

*Christmas Eve 2012*  
*Service of Communion and Carols*  
*8:00 pm*



*The First Congregational Church*  
*of Greenwich*



# *Service of Communion and Carols*

## *Christmas Eve*

24 December 2012

8 o'clock in the evening

**W**e welcome you to this special Christmas Eve service at The 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.

---

\*All who are able please stand

### PRELUDE

Prelude on *Greensleeves*

*Jayson Engquist, organ*

Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

### ANTHEM

*Come, All Ye Shepherds*

*The Youth Choir and Alumni*

James Clemons

*Carolyn Paulus, conductor*

### \*CAROL

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 132

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*Debbie Bocchino and Donald Haviland*

**Reader:** "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." (*Luke 2:6-7*)

**Reader:** Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-

worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love; animals and shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

**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.

**Reader:** On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the lowly-Lord. And now we know . . . He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

\*CAROL

*Away in a Manger*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 137

### Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

*Joe McBride*

\*CAROL

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 134

### The Birth of Jesus

THE SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

ANTHEM

*Christmas Chorale and Alleluia*

*The Youth Choir and Alumni*

John Purifoy

# The Shepherds hear and respond to the good news

THE THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:8-20

*Rev. John W. Collins*

\*CAROL

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 116

MEDITATION

AN ANONYMOUS CHRISTMAS DIARY – 1908

*Rev. Daniel B. England*

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*O Holy Night*

*The Youth Choir and Alumni*

Adolphe Adam; arr. Carl Deis

\*CHRISTMAS RESPONSE (*verse 3 of As With Gladness Men of Old*)

*As they offered gifts most rare, At the manger rude and bare,*

*So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,*

*All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to thee, our heavenly*

*King. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP (*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. Now, empower us by your Spirit to live to your glory, to serve in your name and to bring your good news to all people. In your name we pray. Amen.

## \*CAROL

*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come* Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 130

## \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*In dulci jubilo*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

---

Please join us for our Candlelight Lessons and Carols Service at 11:00 pm tonight.

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

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

---



Find us on Facebook and LIKE the page!

We're now on Twitter @FCCOGCT

Check out our new YouTube page, too!

And visit our Forum and start a conversation.



## *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

[www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Interim Senior Pastor: Rev. John W. Collins

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Associate Pastor for Communication/Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

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

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Communications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

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

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell