



**For  
to us  
a child is  
born, to us  
a son is given.**

Isaiah 9:6

# CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24, 2021

11:00 PM

\*If it is comfortable for you to do so, please stand.

## PRELUDE

*A Christmas Prelude, Op. 62, No. 2*  
*NICOLE PAQUETTE, flute*

C. Callahan  
(\*1951)

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory.

People: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Leader: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

People: We have seen Christ's glory, the glory as of a child, full of grace and truth.

Leader: Unto us a child has been born, unto us a son is given.

People: Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

## \*HYMN #116

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA  
French, 18<sup>th</sup> century

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply Echo back their joyous strains.

***Refrain: 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 heav'nly song?

***Refrain***

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

***Refrain***

## OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and generous God, The Word made Flesh and Light of the world, we praise and thank you for the joys of this Christmas season. You have called us once more to tell the story of your coming into the world by the power of love. Thank you for this sacred space, radiant light, your holy word, and so much music. Now fill us with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your will and rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## OFFERTORY

*O Holy Night*  
CHANCEL CHOIR  
HANDBELL QUARTET

A. Adam  
(1803-1856)  
*arr. Hopson*

## \*DOXOLOGY #515

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts and the giving of this offering all show our thankfulness to you, O God our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

**FIRST LESSON** Genesis 1: 26-28, 31a

**HYMN #140** *What Child is This?*

GREENSLEEVES  
*English, 19<sup>th</sup> century*

What child is this-, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap- is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet- with anthems sweet-, While shep--herds watch- are keeping?

**Refrain:** *This, this- is Christ the King-, Whom shepherds guard- and angels sing:  
Haste, haste- to bring him laud-, The babe-, the son- of Mary.*

Why lies he in- such mean estate- Where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
Good Christian, fear-: for sinners here- The silent Word is pleading.

**Refrain**

So, bring him incense, gold and myrrh, Come peasant, king, to own him;  
The King of kings salvation Brings, Let loving hearts enthrone him.

**Refrain**

**SECOND LESSON** Genesis 3: 21-24

**CAROL** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

M. Praetorius  
*(1571 – 1621)*

**THIRD LESSON** Isaiah 9: 2-7

**HYMN #141** *The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL  
*English, 16<sup>th</sup> century*

1. *The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:*

**REFRAIN** *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell  
Born is the King of Israel*

2. *They lookèd up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night*

*(refrain)*

3. *Chancel Choir – congregation joins on refrain*
4. *This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,*

*And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay  
(refrain)*

5. *Chancel Choir – congregation joins on **refrain***
6. *Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavn'ly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught  
And with his blood mankind hath bought  
(refrain)*

**FOURTH LESSON  
CAROL**

Micah 5: 2-5a  
*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

W ZŁOBIE LEŻY  
*Polish, 13<sup>th</sup> century  
arr. Willcocks*

**FIFTH LESSON  
HYMN #134**

Luke 2: 1-7  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS  
American 19<sup>th</sup> Century

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.  
Oh morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth.  
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.  
How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His 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.  
O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in; Be born to us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

**SIXTH LESSON  
CAROL**

Luke 2: 8-20  
*What Is This Lovely Fragrance?*

H. Willan  
(1880 – 1968)

**SEVENTH LESSON**  
**HYMN #120**

Matthew 2: 1-12  
*Hark, The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN  
*English, 19<sup>th</sup> century*

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glo-ry to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!”  
Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise, Join the tri-umph of the skies;  
With the angelic host pro-claim, “Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!”  
Hark! The herald an-gels sing, “Glo-ry to the new-born 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 the in-car-nate De-i-ty,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glo-ry to the new-born King!”  
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of right-eous-ness!  
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal-ing in his wings,  
Mild he lays his glo-ry by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glo-ry to the new-born King!”

