



Holy Family In a Olive Grove (2020) by Sliman Mansour

<https://slimanmansour.com/>

**First Congregational Church of Palo Alto
United Church of Christ**

*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

www.fccpa.org • 650-856-6662

Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2021

Order of Worship for December 24, 2021

Prelude

Selections from *Nutcracker Suite*
Ching Shih, piano

Tchaikovsky

Call to Worship

Leader: Tonight new dreams come to life.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: The promise is fulfilled!

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: Hope gives way to joy, and prayer to proclamation.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

***Carol**

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the king of angels,

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing all ye citizens of heaven above.

Glory to God, Glory in the highest;

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Grace, Olivia, and Kate Lindstrom

***Carol**

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

Let earth receive her king!

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,

Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

In the Beginning

John 1:1-5,14

Children's Choir

Mary's Little Boy

Hairston

Cherub Choir

The Friendly Beasts

traditional

Cherub, Children's, and Youth Choirs

Silent Night/Peace, Peace

Bock

The Children's Story - Assembling our Crèche

All children are invited to come forward to help assemble our nativity scene.

Carol

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes.
The little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

The Birth of Christ

Luke 2:1-7

Carol

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the savior is born, Christ the savior is born.

The Angels and Shepherds

Luke 2:8-14

Musical Response

Angels We Have Heard

arr. Mohlman

Orlando Jiménez and Marla Essenmacher

Prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving

Pastor Eileen

Youth Choir

O Come All Ye Faithful

Arr. Wu

Message

Clarence the Camel and Pastor Dave

Closing Song

Go Tell It

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching,
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.

Down in a lowly manger,
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation, that blessed Christmas morn.

Benediction

Postlude

Sleighride

Anderson

Joe Guthrie and Ching Shih, piano duet

Participating in Today's Service:

Senior Pastor:	Rev. David Howell
Associate Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman
Dir. of Children's Ministries:	Todd Erickson
Music Director:	Joe Guthrie
Cherub Choir Director:	Emily Bender
Children's & Youth Choir Director:	Andrea Ward
Advent Wreath:	Lindstrom family
Readers:	Grace Grundy, Katie Bradley

The candle on our table is in memory of Ginnie Kissane, who passed away peacefully on December 7, after her journey with Alzheimer's. In recent years Ginnie attended our church with her granddaughters, Anna and Claire.

Ways to Give: You can contribute financially to the church by: dropping a gift in the red box at the welcome table, mailing a check to the church address, giving online at www.fccpa.org, texting "Give 25" (or any amount you choose) to 650-



459-0688, or scanning the QR code to give via PayPal.

Coming in 2022

- **Worship:** We worship every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in person and on Zoom, and you are always welcome!
- **Backyard Sunday School:** Come to the Backyard on Sunday mornings following the Children's Story for songs, a story, and fun.
- **Cherub Choir and Children's and Youth Choirs** meet following worship on Sundays, and new members are always welcome!
- **Youth Groups:** Our High School Youth Group meets every other Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Middle School will begin meeting every other Friday evening starting in January. To learn more or to be added to the email list, contact [Sam Putney](#).
- **Confirmation 2022:** Our confirmation program for 8th graders and high school students begins in January, with an opening retreat on the evening of Friday, January 14. We will have an informational meeting for parents about the program on Sunday, January 9, from 11:15 a.m. - noon in the Embarcadero Library. [Contact Eileen Altman](#) for more information.
- Auditions for our **Spring Musical, *Danger Dan***, will be held for all ages after worship on January 16 and 23 at 11:15 in the sanctuary.
- **Faith in Film:** This movie discussion class will meet on January 11, 18 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. The first film will be announced in next week's enews. Please see the film before coming to class. Contact Dave Howell with any questions.
- Our annual **Women's Retreat** will be January 29 and our **Men's Retreat** will be February 11-13. Find registration information at our website or in our electronic newsletter.
- **Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services:** Join us for the season of Lent, beginning Wednesday, March 2 for Ash Wednesday worship at 7:30 p.m. We will have Lenten Vespers every Tuesday from March 8 - April 12 at 7:30 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday:** Join us for Easter Worship on Sunday, April 17, with our annual egg hunt.
- **Vacation Bible School:** Children entering a four-year old program through those entering 5th grade are invited to join us June 13-17 for Vacation Bible School, a great week of puppets, singing, Bible stories, art, games, and snacks. Mark your calendars now! Registration will begin in February.

