

**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.**

Christmas Prayer

Anthem

First Church Bell Choir

Ding Dong Merrily on High
French traditional
Public domain
Arranged by Jane Frogley

Sharing the Word through Lessons and Carols

First Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

Ginny Lougee

Anthem

First Church Choir

Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming
by Michael Praetorius
Public domain

Second Lesson

Luke 2: 1-7

Kevin Doyle

Anthem

First Church Children's Choir

Away in the Manger
by James R. Murray
Public domain

Third Lesson

Luke 2: 8-20

Carrie Canoni

Hymn

The First Nowell
English traditional
Public domain

**The first Nowell 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.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the king of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell...**

**This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell...**

Fourth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Judge Kevin Washington

Solo

Midge Christopher

I Wonder as I Wander
Traditional Appalachian
Public domain

Homily

Pastor Nicole

I Believe in Light

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.**

Candle Lighting

John 1: 1-5

Silent Night
By Franz Gruber

Public domain

**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

Postlude

In the Bleak Midwinter

By Gustav Holst

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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!

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.