

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

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**  
**24 December 2017**

9 o'clock in the evening



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.

**WELCOME**

Rev. Patrick Collins

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

The Laffan Family

**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.**

**DUET**

Mary Fike, flute, Craig Scott Symons, harpsichord

Three Carols

Peter Crisafulli

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Youth & Alumni Choir

Welcome, Welcome

Joseph A. Martin

Vance Briceland, piano

**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)

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)

## FIRST LESSON

Daniel Lepoutre

### Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

You have made the nation great;  
you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as those who divide plunder rejoice.

As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened  
them,  
the staff on their shoulders,  
and the rod of their oppressor.

Because every boot of the thundering warriors,  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned, fuel for the fire.

A child is born to us, a son is given to us,  
and authority will be on his shoulders.  
He will be named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be vast authority and endless peace  
for David's throne and for his kingdom,  
establishing and sustaining it  
with justice and righteousness  
now and forever.

--Common English Bible

**\*CAROL**

**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)

**SECOND LESSON**

Stephanie Woodman

**Everyone Searches for Bethlehem (Tom Schade)**

Tonight, everyone is displaced and homeless.  
Tonight, everyone searches for Bethlehem.  
On this night, when the darkness comes so close,  
We listen in the stillness for the songs of angels.  
Like shepherds, we aren't too sure of what is happening.  
We don't know why we are so expectant.  
We don't know why we long so deeply for miracles.  
Tonight we pray that we might know the one we are seeking.  
Tonight may we kneel like kings,  
before that which is greater than any kingdom on earth.  
Tonight, may we see the holy family that we are a part of.  
And may we hear the music that reminds us of our truest home.

**\*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.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering  
love  
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King and peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessing of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

### **THIRD LESSON**

Emma Olmsted

#### **Luke 2: 1-14**

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a

manger.” Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors.”

—Common English Bible

**\*CAROL**

**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!

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!

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!

**FOURTH LESSON**

Alex Mair & Yevgeniya Golodinskii

**Emmanuel (Frederick Buechner)**

**\*CAROL**

**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,

and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

**INVITATION TO  
THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

Rev. Patrick Collins

**ANTHEM**  
Cloth for the Cradle

The Youth and Alumni Choir  
John Bell

**THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

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.**

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**INVITATION**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

Communion Servers: Marissa Goff, Daniel Lepoutre, James Mair,  
Lauren Mickley, Sarah Mickley, Emma Schuren

(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.)

**ANTHEM**  
O Holy Night

The Youth/Alumni Choir  
Adolphe Adam

## **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.

### **REFLECTING ON THE LIGHT**

Rev. Patrick Collins

### **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.)

### **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.

### **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Patrick Collins

(Please extinguish your candle after the benediction.)

### **\*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**  
Joy to the World

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ  
Arr. Wilbur Held

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Thanks to Tomina Parvanova, harp, for enhancing this evening's  
worship service.

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.

## 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 Shely, 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)*

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

Publications Coordinator: Vance Briceland

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers & Rev. Sally Colegrove

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