

Christmas Eve 2015
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 2015

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

3 Carols:

We Three Kings

What Child is This?

Angels We Have Heard on High

Organ and Brass

Arr. Rob Roy McGregor

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**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *The Wentworth Family*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

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.

***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.

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. Avery C. Manchester

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.

ANTHEM

Welcome, Yule!

The Chancel Choir

C.H.H. Parry

READING: Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Meghan D. Young

ANTHEM

Lullay, my Liking

The Chancel Choir

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Annunciation

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

*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.

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. *Refrain*

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*

NATIVITY PAGEANT

Once in Royal David's City

Henry John Gauntlett

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

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

ANTHEM

Glory to God

G. F. Handel

*Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano*

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO THE CHRIST CHILD

If you have brought "White Gifts" today, as they are placed under the trees, they will give the illusion of snow. These gifts will be donated to Covenant to Care for Children.

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.

The First Nowell

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*

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.

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.

SHARING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Rev. Meghan D. Young

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

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Arr. Rob Roy McGregor

Thank you to our instrumentalists for enhancing this evening's
worship service:

Trumpets: *Chris Doney, Joe Spitzer*

Trombone: *Steve Shulman*

French Horn: *Ray Guier*

Tuba: *Joe Stanko*

Percussion: *Eric Phinney*

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:

Friday, December 25

Monday, December 28

Friday, January 1, 2016

The office will open again on Monday, January 4, 2016.

*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:

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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.

Transitional Associate Pastor: Rev. Meghan D. Young

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

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Youth Coordinator: Donald Haviland

Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Office Manager/Sr. Administrative Assistant: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Communications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner