CHRISTMAS
EVE
· WORSHIP ·

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24, 2023 **11:00 PM**

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

PRELUDE *Of the Father's Love Begotten* W. C. Held
(1914 – 2015)

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, 18th century

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 *Gesù Bambino* P. Yon
CHANCEL CHOIR *(1886 – 1943)*
JOSHUA L. GORE, baritone

***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, 19th century

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 3: 21 – 24

CAROL *In the Bleak Widwinter* H. Darke

DEBORAH GRAHAM NORDYKE, soprano *(1888-1976)*

HARRY NORDYKE, tenor

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9: 2-7

HYMN #141 *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL

(see last page) *English, 16th century*

FOURTH LESSON: Micah 5: 2-5a

CAROL *Softly, Softly* F. R. Lund

*(*1938)*

Composer-In-Residence

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2: 1-7

HYMN 129 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

American, 19th century

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2: 8-20

CAROL *Who Would Send a Baby?* M. K. Beale

STAFF SINGERS QUARTET *(*1943)*

arr. Carter

SEVENTH LESSON: Matthew 2: 1-12

HYMN 120 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

English, 19th century

EIGHTH LESSON: John 1: 1-18

CAROL *Cradle Song* G. Near

*(*1942)*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE "Tenting It" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. 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, 19th century

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.

CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

***HYMN #130** *Joy to the World! The Lord is Come* ANTIOCH
English, 18th century

TOWER CHIMES Josh Evans

Officiant:	Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong
Minister of Music:	Joseph R. Olefirowicz, CAGO
Staff Singers:	Janet Poisson, soprano – Kendra Goodwin, alto
	Zoe Harper, tenor - Joshua L. Gore, bass
AV Team:	Lee Hauenstein and Don Smith-Weiss
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A Blessed Christmas to You All. May Peace Prevail on Earth.

STAFF

Senior Minister, *Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong*, aarmstrong@tfcucc.org
Acting Associate Minister, *Rev. Nancy Haynes*, nhaynes@tfcucc.org
Minister of Music, *Joseph R. Olefirowicz, CAGO*, jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org
Church Business and Marketing Manager, *Dianne Smigliani*, dsmigliani@tfcucc.org
Office Manager, *Tasha Drew*, tdrew@tfcucc.org
Sexton, *Steve Buck*, sbuck@tfcucc.org

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

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NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

One Concord Street * Nashua, New Hampshire 03064 * 603-882-4861
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III – HYMN 141 *The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

English, 16th 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)

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