

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

# *Candlelight Lessons and Carols*

## *Christmas Eve*

24 December 2010

11 o'clock in the evening

Welcome to this special Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church 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 and our entire church family!

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\*All who are able please stand

### **PRELUDE**

Riu Riu Chiu

In dulci jubilo

Elegy

Little Drummer Boy

Aria

Divertissement Grec

Medieval Dances

Gabriel's Message

*Traditional Spanish carol*

*J. S. Bach*

*Harold Friedell*

*Arr. Mimi Allen*

*Marcel Grandjany*

*Phillipe Gaubert*

*Traditional tunes*

*Craig Symons*

*Hanna Golodinski, soprano*

*Mary Fike, flute*

### **CHRISTMAS PROMISE** (*spoken by minister*)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*(Isaiah 9:2, 6)*

**\*CAROL**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 132*

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CHILD CANDLE**

*Harlan and Wendy Reynolds*

**Opening Sentences**

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:10-11

**Prayer:**

O God, touch us with a special sense of your presence and joy on this holy night, even such as was felt by those in the inn so long ago. And in so doing, open our hearts to receive the Christ Child. Amen.

**Lighting of the Christ Child Candle:**

We light this candle in remembrance of the Christ Child and the first Christmas. Ever since that night His presence has been felt, for truly Christ is our light in the world!

**\*CAROL**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 131*

**THE FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 11:1, 2, 6-9

*Avery Manchester*

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

**ANTHEM**

African Noel

*The Chancel Choir*

*arr. André Thomas; Alan Johnson, congas*

**THE SECOND LESSON:** Luke 1:26-35, 38

*Susan Murtha*

*The angel Gabriel appears to Mary,  
announcing she will bear a son, Jesus.*

**\*CAROL**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 134*

THE THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:1-7 *Angela Stevens*  
*Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

ANTHEM *The Chancel Choir*  
Ding, Dong Merrily on High *arr. Richard Pearsall*

THE FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16 *Jean Watkins*  
*The shepherds go to the manger.*

\*CAROL  
Joy to the World! The Lord is Come  
*Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 130*

THE FIFTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11 *Peter Heberling*  
*The wise men worship the child.*

ANTHEM *The Chancel Choir*  
Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day *John Rutter*  
*Lynette Wardle, harp*

THE SIXTH LESSON: John 1:1-14 *David Young*  
*Saint John interprets the mystery of the Incarnation.*

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION *Sitting in Straw and Awe*  
*(Tonight we transition quietly to a time of offering.)*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Chancel Choir;*  
Candlelight Carol *John Rutter*  
*Lynette Wardle, harp*

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE *(verse 3 of As With Gladness Men of Old)*  
*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. Amen.*

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

## CHRISTMAS POEM

It's a Mystery, Lord

*Robin E. Van Cleef*

## PASSING OF THE LIGHT

*As the Choir moves into the side aisles, they will share the light of their candles with those at end of the pews. The light will move out into the entire congregation. To receive the light, tip your unlit candle into the flame of your neighbor's candle. Please then turn to offer your light to the next person.*

## \*CAROL: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
From heaven's all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load  
Whose forms are bending low,

Who toil along the climbing way,  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now, for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing. Amen.

**\*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!

**\*THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING**  
*(After the Christmas Blessing all candles are extinguished.)*

**POSTLUDE**  
In dulci jubilo

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*  
*Johann Sebastian Bach*

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We thank Lynette Wardle, Alan Johnson, Tod Hedrick, Mary Fike, and Caroline Glover for sharing their musical talents during this evening's service.

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.

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# *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

[www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Associate Pastor for Christian Education: Rev. Susan J. Murtha

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Publications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell