

Christmas Eve Family Service
December 24, 2016
3:00 pm



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The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.



Family Service with Pageant
“Once in Royal David’s City”
Christmas Eve
24 December 2016
3 o’clock in the afternoon

Welcome to this special Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church on this most holy of days. 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!

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

WELCOME Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Patrick Collins

Leader: Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The Promise is fulfilled!

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: Our candles illuminate our story. Dawn invades midnight.
The Light of the World has come.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: And this light is a light for all: igniting a flame within the soul, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God come alive in human flesh within us and among us now and always.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will to all.

THE CHRISTMAS GREETING

Rev. Patrick Collins

*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;

Refrain:

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! (Refrain)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Molloy Family

Leader: Let us pray:

People: Almighty God, you have made this night holy by the gift of your son, born of the Holy Spirit and of Mary. Upon him rested all your grace, through him has come all your mercy. Let his light shine within our hearts tonight even more brightly than it shines from the candles in this place. Help us to hear your word and to celebrate your everlasting love through him. Amen.

ANTHEM
The Star Carol

The Children's Choir
Richard Shephard
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director
Vance Briceland, piano

CAROL
O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

THE CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.
Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

--New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM
Jesus Is Here

The Children's Choir
Carson Cooman

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.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

NATIVITY PAGEANT

Once in Royal David's City (all sing) Henry John Gauntlett

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Patrick Collins

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO THE CHRIST CHILD

If you have brought white-wrapped gifts today, as they are placed under the trees, they will give the illusion of snow. These gifts will be donated to Covenant to Care for Children.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

The First Nowell

The first Nowell, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,

And offered there, in his presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. (Refrain)

What Child is This?

What child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own him;
The king of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see

Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Silent Night, Holy 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!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Rev. Patrick Collins

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

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.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach

Please join us for our Community Carol Sing at the crèche at 4:00 pm.

Additional services this evening:

6:00 pm: Festival Carol Service with the Chancel Choir and Brass Ensemble
with Once in Royal David's City Nativity pageant.

9:00 pm: Candlelight Service with Communion and the Youth/Alumni
Choir.

The Church Offices will be closed Monday, December 26, Friday,
December 30, and Monday, January 2, for the holidays. The office will open
again on Tuesday, January 3.

The clergy and staff of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

The decorations in the Meetinghouse are given in joyful and loving memory of:

- Marjorie & Arthur L. Billings Jr., and Nina & Dr. Howard H. Flierl, by Shirley & Peter Flierl
- G. Michael Hawkins & Martin Molloy, by Kevin, Marcie, Jack, & Gavin Molloy
- Charles J. Veith IV, by his sister, Linda V. Glover
- Carol Kutzen & Joseph Browne, by Tom, Peter, & Terri Browne Kutzen
- Richard Woodman, beloved and sorely-missed husband and father, by Carolyn Paulus & Gillian & Stephanie Woodman
- Richard L. Geismar, by his family
- Patricia DeHaven & Andrea Mendelsohn, by the DeHaven family
- Robert & Joyce Turvey and Angela Wyman, by Helen Turvey Ingraham & family
- Our parents, Morris & Noemie Watkins, and Robert & Lucile Tubbs, by Jeff & Jean Watkins
- Kimberly Dawn Pacent, our beautiful daughter and my cherished sister, by Paul, Karen, & Nicole Pacent
- Phyllis Kimball, my wonderful mom and nana, by Karen & Nicole Pacent
- Marian & Fred Hout, by Susie Hout Baker & Sara, Charlie, and Lizzie
- Our parents, Carleton & Margaret Gisborne, and Harrison & Louise Reed, by Ruth & Gifford Reed & their family
- David Whitman Durland (son), by Mrs. Mary Durland
- Alvin Wachsman & grandson Jason Arnold, by the Wachsman & Arnold families
- Our parents, Purisima & Feliciano Teria, and Louise & Richard Haviland, by Erlinda & Larry Haviland
- John L. Putnam, by Wendy Putnam & Jennifer Maloney
- Earl S. Moore Jr. & Earl S. Moore Jr., by the Moore Family
- Richmond B. Hopkins, by his family
- Arthur C. & Catherine G. Weigner, by their sons, Stephen A. and Ronald C. Weigner
- Eric & Susan Robertson, my father & sister, by Lynn Robertson

- Paul Hudson & George Finch, from the Hudson & Finch families
- Joan & Jim Kreuter, by their children & grandchildren
- Charlie & Bill Robertson, by Eric & Betsy Kreuter
- Departed loved ones, by the Liddel family
- Our parents, Victoria & Efraim Olson, and Ryan & Margaret Rosendale, and aunt, Erna Nelson, by Ken & Erna Olson
- Our parents, Elizabeth & Daniel O’Grady, and Lillian & Albert Gordon, by Judy & Al Gordon
- Our parents, Nadean & Elmer Hirth, and Anna & Robert MacLea, by Carolyn & Bob MacLea
- Our parents, Alma & Steve Karch, Betty & Fred Breismeister, and Don’s brother, Fred, by Ginny & Don Breismeister
- In joyful remembrance of our Heavenly Choir with whom we always are singing: Harry & Rick Woodman, Richard Vogt, Carolyn Morey, Seth McKoy, Ara Berbarien, Thiel & Marian Ficker, Ted Svalgard, Bill Fingerle, Allie Holmes, Ray Malone, Sallie Williams, Julia Andrews, & Barbara Gaulocher, by Andrea Woodman Osker, Lynn Hawxhurst, & Tom Woodman
- My grandson, Tucker Davis, by Eleanor Olsen
- Our beloved parents and brother, by Mary Jane & William Penwell
- Melita & John Magness & Dana Andersen, by their family

The decorations in the Meetinghouse are given in honor of:

- The entire First Church family for their never-ending love and support, by Carolyn Paulus & Gillian & Stephanie Woodman
- Our grandchildren, Finn, June, Gunther, & Alta Breismeister, by Ginny & Don Breismeister
- Car Westbrook, for her years of devoted stewardship to the music at First Congregational Church, by Andrea Woodman Osker, Lynn Hawxhurst, & Tom Woodman

A donation to the decorations in the Meetinghouse is given by:

- Sarah Caswell



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Associate Pastor: Rev. Patrick Collins

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Administrative Assistant - Operations: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner