

# Jesus, the Light of the World!



**Children's Christmas Eve Service**

December 24, 2011

10 o'clock in the morning

# Welcoming God and One Another

**PRELUDE**

*Janice Riddell*

**INTROIT**

*Cherub Choir*

**We are Marching in the Light of God**

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Rosemary Lamie*

**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.



Sing choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

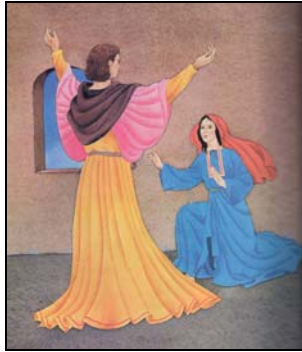
## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The Mickley Family: Brian, Paula, Lauren and Sarah*

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.



# The Christmas Story & Nativity



## THE ANGEL GABRIEL COMES TO MARY

Luke 1:26-38

*Peter Russell*

### CAROL

### Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,  
Singing sweetly o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
Which inspire your heavenly song.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*



## JESUS IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:1-7

*Emma Olmsted*

### CAROL

### Away in the Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.



## THE SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

Luke 2:8-16

*Peter Russell*

### 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

*Emma Olmsted*

**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** *Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

## OFFERING CAROLS

During our Offering, 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.



## JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

### 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!





## 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

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We thank the Murphey Family for being the Holy Family this morning; and Wise Man, Grandpa Savage.

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:

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

Christmas Day Services:

- 10:00 am Joint Worship Service **at** First Presbyterian Church, One W. Putnam Ave., Greenwich - Combined choirs of First Presbyterian, First Baptist and First Congregational Churches sing *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi with chamber orchestra (dress is casual).
- 5:00 pm linc Worship Service **at** FCCOG - *An Evening of Angel Stories*.

New Year's Day Services:

- 10:00 am Joint Service of Word and Sacrament **at** FCCOG with First Presbyterian and First Baptist Churches.
- 5:00 pm linc Worship Service.

The Church Offices will be closed Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2 for the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

We wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year from the clergy and 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

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

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Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

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