

THE BIRTH OF HOPE



CHRISTMAS EVE 2017

first covenant church of saint paul ~ 1280 arcade street ~ saint paul, mn 55106

(651)774-0344 ~ www.first-covenant.org ~

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Welcome to worship at First Covenant Church as we celebrate the birth of our Savior this Christmas Eve. Whether you are a long-time member of our congregation or this is your first time worshipping with us, we are so glad you have included this worship service into your own personal Christmas Eve tradition this year. At the end of worship, our ushers will be handing out our Winter Guidebook to help you know more about our life together beyond Christmas Eve.

December 24, 2017

4:00 p.m.

Gathering Time

Prelude

Christmas Time is Here (Vince Guaraldi, arr. Mark Taylor)

Jazz Band

Greeting

If you are a visitor, have a prayer request or have a change of address, please note this on a Connect Card found in the pew pockets. Place it in the offering plate.

Invitation to Worship

*Now the Green Blade Riseth
(Sing We Now of Christmas), K. McChesney, Handbell Choir*

*Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn 162

Angels We Have Heard on High

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Amy & Patrick McGuire Family

Hymn of Response 157 vs 1,3

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Isabel Patrick, Karah Bain, Ryan Jacobson, Danielle Lo

John 1:9-14

Ysabel DeLeon

Children's Message

Donovan DeGaetano

Children are invited to come forward at this time.

Hymn of Response 154 vs 1,3

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Christmas Eve Offering

Bill, Janel, Erin and Erik Haider

Offertory

Go Tell It On the Mountain, Gospel Choir

Message

The Birth of Hope!

Pastor Anne Vining

Passing of Light, and Carol Medley

When passing the light, tip unlit candle toward the lit candle.

O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam arr. D. Buck)

Monica Holm, solo

Night of Silence / Silent Night

The Congregation will join the choir as directed.

*Sending Words

Please extinguish your candle and place in the basket as you exit.

Postlude

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts from "Christmas Oratorio" (Camille Saint-Saens)

**All who are able are invited to stand.*

The nursery is open and staffed this evening during the worship service for children birth - age 3. Please feel free to use the nursery for your child(ren). If you have any questions, ask one of the ushers.

This year, our Christmas Eve offering will benefit two areas:

CHIC (Covenant High In Christ) - A 2018 Youth Summer Trip

Every three years, more than 5,000 students from across The Evangelical Covenant Church denomination come together for five days in one place for worship, transformation and fun. At CHIC, lives are changed as students are inspired to dive deeper in their faith together. CHIC is about equipping a generation to find their place in God's family and mobilizing them to change the world. Our current 9th-12th graders and adult volunteer leaders are the recipients of the first \$3000 of tonight's offering.

First Covenant Church


Funds collected above \$3000 will go towards meeting our December 2017 budgeted giving. We are so grateful for the generosity of so many who make the ministries of First Covenant possible. We need \$34,701 by December 31st to meet our December year end budget goal. Thank you for your financial gifts that further God's kingdom work here on the East Side and across the globe.

JOIN US AS WE ANTICIPATE THE NEW YEAR!

JOIN US ON NEW YEAR'S EVE DAY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

10:30am - Worship
An unplugged service of sharing, carols and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

12:00pm - College & Career Gathering
Gather at Pastor Anne, Gordy and Curtis' home for food, games and connection with new and old friends.



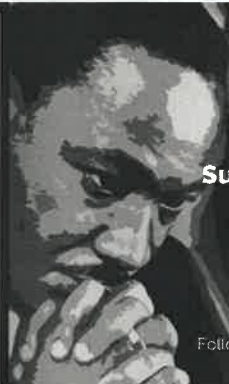
JANUARY 6 -7, 2018
First Covenant Church of Saint Paul

MAKE & DEEPEN DISCIPLES
Saturday, January 6
5:30-7:30pm

Join us for an inspiring and encouraging evening led by Rev. Sanchez. Light meal and childcare provided. Sign up at the Welcome Center, through Sunday, December 31.

DISCIPLESHIP DREAMS
Sunday, January 7
9:30 & 11:00am


Rev. Sanchez will be preaching in Worship and teaching in Adult Spiritual Growth.



Martin Luther King Jr. Partner Celebration
Sunday, January 14 2018

9:30am Worship
11:00pm Potluck Brunch

Partner Churches
First Covenant Church of Saint Paul
Followers of Christ Among Baptist Church
Haitian Christian Fellowship
La Viña, and Roots Covenant Church



AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP
IN A
FRAGMENTED WORLD

with Rev. Michelle Sanchez
Executive Minister of Make and Deepen Disciples
for the Evangelical Covenant Church



Come prepared to shop with vendors!



Special Performance by:
Beyond the Dance Network



Family Values for Life
Post Holiday Tea!
Saturday, January 20, 2018
10:00a.m.-1:00p.m.
First Covenant Church
1280 Arcade Street St. Paul Minnesota

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Mary Jo Winston
Pastor of Purpose for Life Worship & Outreach Center