

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

December 24, 2018 4:30 PM

Christmas Eve Family Service

PRELUDE Selections from Our Young Musicians

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Brian, Melissa, Evan and Trevor Poisson & Leo and Pam LeBlanc

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass! Let us go with the shepherds:

PEOPLE: Let us go to find the Savior!

LEADER: Let us go with the wise ones:

PEOPLE: Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!

LEADER: Let us go with the poor and humble:

PEOPLE: Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

LEADER: Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations. Come, let us worship; come let us adore him:

PEOPLE: Christ the Lord!

INTRODUCTION

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER (UNISON)

O Holy God, thank You that the time for waiting and preparing is over and that the light of Christ shines so very clearly tonight. May our joy be full and our hearts rejoice for the world shall never be the same again. Truth and justice and righteousness have come to free all from the bondage of sin. Thank You, God, for this holy night of nights! Amen.

*OPENING CAROL NO. 148 *O Come All Ye Faithful*

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY – To the tune of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy.

Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. Amen

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY Luke 1:26-33, 38 Michaela Horan

CAROL NO. 162 (vs. 1) *What Child is This*

THE BIRTH OF JESUS Luke 2:1-7 Elle Funcke

CAROL NO. 147 (vs. 1 and 3) *Away in a Manger*

THE SHEPHERDS HEAR THE GOOD NEWS Luke 2:8-14 Tyler Longval

CAROL NO. 150 (vs. 1) *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

THE SHEPHERDS VISIT THE MANGER Luke 2:15-20 Meara Horan

CAROL NO. 144 (vs. 1 and 3) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

THE WISE MEN SEEK THE CHILD Matthew 2:1-12 Elle Funcke

CAROL NO. 172 (vs. 1 and 5) *We Three Kings*

THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS John 1:1-5 Tyler Longval

LIGHTING OUR CHRISTMAS CANDLES

CAROL: *Silent Night, Holy 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, 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.

BENEDICTION

*CAROL OF DEPARTING NO. 143 (vs. 1 and 3) *Joy to the World*

POSTLUDE *Carillon – Louis Vierne*

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

508 Union Street ▪ Manchester, New Hampshire

FCCManchesterNH.org ▪ 603-625-5093

You are welcome here! ▪ We are an Open & Affirming Congregation