



The Congregational Church of Austin, UCC,
an Open and Affirming Congregation
*Providing a nurturing, safe, and affirming community for all people to flourish
in God's love, justice, and peace!*

408 W. 23rd Street Austin, TX 78705

An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve Worship Service ~ Playing Dress-Up at the Manger!
** Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.*

Prelude

Let's Build the Christmas Nativity Together!
Starting with Bethlehem

Welcoming Children of All Ages!

Rev. Ginny

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Ginny, Xitali and Sebastian

On this Christmas Eve, we gather to journey once more to Bethlehem, a humble stable where the baby Jesus was born.

We come like Xitali and Sebastian, excited to see the gifts God has in store for us in unexpected places— in the crowded inn, in the fields with shepherds, in the quiet corners of our hearts.

Woohoo!

We come like God's children everywhere, using our creativity to imagine the places and people who welcomed baby Jesus to be born.

Woohoo!

As we begin with the bare manger and add angels, shepherds, animals, parents, and a little baby Jesus, we will celebrate the ways God's love is born in us every day.

Woohoo!

So come, let us play dress-up, sing familiar carols, and celebrate God's love born within baby Jesus and all of God's children today! Woohoo!

Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love Lynn Chavarria

Angels and Stars

Telling the Christmas Story Together

Rev. Ginny

Reading of the Nativity Story Luke 2:9-14

Lynn Chavarria

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Christmas Carol

Go Tell It On the Mountain

*Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.*

*2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.
[Refrain]*

*1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. [Refrain]*

*3 Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.
[Refrain]*

Shepherds and Sheep

Telling the Christmas Story Together

Rev. Ginny

Reading of the Nativity Story Luke 2:15-16a

Lynn Chavarria

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.

Carol**The First Noell**

*The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their
sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so
deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born in a manger, Emmanuel.*

*They look-ed above and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and
night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born in a manger, Emmanuel.*

A Christmas Prayer

Rev. Ginny

The Gift of the Innkeeper**Telling the Christmas Story Together**

Rev. Ginny

Reading of the Nativity Story

Luke 2:6-7

Lynn Chavarria

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.

Invitation to Generosity

Rev. Ginny

You are invited to financially give so that we can continue to serve our neighbors in Austin and throughout the world. Your generosity can be with cash, a check, or scanning the QR code to give online (see the back of this bulletin). Thank you for your generosity.

Choral Anthem**Walk in the Light***** Doxology**

Tune, Away in a Manger

*Praise God for these gifts that we offer today
And bless them for good in the world this we pray.
Praise Jesus, the Christ-Child, our Hope and our Stay,
The Spirit, our Keeper, our guide on the way.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Lynn Chavarria

Loving God, on this night of wonder, we dedicate our gifts to you, trusting they will bring light and love just as the innkeeper's generous offering made space for Christ. Bless all that we give, that it may share your hope and joy with the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

The Birth of Baby Jesus

Telling the Christmas Story Together

Rev. Ginny

Lighting the Christ Candle

Rev. Ginny

***Carol**

Joy to the World!

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth its praises bring;
Let every heart prepare Christ room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature
sing.*

*Christ rules the world with truth and
grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of God's righteousness
And wonders of God's love,
And wonders of God's love,
And wonders, wonders of God's love.*

Benediction

Rev. Ginny

***Postlude**

Welcome to the Congregational Church of Austin, UCC!

If you are visiting for the first time, we are so glad you have joined us! We invite you to join us after worship for a time of fellowship so that we can learn more about you and share more about our church with you!

Leading In Today's Service:

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Interim Pastor and Teacher

Lynn Chavarria, Worship Leader

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Roberto Hernández, Usher and Deputy Deacon

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Serge Martinez, Director of Online Ministries

CCLI# is 11086713