**EIGHTH LESSON**  
**CAROL**

John 1: 1-18  
*Lullay, Dear Jesus*

F. R. Lund  
(\*1938)  
*Composer-In-Residence*

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** “Lord at Thy Birth”

Rev. Dr. Andrew Armstrong

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER and LORD’S PRAYER** (Debts/Debtors)

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS/ LET YOUR LIGHTS SHINE!**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT  
*Austrian, 19<sup>th</sup> century*

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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.

## CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

\*HYMN #130

*Joy to the World! The Lord is Come*

ANTIOCH  
*English, 18<sup>th</sup> century*

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 hea--ven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Sav-ior reigns: Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Re-peat the sound-ing joy,  
Re-peat the sound-ing joy, Re-peat, re-peat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And make the nations prove  
The glo--ries of-- his righteousness--, And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, And won--ders, won--ders of his love.

**TOWER CHIMES**

Jim Stone

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Officiant: Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

Minister of Music: Joseph R. Olefirowicz, CAGO

Handbell Quartet: Becky Boisvert, Emlee Kohler, Lisa Rancourt, Pam Sturdevant

Staff Singer Quartet: Janet Poisson, soprano – Brianne Biastoff, alto –

Steve Huff, tenor – Jason Iannuzzi, bass

Cover Art: Images from ChurchArt.com

**A Blessed Christmas to You All.  
May Peace Prevail on Earth.**

Silent  
night  
Holy night



# ***THE FIRST CHURCH***

## ***STAFF***

Senior Minister, *Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong*, aarmstrong@tfcucc.org  
Associate Minister for Congregational Care, *Rev. Jami D. Boyle*, jboyle@tfcucc.org  
Interim Associate Minister, *Rev. Dr. Andrew Gilman*, agilman@tfcucc.org  
Minister of Music, *Joseph R. Olefirowicz, CAGO*, jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org  
Director of Christian Formation, *LeeAnne Steenhoek*, lstenhoek@tfcucc.org  
Church Business and Marketing Manager, *Dianne Smigliani*, dsmigliani@tfcucc.org  
Secretary/Receptionist, *Susan T. Englander*, senglander@tfcucc.org  
Sexton, *Steve Buck*, sbuck@tfcucc.org

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Pastors Emeriti, *Rev. James S. Chaloner & Rev. Dr. Jeffrey C. Evans*

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## ***WELCOME***

A warm welcome is extended to all who are attending this worship service. A special greeting to those who are visiting or worshipping for the first time. Please sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary or fill out the visitor card found in the pew racks. Fill out the back of the card, and put it in the offering plate or hand it to a minister, Usher or Deacon so we may acknowledge your visit. Join in the time of fellowship, in Chapel Hall, following worship. If you have any questions about the life and ministry of First Church, please seek out the individuals wearing colored name tags; they are members of the various boards and committees.

## ***INFORMATION***

First Church was gathered on December 16, 1685 as The Church of Christ in Dunstable. On the same day Thomas Weld was ordained and settled as minister of the church. The current building, built in 1894, is the tenth building to house the First Church community. In 1961, the church entered fellowship with the United Church of Christ. We welcome into our membership any who will own the covenant of First Church and seek to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in the community and world. Those interested in joining the church should contact the church office for information. New members are received during worship in November, February and May. The Sacrament of Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month and the Sacrament of Baptism on the last. First Church is supported almost entirely by pledges. Every member is expected to make a financial pledge according to their ability.

## ***PASTORAL CARE***

Pastoral Care is available to all in need. Please keep the ministers informed of occasions of sickness, sorrow, and joy. Let the church office know if you or family member or friend is hospitalized.

## ***COMMUNICATIONS***

All information for the weekly bulletin must be in the office by noon on Wednesday. All information for the monthly newsletter must be in the office by 4:30 PM on the second Monday of the month.

**All use of the building must be scheduled by the Secretary.**

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## **THE FIRST CHURCH**

NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

***One Concord Street \* Nashua, New Hampshire 03064 \* 603-882-4861***

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-noon and 1:00-4:00pm

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