

Christmas Eve at First Congregational Church



Monday, December 24th

- 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
8:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with music by
the Chancel Choir and Sabbath Bells



Blue Christmas

Monday, December 10th
7:00 pm in the Chapel

For those who are experiencing pain and loss, we want you to know that you are not alone. Please join with us as we acknowledge each other's sadness, while affirming the life-giving presence of God.

The tradition continues...

Messiah

Handel's "Messiah, Part 1" and "Hallelujah Chorus"
Holst's "Christmas Day" and Wilberg's "Wexford Carol"



The First Congregational Church, UCC

508 Union Street
Manchester, New Hampshire
Sunday, December 2, 2018
4:00 p.m.

...In loving memory of Barbara Greenway and Margaret Thomson

Welcome

Rev. Kevin Pleas, Senior Pastor



Christmas Day (Choral Fantasy on Old Carols)

Gustav Holst

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice; Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today: Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay, Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day, To save us all from woe and sin, when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Jewry, this blessed Babe was born, and laid within a manger, upon that holy morn; The which His Mother, Mary, did nothing take to scorn, O tidings of comfort....

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath oped the heav'nly door, and man is blessed evermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Come, ye lofty, come, ye lowly, Let your songs of gladness ring; In a stable lies the Holy, in a manger rests the King: See, in Mary's arms reposing, Christ by highest heav'n adored: Come, your circle round Him closing, Pious heart that love the Lord.

(The First Noel.....)

Come, ye poor, no pomp of station robes the child your hearts adore: He, the Lord of all salvation, Shares your want, is weak and poor: Oxen, round about behold them; Rafters naked, cold and bare, See the shepherds, God has told them That the Prince of Life lies there.

Come, ye children, blithe and merry, This one Child your model make; Christmas holly, leaf, and berry, All be prized for His dear sake; Come, ye gentle hearts, and tender, Come, ye spirits, keen and bold; All in all your homage render, Weak and mighty, young and old.

High above the star is shining, and the Wisemen haste from far: Come, glad hearts, and spirits pinning: For you all has ris'n the star. Let us bring our poor oblations, Thanks and love and faith and praise: come, ye people, come, ye nations, all in all draw nigh to gaze.

Born is the King of Israel.....

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice; Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today: Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath oped the heav'nly door, and man is blessed evermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Dick Campbell, in honor of Ellie Campbell
Réal and Lesley Fallu in memory of Robert Deane and Charles Woods
Anonymous

Crescendo Club Sponsors (\$50-74)

Jane Tibbetts
Anne Williamson, in memory of Eleanor Peterson
Bruce and Donna Willey, in memory of our parents
John and Kathy Rowe, in memory of Ginger Towle
Peter and Martha Perich
Chuck and Linda Noble, in honor of the Staff at N.H. Oncology
Barbara Papagian, in memory of John Papagian
Steve and Kathy Payne, in honor of Ethel Parker
Carol Klardie, in memory of Jacob Klardie
Ray and Kay Vercoe, in memory of John Papagian
Anonymous

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Elizabeth and John Verity, in honor of our wonderful choir
Craig and Jeanine Finefrock, in memory of Charles "Charlie" Colton Finefrock
Mary Male, in honor of my sister Jackie Greenwalt
Carol Ann Howe
Paul Hoff and Selma Naccach Hoff
Gerda Cote, in memory of loved ones
Anonymous
Barbara Gagnon, in memory of Rose and William Molway
Anne-Marie Parker, in memory of Kathleen Parker

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Patricia McCarrick, in memory of her daughter, Alice
Hildegard Drew, in memory of my sisters, Rosel and Gretel
Anonymous

*Thank
You*

Sponsors

Thank you to all of the following sponsors for their support of this evening's program. Because of their generosity, the expenses of producing tonight's program have been met. Tonight's free-will offering will enable us to send a generous donation to the Union Leader - Salvation Army Santa Fund drive for 2018. Your gifts in the plate tonight will help more families have a joyous Christmas season!

Orchestra Sponsors (\$250+)

The First Congregational Church of Manchester, U.C.C.

