

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
December 24, 2013
Christmas Eve

Those who are able may stand where marked ()*

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements *Deacon –Ann Craxton*

Opening Prayer

Prelude “And He Shall Feed His Flock” by Handel
Jo Beth Dudley—flute

Ministry of the Acolyte

*Processional Carol: #249 “O Come, All Ye Faithful!”

Lighting the Advent Candles: *Bob and Alice Muh*

One: Once upon a time, when the world lay in sorrow,
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: 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: 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: 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.)

Choir Anthem: “Thou Shalt Know Him when He Comes” *Raney*

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Carol: #262 “Away in a Manger”

Reading: Luke 2:8-14

Carol: #278 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Reading: Luke 2:15-19

Choir Anthem: “Still, Still, Still” *Austrian Carol*

Homily: “Two Shepherds Watching”

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Carol: #288 “We Three Kings” vs. 1, 5

Worship of God with our Offerings

*Offertory “Lullaby” *Rutter*

*Doxology

Pastoral Prayer Lord’s Prayer (trespasses)

Carol: #253 “Silent Night”

Benediction

*Carol: #270 “Joy to the World”

*Ministry of the Acolyte and Postlude

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 be split between:

- the Fuel Assistance Program of Catholic Charities and
- the Deacon's Fund of the First Congregational Church,
a discretionary fund Pat and David use to address the special needs of
people in our church and our community.

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

Lead Deacon: Ann Craxton

Choir Director: Dorothy Morton

The First Congregational Church Choir

Readers: Alice Muh, Phil Krill, Ann Craxton, Doug Menzies

Mary and Joseph: Kim Smith, Matt Hunt

Shepherds: Nolan Clark, David Weddington

Angels: Meaghan Clark, Wilma Weddington

Wise Men: Jeff Beasley, Phil Krill and Lars Nielson

Soloist: Kristjar Nielson

Greeters: Laurie Boswell and Arthur Hunt

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 boxes at the doors of the sanctuary.

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