

Jesus, the Light of the World!



Children's Christmas Eve Service

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

December 24, 2015

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

Rev. Meghan D. Young

Isaiah 9

(You are invited and encouraged to respond to each sentence or phrase with the words or instructions in **bold print**)

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light
those who lived in a land of deep
darkness --
on them has the light shined.

(polite applause)

Oh no!

Oh good! (loud applause)

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy
they rejoice before you as with joy at
the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

Yes!

Yes!

Rejoice! Right on! Yeah!

For the yoke of the burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Oh! (As if in pain)

Oh! (As if in pain)

Oh! (As if in pain)

Oh good! (loud applause)

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Yes!

Yes!

Relief!

Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,

**Wonderful Counselor
Mighty God**

Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do
this.
A child has been born for us.

Everlasting Father
Prince of Peace

Higher and higher
God's peace!

Yes!
Yes!
Thank you, God!

(loud applause)
Amen!



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

The Kurczewski Family

Week by week, the advent wreath has grown in light. Today we add the Christ Candle to celebrate the birth of the Baby Jesus.



Leader 1: Through this season of Advent, we have been watching, waiting, and praying for the coming of light into the world. We have longed for the day when the things of darkness - selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression - shall be no more. Our journey has been lit with hope, peace, joy, and love, as we recognized our God who travels with us every step of the way.

All: A light has dawned, and it fills the earth. We go to Bethlehem to see the embodiment of God's grace. Today we light the Christ candle, as we celebrate the God coming to us in human form, bringing light to all the world. The light of the world beckons to us.

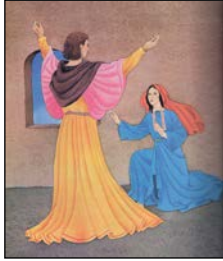
Leader 2: May the light of Christ light up the past that we might learn from it with thankfulness. Light up the present that we might live in it with love. Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope.

All: Rejoice and be glad for the possibilities of this good news! Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among all whom God favors! May God's light overwhelm the world and be born anew within us once more. Amen.

The Christ candle is lit.

The Christmas Story & Nativity

The Jacks Family, scripture readers



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. Meghan D. Young

During our Offering, please come forward to visit baby Jesus, his family and those who came to the manger. You are invited to bring up your offering and to leave "White Gifts," giving the illusion of snow under the trees. These gifts will be given to Covenant to Care for Children.



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

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

We thank the Kelly family for portraying the Holy Family this morning.

Please join us for our **Community Carol Sing** in Binney Park 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 Friday, December 25 and Monday, December 28 for Christmas, and Friday, January 1, 2015 for the New Year Holiday. The office will open again on Monday, January 4.

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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Transitional Associate Pastor: Rev. Meghan D. Young

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