

Christmas Eve 2016
Candlelight Service with Communion
9:00 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.



Candlelight Service with Communion

Christmas Eve

24 December 2016

9 o'clock in the evening

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

*All who are able please stand

PRELUDE

Tomina Parvanova, harp

INTROIT

Mid Winter

The Youth/Alumni Choir

Bob Chilcott

Carolyn Paulus, director

Tomina Parvanova, harp

WELCOME

Rev. Patrick Collins

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lauren Mickley

Leader: Through lush farmland and bleak alleys

People: sweeps good news of great joy!

Leader: Through empty wants and desperate needs

People: blazes a start to light our way.

Leader: Through pounding turmoil and dazing fear

People: sounds an angel chorus:

**Glory to God in the highest;
Peace to God's people on earth!**

Leader: Receive the news! Follow the star! Heed the angels!

**People: Through song and silence, word and wonder,
let us make our way to Bethlehem.**

Leader: Let us worship the Holy One
who beckons in an infant's cry.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Mair 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.**

***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)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

THE FIRST READING: Luke 2:1-20

Gillian Woodman, Stephanie Woodman, Charlotte Lorthioir

***CAROL**

Angels We Have Heard on High

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

Refrain:

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. (Refrain)

THE SECOND READING: Matthew 2:1-11

Daniel Lepoutre

***CAROL**

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?

Refrain:

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. (Refrain)

A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Rev. Patrick Collins

PRAYER

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

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.

**INVITATION TO
THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

ANTHEM

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

The Youth and Alumni Choir

Earlene Rentz

Vance Briceland, piano

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises. We gather on this holy night. We gather at this table.

All: Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify! Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Leader: God called to us from age to age through messengers and prophets, when we would not our hearts give way, the Word-made-flesh God sent us.

All: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Leader: O Holy God of power and might! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed be the one who in your name comes! Hosanna in the highest!

All: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion Servers: Daniel Lepoutre, Gillian Woodman,
Charlotte Lorthioir, Sarah Mickley, Mariel Laffan

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. We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and cup. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SHARING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Please note that the sanctuary will darken at the beginning of the sharing of the Christ light. For your safety, we ask that you remain seated.

INTRODUCTION

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

The Youth/Alumni Choir

Adolphe Adam

PASSING OF THE LIGHT

Candlelight will be shared with those at the end of the pews, who are invited to pass it along. Please light your candle by tipping it over a lit one.

REFLECTING ON THE LIGHT

Rev. Patrick Collins

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!"

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.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Please extinguish your candle at the end of the carol.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Patrick Collins

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

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 all 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!

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

J. S. Bach

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.

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

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

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870
203-637-1791; www.fccog.org

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