

COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH
Rev. Dr. Linda Barnes, Pastor
Ms. Patricia Korenkeiwicz, Director of Music
Thursday December 24, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.
CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

PRELUDE Joy to the World Jake Poulios
Lo How A Rose Chime Choir
Ave Maria Colin Hiscox

WELCOME

INTROIT O Holy Night Jake Poulios

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, friends, and let us worship God on this blessed night. Let us celebrate God's coming to us, and to all people everywhere, in the newly born life of a baby. May love be reborn in our hearts this night. Amen.

*HYMN **Angels We Have Heard on High #23**

UNISON INVOCATION **Loving generous God, we praise and thank you for the joys of Christmas: music and singing, gathering of family and friends, gifts we give and receive. We thank you most of all for your great gift to us, the gift born this night—your child Jesus. May Christ's Spirit of love fill our hearts to overflowing. May Christ's Spirit of peace be upon everyone, everywhere. Amen.**

ANTHEM Sing We Now of Christmas Mayo

A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY THEN AND NOW:

Reading One: **Traveling** SCRIPTURE *Luke 2:1-5*
Response: **Where are you, God?**

*HYMN **O Little Town of Bethlehem** Vs. 1 & 2 **#44**

Reading Two: **Arriving** SCRIPTURE: *Luke 2:6-7*
Response: **Are you here with us, God?**

ANTHEM The Friendly Beasts Junior Choir

Reading Three: **Celebrating** SCRIPTURE *Luke 2:8-20.*
Response: **Surely, God is with us!**

CHIME CHOIR Joy to the World Larson
(Then place a chime by the manger.)

Reading Four: **Giving** SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 9:2, 6*
Response: **God, here is my gift.**
Response : **Thank you for your precious gift.**

*HYMN **Hark the Herald Angels Sing #31**

CALL TO OFFERING

VOLUNTARY Jesus Rest Your Head Moglebust

PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (trespasses)

Reading Five: **Traveling On** *Lighting the Christ Candle*

ANTHEM Be a Candle of Hope Mayo

HYMN **Silent Night #60**
(Please remain seated as the light is passed from person to person along the aisle and down the pew until the candles are lit and the hymn is sung by candlelight.)

SCRIPTURE: *John 1:1-5: Philipians 4:4*

*HYMN **Joy to the World #40**

BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

WORSHIP AT THE COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH

www.ColchesterFederatedChurch.org Phone 537-5189

Rev. Dr. Linda U. Barnes, Pastor
Patricia Korenkiewicz, Director of Music
Christmas Eve Candles and Carols
December 24, 2009

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who are faithful, all who seek joy in our lives
and world this night.

People: **It is the season to sing praises to God for the Christ
Child is near.**

Leader: The symbols of hope, peace, love, and joy shine brightly
in our hearts.

People: **May they remain with us throughout the year.**

Leader: We now share a promise that was fulfilled by God:

All: **That our beloved Child is born and will call us to new
lives of love, joy, and faith in action.**

Leader: The light that is born in Jesus lights the paths of truth
and peace for all. So come now, open and ready to receive that
love that is the light of the world. Come let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN **Once in Royal David's City** #49

CHRISTMAS POEM *There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu,
For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space,
By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth.*

CALL TO LIGHT

All sing: O come, O Come Emmanuel.

Come to our hearts and in our presence dwell, We wait in hope
for peace once again. Return to us the joy of Bethlehem. Rejoice,
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come in love, our darkness to dispel.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

LIGHT OF HOPE

Choir sings first verse,

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus Born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

All sing: Come, Thou hope of our salvation,
Promised One by prophets foretold.

With sincere anticipation, hearts like flowers before Thee unfold.
As the saints who came before us, patiently we call on Thee.

Lifting our voices, we join in the chorus
of the faithful who long for thee.

Choir: Of the faithful who long for Thee. Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7

LIGHT OF PEACE

Choir sings first two verses,

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nation, rise, join the triumph of the skies.
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Lamb of God and Child of Peace,
born that war and strife may cease.*

*Born our Brother to become, born that we might live as one.
Born that we may one day see peace on earth and harmony.
Born to us, with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark t! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

All sing: Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings,
risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by,
born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing

"Glory to the newborn King!"

Choir: sing Gloria to the newborn King!

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Wexford Carol

*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
What can I give him? Give my heart!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: It was cold and Mary and Joseph were fearful.
P: **But that did not stop the birth.**
L: They were poor and had no place fitting for their child.
P: **But that did not stop the birth.**
L: They were uncertain about what God wanted from them.
P: **But that did not stop the birth.**
L: And today we are still sometimes cold and fearful, certainly poor in many ways.
P: **We often feel that we have no place and are unclear about God wants of us.**
L: But these things did not stop the birth of Jesus then, nor will they now. Lord Jesus be born in us this night.
L: **Like Mary and Joseph, who trusted in your grace, we offer ourselves and our gifts to you. Bless our offering and hallow our every thought and our every action, that Christ may be revealed through them to the world that is yet in darkness. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-6

LIGHT OF JOY

All sing: Born is the Child in manger small
whom God has sent to save us all.
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high!
Glory to God who reigns on high!