Land Acknowledgement: As we gather for worship today, we remember that for thousands of years this area has been the traditional land of the Puichon, an independent tribe of the Ramaytush Ohlone people. We are grateful to work, live, and worship on this land.

Open and Affirming Statement, adopted in 2007: As we, the members of the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, seek to embody God's extravagant welcome to all, we declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, welcoming into the full life and ministry of our church all who are LGBTQ+.

Get social: We'd love your support on social media! Follow @FCCPA on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and like the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto on [Facebook](#) to interact with and share our content to extend our reach. Additionally, if you have something you'd like to promote, please reach out to Julia Satterthwaite at julia.satterthwaite@gmail.com or text her at (248) 302-4289.

Contact our Pastors: If you would like to learn more about the church or talk with one of our pastors, please contact us at David@fccpa.org or Eileen@fccpa.org. We would be very glad to talk with you. For Pastoral Emergencies, you may contact Rev. David Howell at 650-906-7284 or Rev. Dr. Eileen Altman at 831-345-3830.

Do you get our weekly "This Week at FCCPA" email newsletter? It's the best way to stay up-to-date on church events. Contact office@fccpa.org to sign up to receive it.

Poinsettia Dedications

Given By

Beery/Rogers Family

The Blandings & Bonnie

Collins/Blanding Family

Carol Chivers

Lori and Sean Cottle

Ed & Linda Eckert Family

Greg, Vicki, Andy and
Maddie Eckert

Steve & Carole Eittreim

John & Mary Grundy

John & Mary Grundy

John & Reo Haynes

June Hildebrand

Annette Howitt

Lindstrom Family

Debby & Tom Martin

Debby & Tom Martin

Ann E. McCown

Rosemary & John McGuire

Lynn Mitchell

The Petersons

The Pirrotta/Moroney Family

Karen Routt

Einar & Cammy Sunde

Kathy & Steve Terry

The Warner Family

Elizabeth B. Wolf

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Dedication

Angilee Beery, beloved mother, and grandmother, who made life special, especially Christmas. We miss you.

Bob Larson, we love and miss your charisma, kindness, compassion, and that amazing smile. We wish you peace.

Kevin Collins, we miss you every day. We miss your wit and unconditional love. This world isn't as bright without you light. We love you, Uncle Cookies Monster.

In honor of Annette Howitt who will turn 100 years old on January 31st!

Ann Davis, Mildred Tarleton, and Robert Cottle

Our beloved family and friend we lost this year

In memory of loved ones

For the joy and love of family & friends!

In honor of our beloved Roy R. Grundy

In loving memory of Stanley Zarakov

Our parents and friends that are no longer with us this Christmas For Everyone to know God's love!

In loving memory of Ralph Howitt

To everyone that makes FCCPA such special place, thank you!

Celebrating our family and our church family

Praying for peace and cherishing the Earth and all its inhabitants

In memory of my mother, Elizabeth Langstroth

In honor of Kevin Frances Philley

In loving memory of David Mitchell

My marvelous Mom would have turned 100 on December 20.

Sean Moroney, beloved father, and Papa. We miss you.

In memory of my parents, Robert Fletcher Routt and Catherine Weiss Routt

Christmas Joy!

Wishing everyone a healthy and Happy Christmas!

In loving memory of Tim's and Clare's parents

In loving memory of Hans Wolf

In loving memory of my two brothers, Robert and David Bassett

In loving memory of my grandson, Alexander Wolf