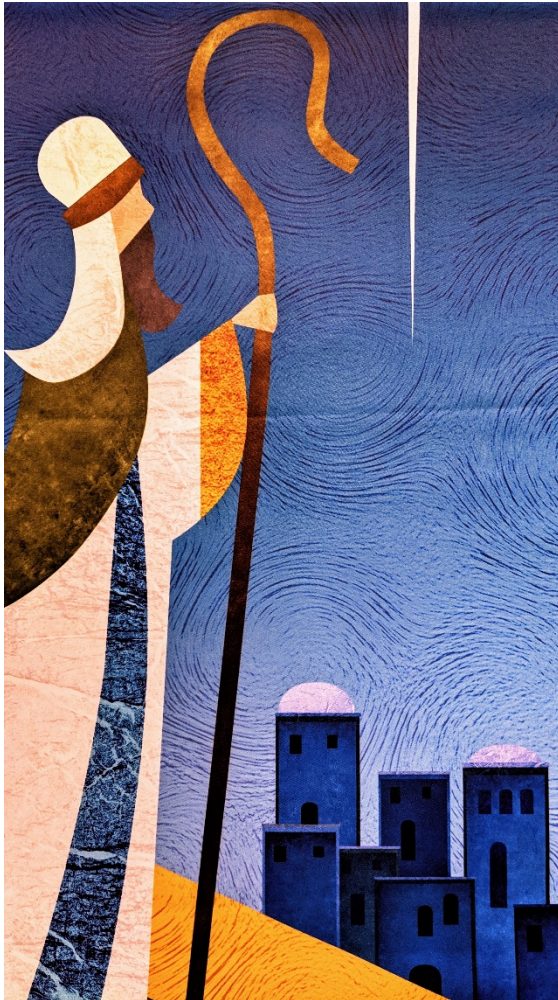


The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
24 December 2018

9 o'clock in the evening



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.

We welcome you to this special Christmas Eve service at 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.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.
*All who are able please stand.

WELCOME

Rev. Patrick Collins

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Speer Family

**All: Tonight we give thanks for every child among us.
Each new birth, regardless of circumstances, reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God.**

**MUSIC DURING
CANDLE LIGHTING**

Rebecca Swett, harp

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP
Carol of the Star

The Youth & Alumni Choir
Donald Moore
Carolyn Paulus, director

CHRISTMAS GREETING

Rev. Patrick Collins

***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, all glory 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)

FIRST LESSON

Gwyneth Mair

Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

You have made the nation great;
you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,
as those who divide plunder rejoice.

As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened
them,
the staff on their shoulders,
and the rod of their oppressor.

Because every boot of the thundering warriors,
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned, fuel for the fire.

A child is born to us, a son is given to us,
and authority will be on his shoulders.
He will be named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be vast authority and endless peace
for David's throne and for his kingdom,
establishing and sustaining it
with justice and righteousness
now and forever.

--Common English Bible

***CAROL**

The First Nowell

The first Nowell, 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:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

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 entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. (Refrain)

SECOND LESSON

Daniel Lepoutre

Luke 2: 1-14

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors.”

—Common English Bible

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Patrick Collins

***CAROL**

Angels, We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains
And the mountains in reply echo back 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!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

INVITATION TO THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Rev. Patrick Collins

ANTHEM

Wonderful! Counselor!

The Youth and Alumni Choir
Michael Barrett
Vance Briceland, piano

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

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.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion Servers: Alex Fortunato, John Freeman, Daniel
Lepoutre, Emma Olmsted, Lauren Mickley, and Sarah Mickley

(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.)

SHARING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Please note that the sanctuary will darken at the beginning of the
sharing of the Christ light. For your safety, we ask that you remain
seated.

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

The Youth/Alumni Choir

Adolphe Adam

PASSING OF THE LIGHT

(Candlelight will be shared with those at the end of the pews, who are
invited to pass it along. Please light your candle by tipping it over a lit
one.)

REFLECTING ON THE LIGHT

Rev. Patrick Collins

CAROL

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

Rev. Patrick Collins

(Please extinguish your candle after the benediction.)

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

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!

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Arr. Wilbur Held

The Church Offices will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, December 25 & 26, and Tuesday, January 1, for the holidays.

