



Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope
First Church in Windsor, UCC

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
Angels Among Us: Do Not Be Afraid
Flying in the Face of Fear at Advent

Prelude

Welcome

Procession of the Christ Light

Song

There Are Angels Among Us

By Marcia McFee and Chuck Bell
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**There are angels among us, there are angels among us,
there are angels among us, bringing love on earth.**

**Do not be afraid, do not be afraid,
do not be afraid, do not be afraid.**

Prayer

**Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,
alight within us your flame of love this day.
Grant us openness to hear your message.
Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world,
creating more love in the midst of fear.**

Song

**There are angels among us, there are angels among us,
there are angels among us, bringing love on earth.**

Passing of the Peace

I invite you to pass the hope of Christ with your neighbors, for each time we connect with one another, hope grows.

Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful

By John F. Wade
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**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.**

Christmas Prayer

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

Choir Anthem

Ding Dong Merrily on High

French traditional
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Sharing the Word Through Lessons and Carols

First Lesson

Kim Lajoie-Ray

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put

its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. ¹¹On that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that is left of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Ethiopia, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem,

By John F. Wade

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**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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

Second Lesson

Lynn Andrews

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Anthem

Mary and the Baby

African American spiritual

Arranged by Jane Frogley

Third Lesson

Linda Gale

Luke 2: 8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and

saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”
¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

French traditional
Public domain

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.
Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Fourth Lesson

Hilary Carpenter

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Anthem

O Holy Night
By Adolphe Adam
Arranged by Jane Frogley

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

“Yes, I Believe that there are Angels Among Us”

Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words by Charles Wesley

Music by Felix Mendelssohn

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**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!'**

**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 Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'**

**Hail the heavenborn 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 man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'**

Offering for Veterans of the Cross/Christmas Fund

Sharing the Christ Light

John 1:1-4

Pastor Nicole will light her candle from the Christ candle, and the candle bearers will light the candle at the end of the pew. The light is passed by lighting the unlighted candle of your neighbor. Tip only the unlighted candles. Please extinguish your candle before you leave the pew.

Hymn

Silent Night

Music by Franz Gruber

Words by Joseph Mohr

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!**

Song

**There are angels among us, there are angels among us,
there are angels among us, bringing love on earth.**

Benediction

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World
Words by Isaac Watts
Music by G.F Handel
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 all 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, wonders of his love.**

Postlude

Puer Nobis Nascitur (Unto Us a Child Is Born)
By Jean Francois Dandrieu
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