

Christmas Eve 2014

Candlelight Service with Communion

9:00 pm



www.stushart.com

*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.



Candlelight Service with Communion

Christmas Eve

24 December 2014

9 o'clock in the evening

Welcome to this special Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church on this most holy of nights. May the mystery and magnitude of these moments shared together renew your heart with the light and love which came into the world in the Christ Child. A blessed and Merry Christmas to you and our entire church family!

*All who are able please stand

PRELUDE

O, Come All Ye Faithful

Alex Mair, piano

ANTHEM

Welcome Welcome

The Youth/Alumni Choir

Joseph M. Martin

Carolyn Paulus, director

Vance Briceland, piano

Mary Fike, flute

GATHERING PRAYER

Kim Rogers

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: The light fills the sky, covers the ground and settles within us.

Leader: So that we, too, may be a part of the light that transforms the world.

People: Even though we, at times, find ourselves in shadow,

Leader: On us and through us a light is shining.

People: Thus, our joy has been increased,

Leader: And we rejoice with the angels who sing of a Messiah

People: A child, by whose ways we worship God.

Adapted from Isaiah 9:2-3

***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.

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.

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.

THE FIRST READING: Luke 2:1-15

Daniel Lepoutre

***CAROL**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

THE SECOND READING: Matthew 2:1-11

Katie Weatherseed

ANTHEM

Brazilian Christmas Carol

The Youth/Alumni Choir

Benjamin Harlan

Jeremy Goldsmith, guitar

Dan Asher, bass

PRAYER

Shaw Speer, Lauren Mickley, Drew Mohn

ANTHEM

Hallelujah

The Youth/Alumni Choir

Leonard Cohen; arr. Roger Emerson

REFLECTION

Clumsy Beautiful

Lucinda Allen

*CAROL

What Child Is This

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Refrain

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CHILD CANDLE

Members of our Senior and Junior Pilgrim Fellowship Programs

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

The Youth/Alumni Choir

Adolphe Adam

CAROL SING

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed
The Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

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.

BENEDICTION

(Please depart the Meetinghouse in silence.)

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 be open 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.

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)
[YouTube](#), [Instagram](#)



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

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