The clergy and staff of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich wish you a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

The decorations in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in joyful and loving memory of:

- George W. Fisk and Robert W. Fisk, by Dorothy L. Fisk
- Family and friends, by Diane and Paul Kretschmann
- Richard L. Geismar, by his family
- Efraim & Victoria Olson, Ryan and Margaret Rosendale, parents, and Erna Nelson, aunt, by Ken and Erna Olson
- Our parents, Robert & Anna MacLea, Elmer & Nadean Hirth, by Bob & Carolyn MacLea
- Our parents, by Lile and John Gibbons
- Paul Hudson and George Finch, from the Hudson and Finch families
- Rick Woodman and Harry Woodman, two of the most wonderful men in our lives, by Carolyn Paulus and the entire Woodman family
- Judy Carey & Jim Callaway, by Bob Carey & Libby Callaway
- Dave & Pat Patterson, Jean & Kay Paulus, and Bruce Jensen, by the Woodpeople
- Richard Vogt, Seth McCoy, Ara Berberian, and the First Church Choir of Angels, by all the Woodmans
- Kip & Helen Couch, by Jan Meyer and his family
- Richmond B. Hopkins, by his family
- Joan Denne, by her family
- Anne, Bill, & Sue Denne, by their family
- Melita & John Magness & Dana Andersen, by their family
- Roger A. Lepoutre, by Catherine, Richard, & Deborah, Rev. Christophe & Cynthia, Clement & Jennifer Lepoutre, Maryse & Tom Lepoutre-Postlewaite, and families
- John L. Putnam, by Jennifer Maloney & Wendy Putnam
- Michel A. Scrivan, by his loving and devoted family
- Kimberly Dawn Pacent, our cherished daughter and beloved sister, by Paul, Karen, & Nicole Pacent
- Phyllis Kimball, wonderful mother and nana, by Karen & Nicole Pacent

- James H. Sotzing, by Elen, Andrew, Ian, & Kristen Sotzing
- My parents, Ruth & Lloyd Shawber, and brother, Lloyd Oberlin Shawber, by Anne Shawber Stolley
- Our parents, Lillian & Albert Gordon, and Elizabeth & Daniel O'Grady, by Judy and Al Gordon
- Margaret & Carleton Gisborne, and Louise & Harrison Reed, our parents, by Ruth & Gifford Reed & family
- Our parents, Purisima & Feliciano Teria, and Louise & Richard Haviland, by Erlinda & Larry Haviland
- Marian & Fred Hout, by Susie Hout Baker & Sara, Charlie, Liz
- Charles J. Veith IV, by his sister, Linda Veith Glover
- Joan & Jim Kreuter by their children and grandchildren,
- Charlie & Bill Robertson by Eric & Betsy Kreuter
- John & Betty Briggs by the Kreuter family
- Gustav Sippel, by the Sippel family
- Bertrand Moss & Lee Davenport, by Doris Moss Davenport
- Paul G. Hudson & George Finch, by the Hudson & Finch families
- Eric & Susan Robertson, my father & sister, by Lynn Robertson
- Arthur C. & Catherine G. Weigner, by sons Stephen A. & Ronald C. Weigner
- William Webster, by Mary Mooney Webster
- Lt. Col. C. George Fryback & Nicholas Fryback, by the Fryback family
- Our parents, Alma & Steve Karch, Betty & Fred Breismeister, and Don's brother Fred, by Ginny & Don Breismeister
- My parents & brother, by Mary R. Benoit
- Joe Browne & Carole & Jerry Kutzen, by the Kutzen family
- Richard Charles Robarts, by his family & friends

The decorations in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in honor of:

- Wishes from the Bell/Scannell family to everyone for a blessed holiday season
- Our grandchildren, Finn, June, Gunther, Alta, & Foster Breismeister, by Ginny & Don Breismeister

A donation to the decorations in the Meetinghouse this morning is given by:

- Eleanor Olsen



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: Rev. Patrick Collins

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

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Administrative Assistant - Operations: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Publications Coordinator: Vance Briceland

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers & Rev. Sally Colegrove

Cover Art: Let Us Adore Him by Deborah Nell