



Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope



First Church in Windsor, UCC
5 p.m.
December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

Musical Welcome

O Come, All Ye Faithful

By John F. Wade
Public domain

Played by Staff and Students from Music School at Sound Crossing

Ding Dong Merrily on High

French traditional
Public domain

Played by Staff and Students from Music School at Sound Crossing

Prelude

I Believe

By Mark A. Miller, used by permission

Welcome

Invocation

What Child Is This?

English Traditional
Public domain

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Christ Candle

Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Prayer

God of light, fill our hearts with the light of your promise. Enter our lives as softly and as quietly as a child so we might learn to love you in simplicity and purity of heart. Come into our hearts with power and compassion, that we might always draw strength from abiding presence in our lives. Thank you, holy God, for your gift of Jesus, our light, born this night. Amen.

Prayer of Our Savior

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

By John F. Wade
Public domain

**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.**

**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.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Scripture

Luke 2:1-7

Julia Steinberg

Musical Interlude

In the Bleak Midwinter

By Gustav Holst
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Played by Staff and Students from Music School at Sound Crossing

Scripture

Luke 2: 8-20

Morgan Finlay

The Christmas Story in a time of COVID

O Little Town of Bethlehem

The Zirbel Family (Jeff, Jennifer, Ariana, Sarah, and Paul)

By Lewis H. Redmer
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Joy to the World

By Lowell Mason
Public domain

Julia Hoffmann

We Three Kings

By John. H. Hopkins
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Michael Hoffmann

Away in the Manger

by James R. Murray
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First Church Children's Choir

Christmas Prayer

Prayer Response

Light a Candle

By Marta Keen
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Candle Lighting

John 1: 1-5

Silent Night

By Franz Gruber
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**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**

Hymn

First Church Choir

Joy to the World

By Lowell Mason
Public domain

**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 heaven, and heaven and nature sing!**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, 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, and wonders of his love.**

Benediction

Postlude

First Church Bell Choir

Ding Dong Merrily On High

French traditional
Public Domain

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Christmas Pageant Script Adapted from a play written by Freddie Green's, hosted by <https://www.prcli.org/> and used by permission.

Pageant Cast

Maggie Courtney (Narrator)
Megan Courtney (Mary)
Finn Courtney (Joseph)
Niamh Fisher with parents, Rose and Ted (Baby Jesus)
Lily Futterleib (Mary)
Max Futterleib (Joseph)
Olivia Ifeoluwa Nola (Wiseperson)
Joshua Jackson (Shepherd)
Ben Jones (Innkeeper)
Ogaga Kayoma (Wiseperson)
Ovie Kayoma (Messenger)
Lia Kimani (Wiseperson)
Naomi Mitchell (Wiseperson)
Braden Panus (Shepherd)
Joseph Panus (Shepherd)
Norra Vazquez (Narrator)
Sarah Zirbel (Angel)

Thank You

A special thanks to all who recorded videos for the service today, Laurel Pepin who edited the Christmas pageant video, First Church Choir, Bell Choir, and Children's Choir, Olivia Yonkman and James Pinckney for their technical assistance, the Music School at Sound Crossing, and to the Creative Worship Team for designing the service.

Our thanks to the Staff and Students of the Music School at Sound Crossing:

Paul Zirbel, violin
Cassandra Amo-Acquaye, violin

Amy Cele, violin
Eugenio Figueroa, piano
Kasey Calebaugh, viola
Mazwi Cele, viola
Elizabeth Vysin, cello
Jonathan Amo-Acquaye, cello

The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Since March, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically due to the pandemic. These difficult times make the need for the Christmas Fund more urgent than ever. If you would like to donate, you may do so [here](#). Thank you for your generosity!