

Jesus, the Light of the World!



Children's Christmas Eve Service

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

December 24, 2017

10 o'clock in the morning

Welcoming God and One Another

PRELUDE

Jon Hunt

INTROIT

Cherub Choir

WELCOME

Rev. Patrick Collins

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Patrick Collins

Isaiah 9

(You are invited and encouraged to respond to each sentence or phrase with the words or instructions in **bold print**)

The People who walk in darkness.

Ooooh! (scared)

That's us!

Gasp!

We have seen deep darkness in the world around us

Yes, yes

So we have come to search for the light.

Where is it?

We want the light to shine on us!

Let it Shine!

For unto us a child is born,

Yay! (Loud applause)

Unto us a son is given.

Yes!

A child is born for Us!

Yes! (Applause)

A son is given to All of Us!

We come to see the child that has been born,

We come to gather in the glow of the stable,

We are here!

We come to sing with angels and wonder with shepherds.

Let's Sing Out!

Come and worship, come and worship!

(Loud Applause)

Worship the one who is born for us this day

Amen!



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 Elliot-Bocassi Family

Today we light the Christ Candle to celebrate the birth of the Baby Jesus.

Reader 1: Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.

(A member of a family lights the four Advent candles.)

Reader 1: O God, now we light the candle of your nativity!
(With all Advent candles lit, a member of the family lights the center white Christ candle.)

Reader 2: With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, you come to us. This is the time of light and resplendent joy. We have known times when God has come and brought life and light to our world. God dwells among us every day, and is revealed to us in the joy we share with our families, communities and our world.

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light would shine and a child would be born to us. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, "Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!" John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God's glory—full of grace and truth. At Christ's nativity, we now rejoice.

All: God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this day to us. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine this day with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this day with your grace. Amen.

What Child

Is This Parker & John Freeman, Guitar & Violin

The Christmas Story & Nativity



THE ANGEL GABRIEL COMES TO MARY

Luke 1

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

CAROL

Away in a 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

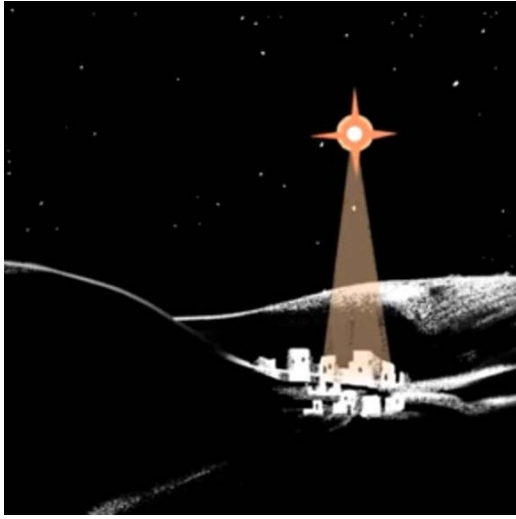
Luke 2

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

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. Patrick Collins

During our Offering, please come forward to visit baby Jesus, his family and those who came to the manger. You are invited to bring up your offering and to leave "White Gifts," giving the illusion of snow under the trees. These gifts will be given to Covenant to Care for Children.



JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

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

Rev. Patrick Collins

We thank the Sippel family for portraying the Holy Family this morning.

Additional services **today** are:

- 3:00 pm Family Service with Pageant, *Once in Royal David's City* and Children's Choir.
- 6:00 pm Festival Carol Service with Brass Ensemble, *Once in Royal David's City* Pageant and Chancel Choir.
- 9:00 pm Candlelight Service with Communion and Youth/Alumni Choir.

The Church Offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25 & 26, and Monday, January 1, for the holidays.

The clergy and staff of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich wish you a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.



Thanks to our Readers:
Charlie Stuckey & Brian Smith



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