



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

Christmas Day, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome

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 hope on earth.**

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 hope in the midst of fear.**

Song

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

Passing of the Peace

*Please make sure to wave to our online community, send a text message of peace to someone,
or pass the peace in the chat on Facebook.*

Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

By Richard S. Willis
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**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the evercircling years comes round the age of gold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

Poem

**“Shepherd's Song at Christmas”
By Langston Hughes**

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

Lessons and Lessons and Carols

The Story of a Carol: “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

Isaiah 11:1-9

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.

Carol

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
Words by Henry W. Longfellow
Music by J. Baptiste Calkin
Public domain

**I heard the bells on Christmas day their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to all.**

**And in despair I bowed my head: “There is no peace on earth,” I said.
“For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to all.”
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: “God is not dead, nor doth God sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth good will to all.”**

**Till, ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day.
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime, of peace on earth, good will to all.**

The Story of a Carol: “Joy to the World”

Psalm 98

¹O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

²The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

⁸Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

⁹at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Carol

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.**

The Story of a Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Micah 5:2-4

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Words and music by Lewis H. Redner
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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.**

**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.**

The Story of a Carol: “Silent Night”

Luke 2:8-16

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.

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!”

Carol

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!**

Pastoral Prayer

Poem

"The Work of Christmas"

By Langston Hughes

Read by Naomi Mitchell

Hymn

Away in a Manger

By James R. Murray

Public domain

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Poem

"Remembering that it Happened Once"

By Wendell Berry

Read by Julie Fewster

Photographs by Lowell Fewster

Benediction

Postlude

Noel Provençal

By Leon Roques

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