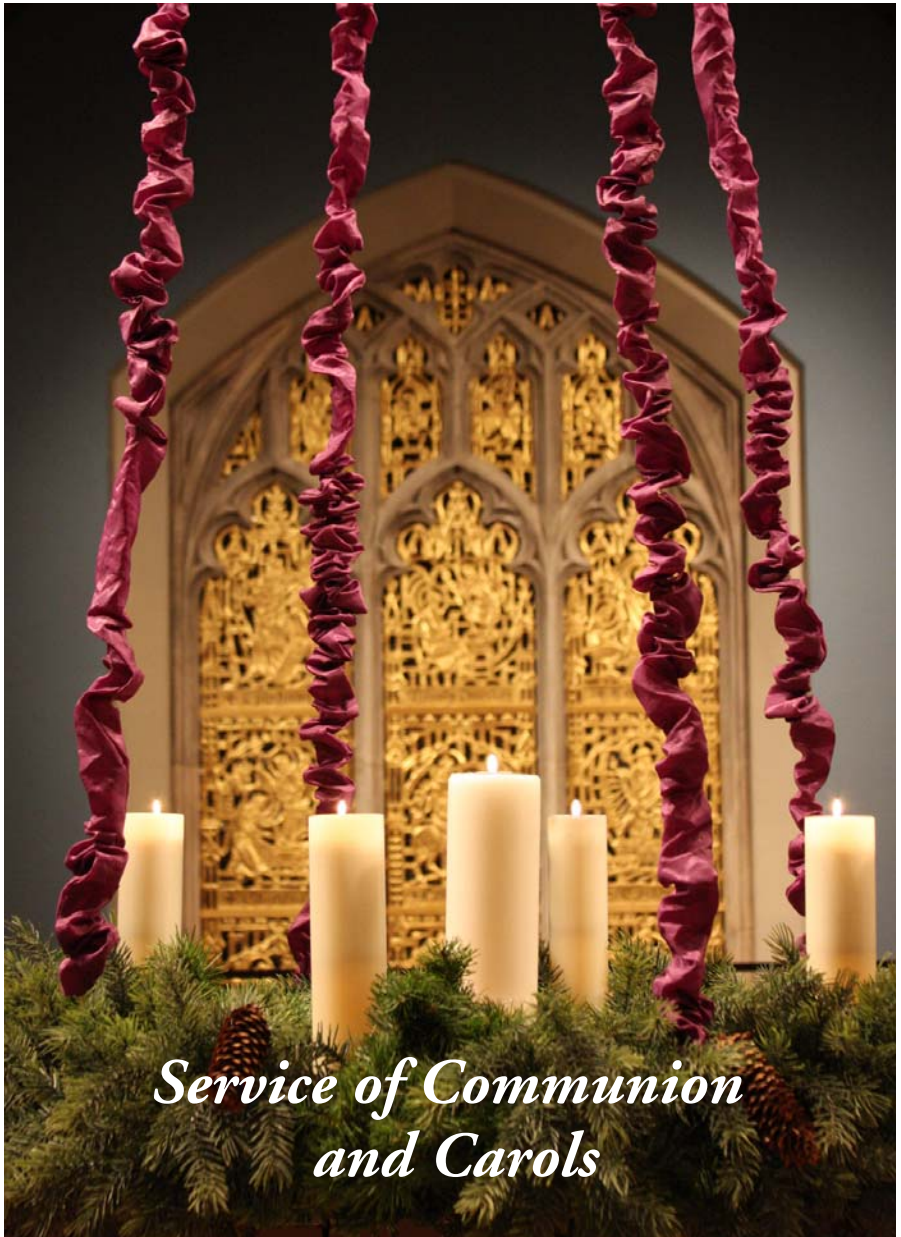


*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*



*Service of Communion  
and Carols*



# *Service of Communion and Carols*

## *Christmas Eve*

24 December 2010

8 o'clock in the evening

**W**e welcome you to this special Christmas Eve service at The First Congregational Church. We hope that the mystery and comfort of the incarnation will be born in you this night as we tell the story of how God came to be with us in Christ Jesus. May God bless you and your family as we worship together.

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\*All who are able please stand

### PRELUDE

*Lynette Wardle, harp*

Drive the Cold Winter Away  
Rocking Hymn  
Noel Nouvelet  
Aria

*17<sup>th</sup> century tune*  
*Ralph Vaughan Williams*  
*traditional French*  
*Marcel Grandjany*

### INTROIT

*The Youth Choir and Alumni; Caroline Glover, flute*  
*Carolyn Paulus, director*

Welcome, Welcome

*Joseph M. Martin*

### \*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Pilgrim Hymnal 132*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The Lepoutre Family*

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

Away in a Manger

*Pilgrim Hymnal 137*

**Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah**

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

*Lucinda Allen*

\*CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Pilgrim Hymnal 134*

# The Birth of Jesus

THE SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

*Charlie Baird*

ANTHEM

*The Youth Choir and Alumni*

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

*Traditional West Indian Carol; arr. Earlene Rentz*

## The Shepherds hear and respond to the good news

THE THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:8-20

*Liz Morris*

\*CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Pilgrim Hymnal 116*

MEDITATION

*Welcome to the World, Yolanda*

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

*Dr. David D. Young*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Holy Night

*The Youth Choir and Alumni  
Adolphe Adam; arr. Carl Deis*

**\*CHRISTMAS 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.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*(Those receiving communion are asked to come forward by the center aisle, receive the bread, proceed to the cup for intinction, then return to their seats by the side aisles.)*

**UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Glory to you, O God, our Emmanuel, who has fed and nurtured us by word and sacrament. Now, empower us by your Spirit to live to your glory, to serve in your name and to bring your good news to all people. In your name we pray. Amen.

**\*CAROL**

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

*Pilgrim Hymnal 130*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

In dulci jubilo

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

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We thank Lynette Wardle for sharing her musical talents during this evening's service.

Please join us for our Candlelight Lessons and Carols Service at 11:00 pm tonight 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.

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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