Diane Brown, in memory of Donald E. Brown, the Brown Family Foundation

Ross and Marion Palmes, in memory of Virginia Palmes

The Shepherd Family, in memory of Donna

The FCC Outreach Committee, in honor of our choir

Patrick and Karen Long

Allen and Terri Pattee, in honor of Roger Denison and in memory of Irene and James Pattee; Gertrude Denison

Anonymous

The Thornton Family, in memory of Barbara and Tom Greenway

David MacGregor, in memory of my brother, Rob Roy MacGregor

David MacGregor, in honor of my sister, Beth MacGregor Wagner

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Chip and Carol Soucy, in honor of loved ones

Kevin and Pam Pleas, in honor of family

Larry Dearborn, in memory of Dale Watts and Ginger Towle

Now to the Lord sing praises, All within this place (Noel.....), And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace; This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one, and calls you all, to gain His everlasting Hall: Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



He Is Born, Hallelujah! (Incorporating "He is Born," "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "Hallelujah" Chorus) **arr. Cynthia Dobrinski**

Sabbath Bells



Wexford Carol

arr. Mack Wilberg

Good people all, this Christmastime, consider well and bear in mind what our good God for us has done in sending his beloved Son. With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day; In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born. Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep; to whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear. 'Prepare and go', the angels said, 'To Bethlehem, be not afraid; for there you'll find, this happy morn, a princely babe, sweet Jesus born.'



Messiah, A Sacred Oratorio: Part I

George Frideric Handel

No. 1 Overture

No. 2 Recitative for Tenor

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." (Isaiah 40:1-3)

No. 3 Air for Tenor

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low; the

- crooked straight and the rough places plain. (Isaiah 40:4)
- No. 4 Chorus
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:5)
- No. 5 Recitative for Bass
Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come. The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; Behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. (Haggai 2:6-7, Malachi 3:1)
- No. 6 Air for Bass
But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire. (Malachi 3:2)
- No. 7 Chorus
And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. (Malachi 3:3)
- No. 8 Recitative for Alto
Behold! A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel: GOD WITH US. (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23)
- No. 9 Air for Alto and Chorus
O, Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O, thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. (Isaiah 40:9, 60:1)
- No. 10 Recitative for Bass
For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee, and the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. (Isaiah 60:2-3)
- No. 11 Air for Bass
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. (Isaiah 9:2)
- No. 12 Chorus
For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall

Orchestra

Violin I Lisa Brooke Mina Lavcheva Oksana Gorokhovskiy	Violin II Viktoria Tchertchian Peter Stickel Sarah Bowen	Viola Lisa Kempskie Rodger Ellsorth
Cello John Bumstead	Bass Kate Foss	Trumpet Richard Given Tim Diek
Oboe Justine Popik Izumi Sakamoto	Bassoon Maria Isaak	Harpichord – Organ Bruce Adami
French Horn Jennifer Fried	Trombone Claude Fried	Percussion Donald Holm
Sopranos *Lisa Allen Roberta Banfield *Bridget Thornton *Wylene Fuller Barbara Gagnon *Sharon Arsenault Natalie Parker *Michelle Harrington Diane Fortier Anne-Marie Parker *Terri Pattee Cheryl Strube *Carol Forest	Chorus Altos *Karen Long Barbara Papagian Mary Male *Michelle Horan Phyllis Pelcak Elizabeth Sullivan *Pam Newell *Kelda York *Laura Parker *Carol Soucy Suzanne Chretien	Tenors *Chuck Noble *Karen Hawver *Pat Long *Bob Ward Peter Van Scoyoc Joseph Strube Basses *Dave MacGregor Réal Fallu *George Shepherd *John Curtis *Kevin Pleas *Jeffrey Frye *Vance Spaulding *Allen Pattee Gary Knox Daniel Wells
*FCC Choir		

musicians. Offstage, he can be found on his farm deep in the woods of Deerfield, with his girlfriend and their growing assortment of animals.

Jameson Wells (Baritone) is currently pursuing his Masters in vocal pedagogy from New England Conservatory. This fall, he was featured in performances of Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* as the Baron. He was also featured as the Wolf in NEC's Outreach Opera, *Little Red Riding Hood*, which was presented to elementary schools throughout Boston. This spring, he will appear in NEC's productions of *The Marriage of Figaro* (Antonio) and *Gianni Schicchi* (Notaio). In addition to his involvement in NEC's opera program, Jameson will perform in the art song *Liederabend* series in 2019.

As a soloist, Jameson has performed with Berkshire Choral International and the Sonoma (CA) Symphony (2016) in their performance of Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. He performed at the Loughheed Festival of the Arts at Carnegie Hall (2016), where he was a soloist in Vaughan William's *Serenade to Music* and Gary Fry's *Awake Celestial Airs*. At that same festival, Jameson was honored to serve as cover to Mr. Christopher Feigum in Fauré's *Requiem*. Most recently, he was featured with the Manchester Choral Society in their performance of *Chilcott's Wenceslas* (2017).

