

*First Congregational Church*  
*Our Church in Worship*

December 24, 2019 8:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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PRELUDE *Veni, Veni Emmanuel* – arr. Pamela Decker Adam Peithmann  
*Magnificat* – Heinrich Scheidemann  
*Noel* – Louis Claude-Daquin

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

**THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Mark & Linda Sowa Family

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*

**THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

HOPE FOR A SAVIOR Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Karen Hawver  
\*CAROL NO. 144 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY Luke 1:26-33, 38 Peter Perich  
\*CAROL NO. 162 *What Child is This*

THE BIRTH OF JESUS Luke 2:1-7 Janie Shaklee  
ANTHEM: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* – J. S. Bach/arr. Goodyear Chancel Choir

THE SHEPHERDS HEAR THE GOOD NEWS Luke 2:8-20 Sam Knowles  
\*CAROL NO. 155 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

THE WISE MEN SEEK THE CHILD Matthew 2:1-12 Lisa Allen  
ANTHEM: *Beautiful Star of Bethlehem* – arr. Keith Christopher Chancel Choir

**OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

INVITATION  
OFFERTORY MUSIC: *One Small Child* – David Meece Michelle Harrington,  
Bridget Thornton & Carol Soucy

\*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**

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

PASTORAL PRAYER

## THE SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

(To avoid dripping of hot wax, please tilt your unlit candle toward the lighted one)

INVITATION: "In the Beginning..."

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, 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.

BENEDICTION: "This is the light which Christ has given us..."

\*CAROL OF DEPARTING – NO. 143 *Joy to the World*

POSTLUDE *Carillon de Westminster* – Louis Vierne

\*You are invited to stand if you wish.

### **First Congregational Church**

United Church of Christ

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FCCManchesterNH.org ▪ 603-625-5093

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