

CHRISTMAS EVE

Reverend Kevin Pleas, Worship Leader
Online Worship
Christmas Eve – December 24, 2020

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kevin Pleas

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE
Jennifer, Joe and Tyler Longval

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: God is with us.

People: God is coming into our lives in a new way.

Leader: The birth of the Christ child is the renewal of hope.

People: A reminder the Christ will come again. Keep watch for the light, it is drawing near.

INTRODUCTION

The Christ candle represents the light that the Son brought into the world when he was born – God in the flesh. All of the advent candles remain on Christmas Eve to put focus on this special moment of birth. The moment of transition from prophecy to fulfillment. “To you is born a Savior.” (Luke)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle with great joy and celebration because Jesus is born in Bethlehem. God’s Son has come into the world to be our Savior!

PRAYER (Unison)

God of every nation and people.

From the beginning of creation you made manifest your love.

When our need for a Savior was great, You sent Your son to be born of the virgin Mary.

Your son brought us joy and peace, hope and love.

May we remember his humble birth and raise up our thoughts to him.

He is God-with-us and Savior of all and he lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN # 148

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

THE GATHERING OF CHILDREN

PASTOR’S MESSAGE “The Christmas Angel” by Henry Van Dyke, as adapted by Rev. Dr. Sarah Foulger

CAROL # 155

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

HOPE FOR A SAVIOR

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Kelda York

Anthem:

“Wexford Carol” arr. by David Downes

Susan Wilkes, flute

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

Elizabeth Verity

Anthem:

“Mary Had a Baby” arr. by Richard Walters

Mellissa Hughes, soloist

THE BIRTH OF JESUS Luke 2: 1-7 Karen Hawver
Anthem: "Away In A Manger" arr. by Michael Ware Elizabeth Blood, piano
Adam Peithmann, organ

THE SHEPHERDS HEAR THE GOOD NEWS Luke 2: 8-14 Pip Adams
Anthem: "Christmas Lullaby" arr. by C. Anderson/R. Hamilton Terri Pattee, handbells

THE WISE MEN SEEK THE CHILD Matthew 2: 1-12 Selma Naccah-Hoff

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Rev. Kevin Pleas

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

LIGHTING OUR CANDLES: "In the Beginning..."

CAROL # 145 *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.

CELEBRATING THE LIGHT: "This is the light which Christ has given us..."

CAROL # 150 "Hark! The Herald Angel's Sing"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Hallelujah" from *Messiah* – G. F. Handel FCC Virtual Choir

Hymn No. 148**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

1. 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)

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

3. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee, with love and awe; who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? (Refrain)

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation, Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)

Carol No. 155**“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

4. See within a manger laid, Christ, whom choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. Ah! Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Ah!

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Ah! Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song?

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth. Come adore on bended knee Jesus, joy of heav’n and earth.

4. See within a manger laid, Christ, whom choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Carol No. 150**“Hark! The Herald Angel’s Sing”**

3. All hail the Sun of Righteousness! He is risen with healing in his wings. His glory by no more may die; born to raise us from the earth to second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing to the newborn King. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

1. 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!” Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

2. 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 God head see; hail the incarnate Deity, pleased in
flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all the brings,
risen with healing in his wings, mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us
from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"



2020 Christmas Poinsettias

***The following people are honored or remembered by donations of poinsettias to the
First Congregational Church***

GIVEN BY:

Ron & Denise Beaurivage

Joan Currier

Craig & Jeanine Finefrock

Martha Gaudes

Karen Hawver

Paul and Selma Hoff-Naccach & Mona Naccach

Pam & Leo LeBlanc

Dan & Cheryl McKenney

Ruth A. Mills

Marsha Neubert

Ross & Marion Palmes

Alan & Terri Pattee

Kevin Pleas

Carol Soucy

Sokhom Sar

Bruce & Donna Willey

IN MEMORY OF:

Our Parents and Wesley Ryan Belisle

Bob Currier and Jim Kuykendall

*Charles Finefrock Jr. and Charles "Charlie"
Colton Finefrock*

David Gaudes & Lee and Doris Partridge

Carl and Judy Hawver

*Loved Ones of the Elhady, Naccach and Hoff
Families*

Catherine and Carl Burnap

James and Francis McKenney

My Parents, Alma and James Hamilton

My Parents and My Husband

Their Sisters, Ginger and Lori

Loved Ones

My Wife, Pam Pleas

Loved Ones – Brownell, Soucy & Roberge Families

Sitha Sar and My Parents

Our Parents



GIVEN BY:

Ron & Jeff Ellstrom-Oliver

Pam & Leo LeBlanc

Pat McCarrick

Dan & Cheryl McKenney

Vicki Tinsley

IN HONOR OF:

Loma and Dick Oliver

Alice and Timothy Ring

Friends and Family

George and Barbara Hastings

My Family