Special Thanks to the Music Team at First Congregational Church

Jennifer Longval, Elizabeth Verity, David MacGregor,
Carol Soucy, Ellie Campbell, Michelle Harrington, and Dick Jarvis

Orchestra Contractor: Jay Daly, New England Musical Artists

Harpichord: Courtesy of Laura Belanger

Sabbath Bells

Allen Pattee, Sarah Allard, Pam Newell, Karen Hawver, Barbara Papagian, Deana Dubois,
Jennifer Longval, Laura Parker, Terri Pattee, and Ellie Stetson



be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

No. 13 Pastoral Symphony

No. 14 Recitative for Soprano

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. (Luke 2:8-9)

No. 15 Recitative for Soprano

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

No. 16 Recitative for Soprano

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

No. 17 Chorus

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will toward men.
(Luke 2:13-14)

No. 18 Air for Soprano

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen. (Zechariah 9:9-10)

No. 19 Recitative for Alto

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. (Isaiah 35:5-6)

No. 20 Air for Alto and Soprano

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:11)

Come unto Him, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and He shall give you rest. Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (Matthew 11:28-29)

No. 21 Chorus

His yoke is easy and His burden is light. (Matthew 11:30)

No. 44 Chorus

HALLELUJAH! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this

world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever. KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS, HALLELUJAH! (Revelation 29:6, 11:15, 19:16)



O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. (Audience, Chorus, Orchestra)
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!
2. (Audience, Chorus, Organ)
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)
3. (Chorus only)
4. (Audience, Chorus, Orchestra)
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)



Adam Peithmann (Director) has been the Director of Music Ministry for the First Congregational Church since the Fall of 2014. Originally from Nebraska, he has worked in a variety of churches in the northeast. Adam completed an undergraduate degree in Organ Performance from the Eastman School of Music and a Masters Degree with a church music certificate from the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale. He also completed additional studies as a Fulbright scholar in Bremen, Germany.

Lauren Peithmann (soprano) is originally from Hampstead, NH. Lauren has sung with choirs at many concert halls including Harvard's Jordan Hall, Lincoln Center, NYU's Frederick Loewe Theater, Carnegie Hall, and others. She sang as a soloist with the Yale Glee Club on tour to South America, and also performed as a soloist with the Monmouth Civic Chorus in New Jersey. She has sung with many renowned conductors including Kent Tritle, Simon Carrington, Janet Galvan, Francisco Nunez, Doreen Rao, Nicholas McGegan, Marguerite Brooks, Jeffrey Douma and others. Lauren holds degrees from Ithaca College and Yale University.

Allison Messier (Mezzo-soprano) shares her voice and spirit with the world by singing in a variety of genres including artsong, operas, oratorio and sacred music. Highlights of her 2017-2018 season include: an opera outreach tour with Opera NH, J.S. Bach's Cantata 170 for solo alto with the Litchfield County Choral Union Festival Orchestra, Händel's Messiah in New Bedford, MA and Alton, NH, the Bach Christmas Oratorio in New Bedford, MA, Zelenka's Te Deum in Old Lyme, CT and a number of artsong recitals.

As an oratorio soloist, Allison has performed in numerous major works including appearances with the Litchfield County Choral Union at the Yale Summer School in Norfolk, CT, the Greater New Bedford Choral Society, Clearlakes Chorale in the New Hampshire Lakes Region, Con Brio Choral Society in Old Lyme, CT, the Boston Russian Choir, the Bermuda Chamber Choir, Manchester Choral Society, and Portsmouth Pro Musica. Allison received her Bachelor of Music degree from New England Conservatory in 2007. She continued her training in Florence, Italy at the Bel Canto Institute and in British Columbia at the Vancouver International Song Institute. She makes her home in Little Compton, RI.

Andrew Sokol (Tenor) received his Bachelor's in Music Performance from the University of New Hampshire, where he studied with Jenni Cook and David Ripley. A sought-after member of festivals and ensembles across New England, he holds performing credits ranging from Franco-Flemish Polyphony to fresh premieres. Recent sightings include the Maine Festival of American Music, outreach tours across New Hampshire with Piccola Opera, and guest appearances across the state in support of community fundraisers. In between performances, Andrew is passionate about developing business skills in the next generation of