

Christmas Eve 2013
Service of Communion and Carols
8:00 pm



St. Joseph's Dream by HGaetano GandolfiH, 1790

*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.



Service of Communion and Carols

Christmas Eve

24 December 2013

8 o'clock in the evening

We 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

Christmas Carols and Songs

Lynette Wardle, harp

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel B. England

ANTHEM

Born is Emmanuel

The Youth Choir and Alumni

Arr. Patrick Liebergen

Carolyn Paulus, conductor

Vance Briceland, piano

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 132

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Reader: John 1

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made.

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader: Tonight we light the Christ candle, the culmination of the candles of hope, joy, peace and love that Advent has been leading to. For in Christ all things are created and all things fulfilled. We give thanks to God for the inexpressible gift of his Son, whom we claim as the Savior of our souls and the Lord of the Church. Let his light so shine from our lives and our life together that we may shine into the darkness of the world and bring people to share in this light.

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 9:6,7** (*King James Version*)

Rev. John W. Collins

*CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 134

The Birth of Jesus

THE SECOND LESSON: **Matthew 1:18-21** (*King James Version*)

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

ANTHEM

Mary Had a Baby

The Youth Choir and Alumni

Arr. William Dawson

The Shepherds hear and respond to the good news

THE THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:8-14 (*King James Version*)

Pat Larrabee

*CAROL

Joseph's Carol

Rev. John W. Collins

MEDITATION: *Restoring Joseph*

Rev. Daniel B. England

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Holy Night

The Youth Choir and Alumni
Adolphe Adam; arr. Carl Deis
Lynette Wardle, harp

*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.*)

*CAROL

Silent Night

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 138

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 Wednesday, December 25 and Thursday, December 26 for Christmas and Tuesday, December 31, 2013 and Wednesday, January 1, 2014 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.



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We're on Instagram too!



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

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