

Order of Worship: Christmas Eve 10 PM

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst/arr. Kevin McChesney

The Snow Lay on the Ground

Traditional carol/VENITE ADOREMUS
arr. Barbara B. Kinyon

The Carilloneers

Welcome

Rev. Will Burhans

Lighting the Christ Candle

Ben and Kerri Pulaski

(Ben, our Minister of Faith Formation, and his wife Kerri will be reading a special litany for the lighting of the Christ Candle that honors both the Christian and Jewish traditions.)

*Processional Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

PH #132

*Gathering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Kathleen Zagata

On this holy night we breathe deeply and pause briefly in the midst of this busy holiday season. We allow ourselves to catch up with ourselves, remembering that You, O God, are with us not in mere retrospect or some dreamed-of future but in the shining elegant present moment. On this holy night, we become quiet for a little while, exiting the communication highways and the information byways, to simply listen for You, Our Divine Source, in quietness and stillness. On this holy night, we allow ourselves to settle downward from the chattering mind to the beating heart, from scattered anxiousness to centered prayerfulness, from cyberspace to this holy place, where we celebrate the birth of Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ who taught us to pray... 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

*An Act of Praise

Gloria in excelsis Deo

PH #116

The Offering

Anthem *Gifts for the Child of Winter* [2014]

Rev. Judy Arnold

Music by Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Text by Charles Bennett (b. 1954)

I give to you a plough-blade, a plough-blade made of snow
To run a furrow down the field and make the winter grow.
Its flowers will be white as frost, bright as stars in heav'n:
O bring us winter softly, and let our hearts be open.
I give to you a blackbird's song, a song of sweetest breath
To hang in ev'ry branch and tree and purify the earth.
It floats in clouds of wonder, it comes to do no harm:
O bring us winter gently, and let our hearts be warm.
I give to you a raindrop, frozen like a tear
To quench your thirst for ever and taste the winter air.
It flows to bring the blossom, to water the field:
O bring us winter quietly, let our hearts be healed.
The plough-blade is for cutting, which comes before the seed.
The blackbird sings at eventide and then she falls asleep.

The raindrop falls just once and then is swallowed by the ground.
O come to be our summer, our summer without end.

Peter Owens, soloist

The Word in Lessons and Carols

(Congregation may remain seated)

Lesson I

Isaiah 40: 1-5

Nick Gallop

Matthew 1: 18-24

Julia Gallop

Carol

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (vv. 1, 2, & 4)

PH #129

Lesson II

Isaiah 9: 1-7

Julia Page

Luke 2: 1-7

Lucy Page

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv. 1-3)

PH #134

Lesson III

Isaiah 42:1-4

Alex Wankowicz

Luke 2: 8-14

Gabby Wankowicz

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

PH # 116

Lesson IV

Micah 5: 2-5

Steven Lauterwasser

Luke 2: 15-20

Clara Lauterwasser

Carol

Cradle Hymn [2014]

Music by Kim André Arnesen (b. 1980)

Text by Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Hush my dear, lie still and slumber,
Holy angels guard thy bed!
Heavenly blessings without number
Gently falling on thy head.
See the kindly shepherds round Him,
Telling wonders from the sky!
When they sought Him, there they found Him.
With His Virgin mother by.

See the lovely babe a-dressing;
Lovely infant, how He smiled!
When He wept, the mother's blessing
Soothed and hush'd the holy child.
May'st thou live to know and fear Him,
Trust and love Him all thy days;
Then go dwell forever near Him,
See His face, and sing His praise!

A Christmas Reflection

Rev. Will Burhans

Sharing the Christ Light

(The Deacons will move down the aisles lighting candles.

Candles should be lit by tilting the unlit candle toward the lighted candle.)

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.

(Please repeat verse one.)

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Judy Arnold

*Closing Hymn

Joy to the World!

PH #130

Benediction

Rev. Judy Arnold & Rev. Will Burhans

Celebration of the Bells

Postlude

In dulci jubilo (BWV 729)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's Chancel and Narthex flowers are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of David Richardson Jr. and Sarah Miller by Sybil & Buck Richardson.

Home for the Holidays: Welcoming Our Young Adults, College Students & Recent Graduates. Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 6 PM in Ripley Chapel

Join Ben, Rev. Judy, Rev. Will, and Kathleen for a Ripley Chapel Service. After the service, we will move to the Forum Room for pizza and some catching up with each other. RSVP to ben.pulaski@gmail.com or text 717-974-4131 – just so we can have a head count for the pizza.

Meet Our Church

First Congregational Church in Winchester, UCC, An Open and Affirming Congregation
21 Church Street, Winchester, MA 01890 781-729-9180 www.fcc-winchester.org

We are a Christ-centered, nurturing community: growing in faith, serving in love, welcoming all with joy.

The Congregation, Ministers To The World
Rev. William Burhans, Lead Pastor
Rev. Ms. Judith B. Arnold, Associate Pastor
Ms. Kathleen Zagata, RN, MS, CS, Minister of Congregational Health & Wellness
Ms. Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Music & Worship Arts
Mr. Ben Pulaski, Minister of Faith Formation: Children & Youth
Mr. Jeffrey Mead, Organist
Ms. Sarah Marino, Office Manager
Mr. Tyler Campbell, Assistant Sexton
The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Orth, Pastoral Counselor (Affiliate)

Welcome!

We are happy you have joined us today for worship. We hope that in the coming hour of quiet, song, prayer, sacred scripture, and communal gathering, you will awaken more fully to God's presence in your life and the world around us.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located down the stairs as you first enter the front doors of the church.

Accessibility

We now have an inductive hearing loop for those whose hearing aids have Telecoil (ask your audiologist). Listening devices are also available in the back. For our coffee hour in Chidley Hall, an elevator is located out the doors to the right of the front chancel area and down the hall. Please ask a greeter if you need assistance.

Childcare

Children are always welcome in the sanctuary! We appreciate the sounds of little ones among us. If you'd prefer, there are trained caregivers in our a nursery on the floor beneath the sanctuary. Ask a greeter if you need help finding it.

Family Room

There is also a comfortable room with water, sofas, chairs, carpet and a video link to the service for when you need more room to attend to your family. It is located just outside the doors to the right of the front chancel area.

Children (Stepping Stones) and Youth Church School

Classes for children and youth in pre-k through 12th grade are taught during worship. Families begin the worship service together in the sanctuary. Children are then invited to join us at the front (if they are comfortable) for the Time for the Young. Afterwards, the children and youth are led to their classrooms by their teachers.

Get connected!

Please tell us about yourself and/or request a prayer by filling out a Welcome/Prayer Request Card found in each pew and place it in the offering plate when it passes. We look forward to getting to know you at Coffee Hour, held downstairs immediately following the service.

Bulletin cover art was designed by Julia Daggett.