

*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*  
*Founded in 1665*

**Christmas Eve Family Service**  
**24 December 2017**  
3 o'clock in the afternoon



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.



We welcome you to this special Christmas Eve service at 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.

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Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

**PRELUDE**

Noel & Variations

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Henry Kihlken

**WELCOME**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Leader: Tonight on Christmas Eve we kneel with families all over  
the earth in the presence of the Most High.

**People: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great  
light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on  
them light has shined.**

Leader: As we have been invaded by light, let us enlighten.

**People: As we have been found, let us seek the lost.**

Leader: As we have been liberated, let us set the captives free.

**All: For unto us a child is born, One whom God sends to  
bring peace and light, freedom and reconciliation.  
Thanks be to God!**

**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 Schneider & Gordon Families

**People: Tonight we give thanks for every child among us.  
Each new birth -- regardless of circumstances --  
reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of  
tomorrow, the promise of God.**

## **MUSIC DURING LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Away in a Manger

Sarah Bodenstein, cello  
J.R. Murray

## **FIRST LESSON**

Kendall Schroe

### **Isaiah 9: 2-7**

Now those people live in darkness. But they will see a great light. They live in a place that is very dark. But a light will shine on them. God, you will cause the nation to grow. You will make the people happy. And they will show their happiness to you. It will be like the joy during harvest time.

A child will be born to us. God will give a son to us. He will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace. Power and peace will be in his kingdom. It will continue to grow.

He will rule as king on David's throne and over David's kingdom. He will make it strong, by ruling with goodness and fair judgment. He will rule it forever and ever. --International Children's Bible

**ANTHEM**

There's a Baby Being Born in Bethlehem

The Children's Choir  
John Horman  
Vance Briceland, piano

**SECOND LESSON**

Bridget Condon

**First Coming (Madeleine L'Engle)**

God did not wait till the world was ready, till...the nations were at peace.

God came when the heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time. God came when the need was deep and great.

God dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.  
God did not wait

Till hearts were pure. In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

To a world like ours of anguished shame God came, and god's light would not go out.

God came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait til the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice,

for to share our grief, to touch our pain, God came with Love:  
Rejoice! Rejoice!

**SOLO**

Fur Elise

Sara Rahimtula, piano  
L. V. Beethoven

## THIRD LESSON

Spencer Moore & John Russell

### Luke 2:1-14

At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register. This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own towns to be registered.

So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him and Mary was now pregnant.

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened.

The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Savior was born in David’s town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.”

Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying: “Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God.”  
-- International Children’s Bible

**ANTHEM**  
Glory to God

The Children’s Choir  
Arr. Jody Lindh

## FOURTH LESSON

Eliza Dow & Catherine Ziac

### Emmanuel (Frederick Buechner)

#### \*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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in: be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

#### NATIVITY PAGEANT

#### Once in Royal David's City

#### 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.

## **CHRISTMAS 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.

## **\*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

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Keith Chapman

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## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

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

- Richard Vogt, by Anonymous
- Claire's Uncle Shelty, by the Wentworth family
- Our parents and Don's brother by Ginny & Don Breismeister
- Rick Woodman, Harry Woodman, Jean Paulus, & C.K. Paulus, by Carolyn Paulus and Stephanie & Gillian Woodman
- John L. Putnam, by Wendy Putnam & Jennifer Maloney
- Arthur C. & Catherine G. Weigner by their sons, Stephen A. & Ronald C. Weigner
- Our parents, Purisima & Feliciano Teria, and Louise & Richard Haviland, by Erlinda & Larry Haviland
- Mildred & Albert Isaacson, by Gerald Isaacson
- Edward J. William, by the William Family
- Marian & Fred Hout, by Susie Hout Baker & Sara, Charlie, & Liz
- Our son and brother, John C. Fountain, by Nancy, Katharine, & Sarah Fountain
- Earl S. Moore, Jr., by his family
- Richmond Benner Hopkins, by his family
- Our parents, Nadean & Elmer Hirth, and Anna & Robert MacLea, by Carolyn H. and Robert H. MacLea, Jr.
- Rafic & Adele Zaitoon, loving parents & grandparents
- Howard & Nina Flierl and Marge & Art Billings, by Shirley Billings Flierl and Peter J. Flierl
- William S. Webster, by Mary Webster
- Richard Thomas Hermance, by his wife & children
- Joan & Jim Kreuter, Charlie & Bill Robertson, by the Kreuter family and Betsy Kreuter
- John & Betty Briggs by the Kreuter family
- Our parents, Harrison & Louis Gifford, and Carleton & Margaret Gishorne, by Ruth & Gifford Reed and our family
- Michel A Scrivan, by his loving family, Mitzi, Kate & Andrew
- Joan Denne, by her family

- Anne, Bill, & Sue Denne, by their family
- Wilfrid & Marcia Hobbs, by Pamela Hobbs
- My father and sister, Eric and Susan Robertson, by Lynn Robertson
- Sherman & Beth Baldwin, by Anne Baldwin Castine
- Paul Hudson and George Finch, from the Hudson/Finch families
- Our parents, Efraim & Victoria Olson, Ryan & Margaret Rosendale, and our aunt, Erna Nelson, by Ken & Erna Olson
- Melita & John Magness and Dana Andersen, by their family
- Marian Cordner, by Gary & Judy Miller
- Our parents, Morris & Noemie Watkins and Robert & Lucile Tubbs, by Jeff & Jean Watkins
- Charles J. Veith IV, by his sister, Linda V. Glover
- Robert & Joyce Turvey and Angela Turvey Wyman, by Helen Ingraham, Kelsey, Taylor, Colin, & Trevor
- Roger A. Lepoutre, by Catherine Lepoutre & family
- Our parents, Sigrid & Hjalmar Johansen, and Agnes & Leonard A. Leonard, by Paul & Joan Johansen
- My parents, Karen Ogendahl Scrivanos & Marios Scrivanos, by Karen Scrivanos Oztemel
- Jerry & Carole Kutzen, and Joe Browne, by the Kutzen family
- Our parents, Bill Bovard and Esther & Harold Broderick, by Sue and Shawn Asselin
- Family members who brought such joy into our lives through the years, from the Hoffman-Kneen families

The decorations in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in honor of:

- Our parents, Dr. & Mrs. Smith, and Rev. & Mrs. Wentworth, by the Wentworth Family
- Our grandchildren, Finn, June, Gunther, & Alta by Ginny & Don Breismeister
- The Youth Choir and Youth Choir Alums, by Carolyn Paulus
- Tod, Sarah, & Isla Hedrick, by Lucy Hedrick
- My great-grandchildren, Kinley, Eloise, Harper, Calvin, & Mila, by Virginia Liddel
- Craig Symons, with thanks, for his ministry of music
- Virginia Liddel, cherished mother, grandma, and Gigi, by Joan McCaw, her loving daughter and Florida family

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

- Eleanor Olsen
- The Quake family



## **The First Congregational Church of Greenwich**

108 Sound Beach Avenue,  
Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870  
203-637-1791  
*[www.fcog.org](http://www.fcog.org)*

Cover Art: The Incarnation by Deborah Nell

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 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.