

Christmas Eve 2011
Service of Communion
and Carols



First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Service of Communion and Carols

Christmas Eve

24 December 2011

8 o'clock in the evening

We 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.

*All who are able please stand

PRELUDE

Traditional Music of the Season

Lynette Wardle, harp

INTROIT

Shepherds' Gloria

The Youth Choir and Alumni; Carolyn Paulus, dir.

Mark Patterson

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Pilgrim Hymnal 132

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Ng-Yow Family

Opening Sentences

Leader: We have lit a candle each week during Advent to remind us of hope, peace, love, joy and light.

People: May the lighting of these candles remind us of the advent journey we have shared and the journey we continue together.

Leader: May the lighting of these candles remind us that there is always hope to be had, peace to be dreamed, and love, joy and light to share.

People: May the lighting of these candles mark the beginning of something new:

Leader: For this moment marks the beginning of the next part of our journey together. May it be filled with new wisdom, new insight, new images of love, hope, peace and joy.

People: May it be filled with the light of Christ.

Scripture: Matthew 2:10-11

Prayer: (in unison)

Most high God, who has humbled yourself to be among us, be with us now. Remind us of the light that came into the world through Jesus Christ. Remind us of the light that can shine just as brightly today when we live as Christ has taught us.

When we find ourselves in despair, give us hope. When we find ourselves at war, give us dreams of peace. When we find ourselves in the midst of hate, increase our love. Every day, increase our joy so that we may become the people you have created us to be: images of you, light for the world.

Lighting of the Christ Child Candle

***CAROL**

Away in a Manger

Pilgrim Hymnal 137

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

Katie Weatherseed

*CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Pilgrim Hymnal 134

The Birth of Jesus

THE SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

ANTHEM

Wonderful! Counselor!

The Youth Choir and Alumni

Michael Barrett

The Shepherds hear and respond to the good news

THE THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:8-20

*CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

Pilgrim Hymnal 116

MEDITATION

Why Do We Do This Every Year?

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

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

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.

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

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

Christmas Day and New Year's Day Services
First Congregational Church

Christmas Day Services:

10:00 am Joint Worship Service at First Presbyterian Church,
One West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich
First Congregational, First Presbyterian and First Baptist
(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

Note: There will be **no** linc service on New Year's Day -
Since we have a wonderful opportunity to "linc" with our larger
community on New Year's Day at our 10:00 am service, we will
forego our regular 5:00 pm linc service and, instead, encourage a
time of linc-ing together at our 10:00 am service.

Regular 5:00 pm linc services will resume on Sunday, January 8
with *The Feast of Welcome*; Dan England will be preaching.



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

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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

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