

Order of Worship

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2006

10:30 PM RECITAL

Pastorale in F Major *Johann Sebastian Bach*

Notturmo *Ottorino Respighi*

arranged for piano and organ by Adolph Steuterman

Gesu Bambino *Pietro Yon*

Trio Sonata in C Minor *Johann Joachim Quantz*

andante moderato – Allegro – Larghetto – Vivace

Mary Fike, flute, Dorothy Darlington, oboe, T. D. Ellis, bassoon, Terry Beaurline, tenor, Cheryll Hadley, piano, John Stansell, organ and harpsichord

11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

CHRISTMAS PROMISE *spoken by the minister*

But you, Bethlehem in Ephrathah, small as you are among the clans of Judah, out of you shall come forth a ruler for Israel, one whose roots are far back in the past in days gone by. He shall appear and be their shepherd in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall continue, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth: and he shall be a man of peace. —

Micah 5: 2, 4, 5

***CAROL** O Come, All Ye Faithful *Pilgrim Hymnal 132*

to the tune ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CHILD CANDLE

The Derr Family Richard, Marilyn, Matthew and Katharine

Opening Sentences

Scripture: Luke 2:4-7

Prayer O God, who has visited our world in the soft hush of Jesus'

birth, touch our lives at the deepest places with the wonder of this Bethlehem Babe, that we might be filled with your joy and truth in the stillness of this special night. Amen.

Lighting of the Christ Child Candle

We light the Christ Child Candle in the pause of this night of wonder and delight, as we dare to journey to the stable where our salvation lay cradled in stillness.

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 2: 4-9 *Rev. Susan M Craig*

God creates humankind from the dust of the earth.

ANTHEM *The Chancel Choir*

Before the Marvel of this Night *Carl Schalk*

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11: 1, 2, 6-9 *Arthur Delmhorst*

The prophet points to the reign of peace when the Messiah has come.

***CAROL**

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming *Pilgrim Hymnal 131*

to the tune ES IST EIN' ROS'

THE FOURTH LESSON *Luke 2: 1-7 Ginny Breismeister*

Saint Luke tells of the Birth of Jesus.

ANTHEM

Qui creavit celum *Roland E. Martin*

Qui creavit celum,

Nasciture in stabulo,

Rex qui regit speculum.

Joseph emit panniculum,

Mater involvit Puerum,

Et point in presepio.

Inter animalia,

Jacent mundi gaudia,

Dulcis super omnia.

Lactet mater Domini,

Osculatur parvulum,

He who created the heavens

Is born in a stable,

The King who rules forever.

Joseph buys a little swaddling-cloth;

The mother wraps the boy

And places him in the manger.

Among the animals

Lies the joy of the world

Sweeter than all else.

The mother of the Lord gives milk;

She kisses her infant

Et adorat dominum.
Roga, mater, Filium,
Ut det nobis gaudium,
In perenni Gloria.
In sempiterna secula,
In eternum et ultra,
Det nobis sua gaudia.

—*Song of the Nuns of Chester,*
13th Century

And worships the Lord.
Mother, ask your Son
To grant us joy
In eternal glory.
For ever and ever,
To eternity and beyond,
May he give us his joy.

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 2: 8-16 *George Thalheim*
The shepherds go to the manger.

ANTHEM

When Jordan Hush'd His Waters Still *George Oldroyd*

THE SIXTH LESSON Matthew 2: 1-11 *Marty Berlin*
The wise men worship the child.

***CAROL**

We Three Kings of Orient Are *Pilgrim Hymnal 143*

THE SEVENTH LESSON John 1: 1-14
Saint John interprets the mystery of the Incarnation.

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION *Dr. David D. Young*
“The Truth that Touches”
Fifth in an Advent Series “Reaching ‘Round the Earth”

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Chancel Choir*
Christ is the Flower

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

As they offered gifts most rare,
At the manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND CHRISTMAS PRAYER

PASSING OF THE LIGHT

The ministers will go to the central Christ candle and receive the light. Then the light will move out into the entire congregation, with the choir sharing in this movement. Each one receives and passes on the light as those receiving the light tip their unlit candles into the flame.

***CAROL** Joy to the World! The Lord is Come

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 earth! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the
sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations
prove The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

***CAROL** Silent Night, Holy Night

The congregation lifts their candles on the last verse.

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, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

***THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

After the Blessing, all candles are extinguished.

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice *arranged by Robert Thygeron*

WELCOME to this special Service of Worship on this most holy of nights. May the mystery and magnitude of these moments shared together renew your heart with the light and love which came into the world in the Christ Child. A blessed and Merry Christmas to you, our entire congregation.

First Congregational Church of Greenwich

www.fccog.org

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Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: David D. Young

Senior Associate Pastor: Susan M. Craig

Youth Director: Anna Paskausky

Director of Music/ Senior Organist: John Stansell

Church School Coordinator: Rosemary Lamie

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Pastors Emeriti: Thomas L. Stiers and Sally Colgrove

Director of Middle School Ministries: Debbie Bocchino

Associate Organist/Director: Mark Swicegood

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin

Pastors Emeriti: Thomas L. Stiers and Sally Colegrove