

# Jesus, the Light of the World!



## Children's Christmas Eve Service

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

December 24, 2014

10 o'clock in the morning

# Welcoming God and One Another

PRELUDE

*Jon Hunt*

INTROIT

*Cherub Choir*

WELCOME

*Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.*

## 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.



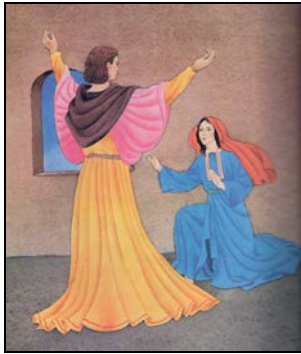
Sing choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

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. Your White Gifts will be given to the children at Covenant to Care.



**JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!**

**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**

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

Please join us for our Community Carol Sing around the crèche on the front lawn at 4:00 pm.

Additional services **today** are:

- 3:00 pm Family Service with Pageant, *Once in Royal David's City* and Children's Choir.
- 6:00 pm Festival Carol Service with Brass Ensemble, *Once in Royal David's City* Pageant and Chancel Choir.
- 9:00 pm Candlelight Service with Communion and Youth/Alumni Choir.

The Church Offices will be closed Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 for Christmas and Wednesday, December 31, 2014 and Thursday, January 1, 2015 for the New Year Holiday. The office will open again on Friday, January 2.

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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## *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

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Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

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

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

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: 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