing right here in the aisles or in the back of the sanctuary, so if the mood strikes you—I say go for it!
And now, a service of Lessons & Carols:

THE LIGHT:

Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish.
In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.
The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkvYR4BcHYc>, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" ~for KING & COUNTRY

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel
O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel
O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our Heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel
(Ooh) rejoice (rejoice), rejoice (rejoice) Emmanuel (Emmanuel)
Shall come to Thee, O Israel

THE ENUNCIATION

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.'

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her,

'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel,

'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

The angel said to her,

'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;

therefore the child to be born will be holy;

he will be called Son of God.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

For nothing will be impossible with God.'

Then Mary said,

'Here am I, the servant of the Lord;

let it be with me according to your word.'

Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL

<https://youtu.be/GdeMcOHLHoo?si=SUDzoqAozgqyqics>, "Gabriel's Message" ~Sting

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

His wings as drifted snow

His eyes as flame

"All hail" said he "thou lowly maiden Mary

Most highly favored lady, " Gloria, Gloria

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be

All generations laud and honor thee

Thy Son shall be Emanuel

By seers foretold

Most highly favored maid, " Gloria, Gloria

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head

"To me be as it pleaseth God, " she said,

"My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name."

Most highly favored lady, Gloria, Gloria

THE BIRTH

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,

to the city of David called Bethlehem,

because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth,

and laid him in a manger,

because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvXK5JqhDiE>, "O Holy Night" ~Indigo Girls

Oh holy night, the stars are brightly shining

It is the night of our dear Savior's birth

Long lay the world in sin and error pining

Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees
Oh, hear the angel voices
Oh, night divine
Oh, night when Christ was born
Oh night, oh holy night
Oh, night divine

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy name

Fall on your knees
Oh, hear the angel voices
Oh, night divine
Oh, night when Christ was born

Fall on your knees
Oh, hear the angel voices
Oh, night divine
Oh, night when Christ was born
Oh night, oh holy night
Oh, night divine

Oh night, oh holy night
Oh, night divine

SHEPHERDS & ANGELS

I invite you to pay special attention to Linus Van Pelt and his security blanket in this scene from A Charlie Brown Christmas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJ8qjdxzzE>

"Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about."

"Lights, please."

(Luke 2:8-14)

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. "That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

CAROL

https://youtu.be/Uc4AdrA7QdE?si=_nW36bs3IVaNIcAb, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
~Bad Religion

Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born king
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born king"
Christ, the highest and adored
Christ, the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born king"
Hail the Heav'nly Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born king"
"Glory to the new-born king"

GO AND SEE

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen,
as it had been told them.

CAROL

<https://youtu.be/EVgjzFN9sbw?si=AUakaLkXir9kKLwu>, "What Child, Nowell" ~Tori Amos

What child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This is winter's gift
This is what begins
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Every voice was singing
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Born this day a new Nowell
Nowell, Nowell
What child is this who, now awakes
In every heart, each morning
From dazzling light, through silver sky
Bring peace now from creation
This is winter's gift
This is what begins
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Every voice was singing
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Born this day a new
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Every voice was singing
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Born this day a new
Born this day a new Nowell
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell.

THE LIGHT

John 1:1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

CAROL

https://youtu.be/WlRpGj7LWS4?si=hFAXQow_Jb5RB7vs, "It Feels Like Christmas" ~The Ghost of Christmas Present (a scene from A Muppet Christmas Carol)

Ho, ho, ho, ho, ho, ho, ho, ho, ho
It's in the singing of the street corner choir
It's going home and getting warm by the fire
It's true where ever you find love it feels like Christmas
A cup of kindness that we share with another
A sweet reunion with a friend or a brother
In all the places you find love, it feels like Christmas
It is the season of the heart
A special time of caring
The ways of love made clear
And it is the season of the spirit
The message if we hear it
Is make it last all year
It's in the giving of a gift to another
A pair of mittens that were made by your mother
It's all the ways that we show love
That feel like Christmas
A childhood that we'll always remember
It's the Summer of the soul in December
Yes, when you do your best for love
It feels like Christmas
It is the season of the heart
A special time of caring
The ways of love made clear
It is the season of the spirit
The message if we hear it
Is make it last all year
It's in the singing of a street corner choir
It's going home and getting warm by the fire
It's true where ever you find love
It feels like Christmas
It's true wherever you find love
It feels like Christmas
It feels like Christmas
It feels like Christmas
It feels like Christmas

Merry Christmas, everyone!
And!
It really is just this simple:
God loves you.
So don't forget to love each other.
Go with God,
go in peace,
And amen!

end