

Christmas Eve 2014
Festival Carol Service
6:00 pm



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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.



Festival Carol Service with Pageant “Once in Royal David’s City”

Christmas Eve

24 December 2014

6 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

Fum, Fum, Fum

Organ and Brass

Arr. Sondra Tucker

WELCOME

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life.
The Promise is fulfilled!*

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

*Leader: Our candles illuminate our story. Dawn invades midnight.
The Light of the World has come.*

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

*Leader: And this light is a light for all: igniting a flame within the soul,
warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with
the presence of God come alive in human flesh within us and
among us now and always.*

*People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and
good will to all.*

*THE CHRISTMAS GREETING

*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.

God of God, Light of Light, lo! He abhors not the Virgin's
womb; Very God, begotten, not created; *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of
heaven above; glory to God, 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

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

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.

The Prophecy

SOLO

Comfort Ye from Messiah

Drew Seigla, tenor

G. F. Handel

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-5

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

ANTHEM

And the Glory of the Lord from Messiah

The Chancel Choir

G. F. Handel

THE SECOND READING:

The Huron Carol (1642)

Car Westbrook

Jean de Brébeuf (1593-1649)

*CAROL

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things
mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its
ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all
mankind. Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King
of Peace. *Refrain*

The Prophecy Fulfilled

THE THIRD READING: Luke 2:1-7

Jean Watkins

ANTHEM

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

The Chancel Choir

Cary John Franklin

THE FOURTH READING:

A Silent Night That Brought Healing (1968)

Rick Woodman

Steve Banko

ANTHEM

In Dulci Jubilo

The Chancel Choir

Richard Pearsall

*CAROL

The First Nowell (words on next page)

The first Noel 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

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.

Refrain

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 let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord, that hath made heav'n and earth of naught, and with his blood mankind hath bought.

Refrain

NATIVITY PAGEANT

Once in Royal David's City

Henry John Gauntlett

(Choir sings verses 1-5; All sing verse 6)

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. We, like Mary, rest confounded
that a stable should display
heaven's word, the worlds creator,
cradled there on Christmas Day;
yet this child, our Lord and brother,
brought us love for one another.

4. For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew;
he was tempted, scored, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

All sing:

6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

The Gifts of the Magi

THE FIFTH READING: Matthew 2:1-12 *Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

ANTHEM

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

The Chancel Choir

John Rutter

Mary Fike, piccolo

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO THE CHRIST CHILD

If you have brought White Gifts today, they will be given to the children at Covenant to Care.

CAROL SING

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Refrain

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the sun of
righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Refrain

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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found,

far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

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.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings 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.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

ANTHEM

Gesu Bambino

The Chancel Choir

Pietro Yon

Thomas Woodman, bass

The Story Continues in Our Lives

THE SIXTH READING: John 1:1-5

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Carol and Thomas Woodman

CAROL (please remain seated)

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.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

POSTLUDE

Organ and Brass

Fanfare-Toccata on “Mendelssohn”

Arr. William J. Greene

Thank you to our musicians for this evening’s worship service:

Trumpets: *Chris Doney, Joe Spitzer*

Trombone: *Steve Shulman*

French Horn: *Chris Costanzi*

Tuba: *Joe Stanko*

Percussion: *Matt Ward*

Please join us for our Candlelight Service with Communion and the Youth/Alumni Choir at **9:00 pm** tonight.

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.

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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The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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www.fccog.org

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