

Jesus, the Light of the World!



Children's Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2012

10 o'clock in the morning

Welcoming God and One Another

PRELUDE

Jon Hunt

INTROIT

Cherub Choir

Mary Had a Baby

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rosemary Lamie

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The great day is upon us.

People: Let us go to Bethlehem to see God's child born in a manger.

Leader: For this child, our hearts are filling with song and prayer, praise and celebration.

People: Let us walk together and with the angels and shepherds to see God's great light coming into the world, a light to all people.

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



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.

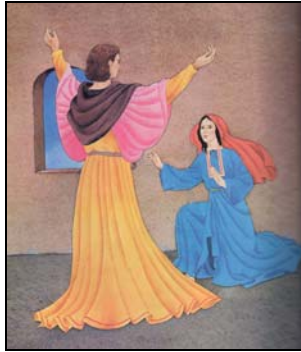
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Van Rhyn Family

Week by week, the advent wreath has grown in light. Today we light the Christ candle to celebrate the gift of the Baby Jesus and all the light God brings into the world.



The Christmas Story & Nativity



THE ANGEL GABRIEL COMES TO MARY

Luke 1:26-38

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 2:1-7

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 2:8-16

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 2:1-12

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. Mark D. Montgomery*

During our Offering, please come forward to visit baby Jesus, his family and those who came to the manger. You are invited to bring your offering and place it in the basket and to leave White Gifts on the chancel steps. All offerings not otherwise earmarked will be given to those in great need. In addition, your White Gifts will be given to Covenant to Care and your Mitten Tree items will go to Inspirica in Stamford.



JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

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!



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

We thank the Doyle Family for being the Holy Family this morning.

A special word of gratitude to Hilary Lawrence and Inge Thalheim for all the time and talent they lent to refurbishing our Nativity costumes.

Please join us for our Community Carol Sing on the church lawn today at 5:00 pm, following which you may visit the Crèche.

Additional services **today** are:

- 4:00 pm Family Service with Pageant, *Once in Royal David's City*.
- 8:00 pm Communion and Carols.
- 11:00 pm Candlelight Lessons and Carols.

The Church Offices will be closed Monday, December 31, 2012 and Tuesday, January 1, 2013 for the New Year Holiday.

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



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And visit our Forum and start a conversation.



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell