



Christ Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Creating Beloved Community

Christmas Eve Service

7:00p.m.

December 24, 2018



*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 'Once in Royal David's City' No. 165

First verse soloist: Nicholas Colby Please rise and join on verse 2 and 3

2. Christ came down to earth from heaven, love incarnate for us all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth, our Savior holy.

3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Holy One, the season of Word made flesh is here!

All: The Word is knocking; the Word awaits with bated breath; the Word is ready to dwell within us.

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,

All: and the darkness did not overcome it.

Leader: Receive our worship this night, that we may follow you, the living Word.

*CAROL 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' verse 1 and 3 No. 150

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!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he 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."

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Gary Lyon and Stephen Shaw

Reader 1: Tonight, after four Sundays of lighting the Advent candles,
waiting in expectation, we light the Christ candle.

"While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she
gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid
him in a manger" (Luke 2:6-7).

Reader 2: Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn
fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love; animals and
shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a muffled cry
squeezes out to greet the world.

**People: Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new
birth -- regardless of circumstances -- reminds us of the preciousness
of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God.**

Reader 1: On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the
child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the lowly-Lord. And now we know . . .
Christ is born and nothing will ever be the same!
(*Light all candles*)

CAROL 'One Candle is Lit' verse 5 No. 128

Come, listen, the sounds of God with us ring clear, and signs of a cross in
the distance appear. The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.
One candle is lit for the Christ Birthday here.

ANTHEM 'The Snow Lay on the Ground' John Carter
Jessica Trainor, soloist

The snow lay on the ground the stars shone bright, when Christ our Lord
was born on Christmas night. Venite adoremus Dominum.

'Twas Mary, daughter pure of holy Anne, that brought into the World the
God-made man. She laid him in a stall in Bethlehem; the ass and oxen
shared the roof with them. Venite adoremus Dominum.

Saint Joseph, too, was by to tend the child; to guard him and protect his
mother mild; the angels hovered round, and sang this song, "Venite
adoremus, Dominum."

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: AN INTRODUCTION

CAROL 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' verses 1 and 3 No. 144

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep
and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee
tonight.

3. How silently. How silently the wondrous gift is given! So god imparts to
human hearts the joys of highest heaven. No one may hear Christ coming,
but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the dear
Christ enters in.

PART ONE: NO ROOM AT THE INN

CAROL 'What Child Is This' verse 1 No. 162

What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom
angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing: haste,
haste, to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

PART TWO: A NOISY NIGHT

CAROL 'What Child Is This' verse 2 No. 162

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good
Christian, fear, for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading. This, this is
Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing: haste, haste, to
bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary

PART THREE: THE FRIGHTENED SHEPHERDS AND THE GLORIOUS ANGELS

CAROL 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night' verse 1 No. 154
While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground;
the messenger of God came down and glory shone around. And glory
shone around.

PART FOUR: THE STAR

CAROL 'The First Noel' verses 1 and 5 No. 151

1. The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields
as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's
night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

5. Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and
frankincense. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

PART THE LAST: THE CONCLUSION

CAROL 'O Come All Ye Faithful' verses 1 and 2 No. 148

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, 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. O come let us adore him, o
come let us adore him, o come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

HOMILY

Rev. Patricia Hayes

ANTHEM

‘Journey of the Kings’

arr. Craig Curry

Owen Kidd, trumpet

Three great kings who journeyed from afar, led on their journey by an eastern star; O hear of three great kings, all wise and learned men, who bowed their knees to Christ at journey’s end. Gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, the three kings brought as an homage to Messiah; Warned by dream of King Herod’s scheme, the three great kings were guided safely home. Three great kings who journeyed from afar to worship Christ, the Lord and Morning Star.

O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

And thus that manger poor became a throne; for he whom Mary bore was God the Son. O come, then, let us join the heav’nly host; to praise the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Venite adoremus Dominum.

A PRAYER FOR THE BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

‘O Holy Night’

Adolphe

Adam, Jessica Trainor, soloist

arr.

Wm. Dressler

*DOXOLOGY

tune: “In the Bleak Midwinter”

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CAROL

‘Go Tell It On the Mountain’

No. 167

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy night. (chorus)

2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! Above the earth, ran out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior’s birth. (chorus)

3. Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born, and God sent us

salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (chorus)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

How amazing is your love, great God!

You are not distant from us

in some faraway heaven;

**you have come close to us in a child born of simple parents
and cradled in a borrowed bed of straw.**

**As this bread is broken and this cup is shared,
pull us closer to your loving heart.**

Teach us new ways of living.

Help us to walk in his great light.

Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*RECEIVING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

God is with us! May the peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you!

*GLORIA 'Gloria in excelsis deo!'

From 'Angels We Have Heard on High' No. 155

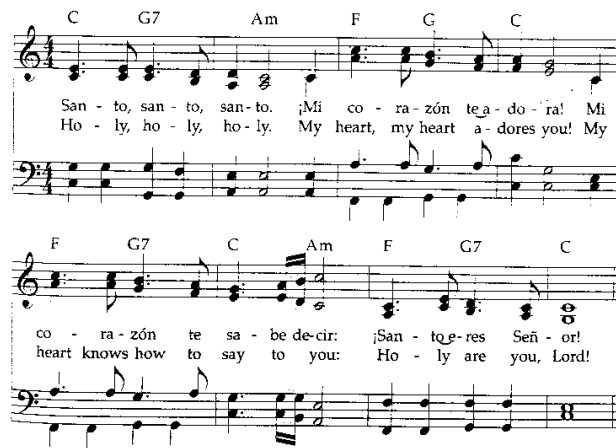
THE COMMUNION PRAYER

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High. **It is right to give God thanks and
praise.**

We praise you, God among us, therefore with the angels we sing:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

The body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. **AMEN.**

The blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. **AMEN.**

(Tonight we will receive communion coming down the center aisle. Take a piece of bread or a gluten-free cracker and eat it, then take a small cup of grape juice and drink it. There are people on either side with trays to receive your empty cups. Return by the side aisle. If you cannot easily come forward, signal a deacon and we will come to you. Our communion is open to anyone who wishes a closer relationship with Jesus)

COMMUNION MUSIC

'Noel Nuvelette'

French Carol,

Jr. Ringers

arr. Kristine Johaneck

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE LIGHT

Tonight we will move out of the pews to form a circle, then pass the light.

We ask that everyone be careful with the candles, and that the unlit candle be tipped toward the candle that is already lit as we share the light. We will sing our carols of light, and hold our candles, then extinguish them after the benediction.

CAROL

'Silent Night'

No. 145

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Christ the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born.

Repeat verse 1

BENEDICTION *(please extinguish your candle at the end of the benediction)*

CAROL

'Joy to the World'

No. 143

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every
heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and
nature sing, and haven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields
and flood, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the
sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the
glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his
love, and wonders, wonders of his love.



Participating in today's service are: Rev. Patricia Hayes, Senior Minister;
Rev. Fred Hayes; Murray Kidd, Music Director; Sylvia Berry, Organist;
Jilliann Larson, CE Director; David Wilcox, Sign Language; Loren Stott,
Sign Language

Jr. Ringers: Nicholas Colby, Angela Colby, Ronan Cords, Zander Cord,
Jessica Gross, Serenity Young-Ferguson, Sofia Shelley-Wyss