

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## United Church of Christ

December 29, 2013

*Those who are able may stand where marked (\*).*

*“For Unto Us a Child is Born”*

Gathering Music (hymn sing)

Welcome & Announcements

*Deacon, Ann Craxton*

Opening Prayer

Prelude and Ministry of the Acolyte

Call to Worship (includes lighting the Christ candle):

*Rev. Edward Craxton*

One: Emmanuel: God, you are with us.

**All: We have heard the promise of the prophets;**

One: We have caught the notes of an angel's song;

**All: We have seen a star in the heavens,  
and we have believed.**

One: This morning we have come to be with you because  
you have come to be with us.

**All: We seek an innocent, helpless baby in a crude manger;**

One: We seek a Messiah who will reign with justice;

**All: And you, who are the weakest and the strongest, the  
most humble and the most mighty, have found us.**

One: Now we may find ourselves.

**All: Now we may love each other, now we may truly  
worship you, crying aloud with the heavenly host:  
“Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth and  
goodwill among all people.”**

\*Hymn: #275 “Sing We Now of Christmas”

Anthem:

Sharing our Celebrations and Concerns

*(Please fill out a blue card from the pew)*

Pastoral Prayer

Worship of God with our Tithes and Offerings and Food  
Collection

Offertory Music

*Music Director, Dottie Morton*

\*Doxology #815 and Offertory Prayer

\*Hymn: #293 “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

Scripture: Isaiah: 63: 7-9

Reflection: The Lifestyle of Awe:

*Gratitude and Generosity*

\*Hymn: #291 “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

\*Benediction

\*Ministry of the Acolyte and Postlude