

Announcements: Tonight, we're going to rise for the first and last carol, as indicated by the asterisk (*). For the rest of the carols, we'll remain seated.

Our offering this evening will fund our Local Emergency Relief Fund (formerly known as the Deacons' Fund)

A special thanks to those who took part in this service:

Lead Deacon: Ross Fairweather

Choir Director: Dorothy Morton

Flute: Jo Beth Dudley

The First Congregational Church Choir

Readers: Amy Sharpe, Phil Krill

Greeters and Candle Helpers: Bob and Estelle LaFleur

Guidelines for Lighting Candles:

1. If you are holding a lit candle, keep it upright (so no wax will spill).
2. To light your candle, turn it sideways and light it from your neighbor's candle.
3. From then on, hold your candle upright (so no wax will spill).
4. Turn and let your neighbor light his or her candle from the flame of your upright candle.
5. And so on.

You're welcome to take your candle home, if you like.

Please leave the plastic candle-holders in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.

Thanks for helping us have a safe and joyful Christmas Eve service.

*First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Littleton, New Hampshire
December 24, 2019*



Our Mission Statement:

As followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are called to provide a loving invitation and welcome to all, to inspire and uplift through the worship of God, to reach out to heal and enrich lives through the Holy Spirit, and to nurture people at various stages of their spiritual growth.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
December 24, 2019
Christmas Eve

Gathering Music

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer *Ross Fairweather*

*Processional Carol #249 "O Come, All Ye Faithful!"

Lighting the Advent Candles *Bob and Judy O'Leary*

One: *(light)* Once upon a time, when the world was troubled,
 God sent a baby to be the world's Hope.

**All: Come, little baby, come to your manger,
 Hope of the world, we welcome your birth.**

One: *(light)* Once upon a time, when the whole world was fighting,
 God sent a baby to be the world's Peace.

**All: Come, little baby, come to your manger,
 Peace of the world, we welcome your birth.**

One: *(light)* Once upon a time, when the world lay in sadness,
 God sent a baby to be the world's Joy.

**All: Come, little baby, come to your manger,
 Joy of the world, we welcome your birth.**

One: *(light)* Once upon a time, when the whole world was lonely,
 God sent a baby to be the world's Love.

**All: Come, little baby, come to your manger,
 Love of the world, we welcome your birth.**

**Unison: Jesus, we wait in the darkness of winter; Jesus, we
 wait in the cold of the night; Jesus we wait in a world that
 still needs you. Come to your manger; come to your world;
 come to your people; dear Jesus, we welcome your birth.**

(Lighting of the Christ Candle)

Anthem "In the Bleak Midwinter" *Rossetti/Holst*

Reading Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Carol #271 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

Reading Isaiah 11:1-2, 6-9

Carol #255 "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming" vs. 1, 2

Reading Luke 1:26-35, 38

Anthem "Mary, Did You Know"

Reading Luke 2:1-7

Carol #250 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs. 1, 2

Reading Luke 2:8-14

Carol #278 "Angels We Have Heard on High" vs 1, 3, 4

Reading Luke 2:15-20

Carol #258 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" vs. 1, 3

Homily "With Heart and Voice, We Welcome"

Reading Matthew 2:1-12

Carol #288 "We Three Kings" vs. 1, 5

Worship of God with our Offerings

*Offertory "He Shall Feed His Flock" *Handel*

*Doxology

Pastoral Prayer Lord's Prayer *(trespasses)*

Carol #253 "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

Benediction

*Carol #270 "Joy to the World!"

*Postlude