

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

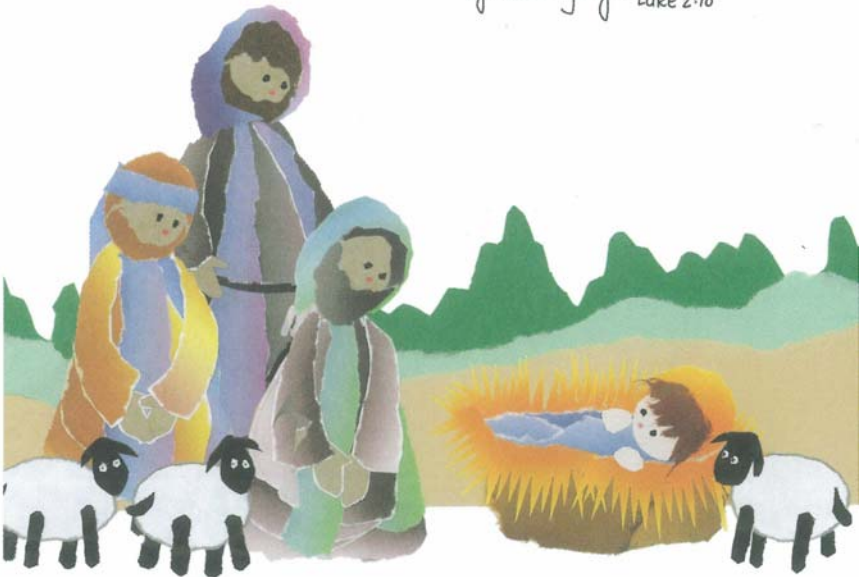
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*



Children's Christmas Eve Service

Behold, I bring you
good tidings
of
great joy. LUKE 2:10



December 24, 2010

10 o'clock in the morning

*All who are able please stand

Welcoming God and One Another

PRELUDE

CALL TO COMMUNITY *Rev. Susan Murtha*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The great day is upon us.

People: Let us go to Bethlehem to see God's child born in a manger.

Leader: For this child, our hearts are filling with song and prayer, praise and celebration.

People: Let us walk together and with the angels and shepherds to see God's great light coming into the world, a light to all people.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will.

***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.



Yeah, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rosemary Lamie

Week by week, the advent wreath has grown in light. Today we light the Christ candle to celebrate the gift of the Baby Jesus and all the light God brings into the world.



PRAYER (in unison):

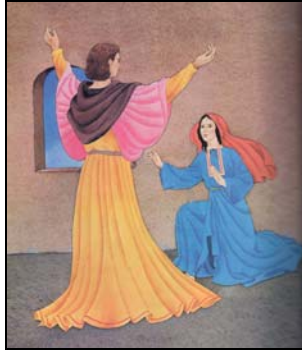
O God, fill our spirits with the light of your presence. Help us to love one another the way you have loved us. Be with us today and always. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Away in a Manger

*The Cherub Choir; Dr. Craig Symons, director
Debbie Berner, piano accompanist*

The Christmas Story & Nativity



THE ANGEL GABRIEL COMES TO MARY

Luke 1:26-38

***CAROL** **Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high,
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tiding did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.



MARY'S JOY

Luke: 1:46-55

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
they silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the
everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
and gathered all above while mortals sleep,
the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.



JESUS IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM

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,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!



THE SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

Luke 2:8-16

CAROL

The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up 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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.



THE WISE MEN COME FROM THE EAST

Matthew 2:1-12

***CAROL We Three Kings of Orient Are**

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.*

Responding to the Gift of Jesus

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING CAROLS

As we sing the Offering Carols, please come forward to visit baby Jesus, his family and those who came to the manger. You are invited to bring your offering and place it in the basket and to leave White Gifts on the chancel steps. We celebrate these gifts for Jesus this Christmas Eve.

*CAROL

What Child is This?

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, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh
Come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*



***CAROL**

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

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 th' angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!*



Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n 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!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND CHRISTMAS PRAYER

***CLOSING 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.



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.

CLOSING BLESSING

We thank the Sahrbeck Family for being the Holy Family
this morning.

Please join us for our Carol Sing on the church lawn today
at 5:00 pm, following which we will visit the Crèche
and sip hot cocoa.

Additional services today are:

- Family Service with Pageant, *Once in Royal David's City*, at 4:00 pm
- Communion and Carols at 8:00 pm
- Candlelight Lessons and Carols at 11:00 pm with special music beginning at 10:30 pm.

The Church Offices will be closed Monday, December 27 and Friday, December 31 for the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year to all from the staff of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