(Choir sings remaining verses.)

LIGHT OF LOVE

Choir sings first two verses.
Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine.
Love came down at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.
Love was born at Christmas in a simple cattle stall.
Love is born this Christmas in the hearts of one and all.

All sing: Love be our example, love be yours and love be mine;
Love for one another with the love of God divine.

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-5

LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE AND OUR CANDLELIGHTING

All sing: 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.

Choir sings second verse.
Silent night, holy night, fill our hearts with Thy light.
In the darkness may we shine with the promise of love divine;
Light of heaven on earth, light of heaven on earth.

All sing: Silent night, holy night, wondrous star,
lend thy light. With the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.
Choir: The Savior is born.

BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

CARRY THE LIGHT OUTSIDE TO THE WORLD

SING first verse of Joy to the World
(when everyone is outside with their candles)
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 heaven and nature sing.

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WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

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Let us celebrate God's coming to us, and to all people
everywhere, in the newly born life of a baby.
May love be reborn in our hearts this night. Amen.

*HYMN **Angels We Have Heard on High #23**

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ANTHEM Sing We Now of Christmas Mayo

A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY THEN AND NOW:

Reader: Join us now on a Christmas journey, as it happened then, and as it happens now.

Scene One: Traveling SCRIPTURE *Luke 2:1-5*

Response Leader: Where are you, God?

All: Where are you, God?

Narr. 2: As people travel in life, tired and hungry and thirsty and unsure if they will make it, as hope seems very far away, they must wonder, as sometimes we do,

All: Where are you, God?

Narr. 1: As Joseph and Mary arrived in the hustle and bustle of Bethlehem, with people coming and going, with loud noises and confusion surrounding them, they may have wondered,

All: Where are you, God?

Narr. 2: As people arrive in big cities, hoping to find work, as refugees arrive in strange new places, hoping for a welcome, as people seek peace in this season of crowds and confusion, they must wonder, as do we,

All: Where are you, God?

Reader: (*Shows sandals to the congregation.*) These sandals are a reminder of all those who are on a journey, in search of home, in search of peace, in search of true life, in search of God. (*Places the sandals at the foot of the manger.*)

*HYMN **O Little Town of Bethlehem** Vs. 1 & 2 **#44**

Scene Two: Arriving SCRIPTURE: *Luke 2:6-7*

Narr. 1: As Mary and Joseph arrived, finding rest in a room where animals were kept, finding a quiet place for the baby to be born, they may have asked,

Response Leader: Are you here with us, God?

All: Are you here with us, God?

Narr. 2: As we come here this evening, seeking quiet after all the busy-ness of Christmas preparation, wanting to worship with family, friends, and all who follow in your way, we also ask

All: Are you here with us, God?

Narr. 1: As Mary began her labor, knowing her baby was coming into the world, she may have cried out in her heart,

All: Are you here with us, God?

Narr. 2: As we let Jesus be born again in our hearts, we begin anew to follow and praise you, and we cry out,

All: Are you here with us, God?

Narr. 1: As Mary and Joseph held the baby Jesus, gazed into his eyes, and laid him gently in a manger, they all must have asked in wonder,

All: Are you here with us, God?

Narr. 2: As we hold a new baby and gaze into those beautiful eyes, as we hold a delicate flower or puppy or kitten, as we nurse new ideas and new ventures, as we begin new ways of service and caring, we, too, ask in wonder,

All: Are you here with us, God?

Reader: (*Shows hay to the congregation.*) This hay is a reminder of the rest and comfort we need when we stop here in the midst of our journey. God is indeed with us in this place.
(*The reader lays some straw in the manger.*)

ANTHEM The Friendly Beasts Junior Choir

Scene Three: Celebrating SCRIPTURE *Luke 2:8-20.*

Narr. 1: As the shepherds listened to the message of the angels that the Christ child was born, as their terror left them and joy filled their hearts, they must have said,

Response Leader: Surely, God is with us!

All: Surely, God is with us!

Narr. 2: As we listen to the good news that Christ is born, not just in the past, but now, this very moment, in our lives, in our hearts, in our love, we join the heavenly hosts, saying,

All: Surely, God is with us!

Narr. 1: As Mary quietly pondered these things in her heart, as she tried to understand what these miraculous moments might mean, as she thought, not only about her and Joseph being parents, but also about being the parents of the Messiah, she must have thought,

All: Surely, God is with us!

Narr. 2: As we ponder these miraculous events in our hearts this night, as we celebrate God's coming to us in a tender baby, as we give thanks for God's continuing presence with us all, as we are moved to nurture with the tenderness each child of God deserves, we praise God and say together,

All: Surely, God is with us!

Narr. 1: As the shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had seen and heard, for the great wonder God was doing in their generation, they must have told everyone,

All: Surely, God is with us!

Narr. 2: As we glorify and praise God for all we have seen and heard, for the activity of God in our time and our generation, we share the wonderful news about Jesus, and proclaim,

All: Surely, God is with us!

Reader: (*Show one of the chimes.*) This is a reminder of the joy we feel when we know that God is truly with us.

CHIME CHOIR Joy to the World Larson
(*Then place a chime by the manger.*)

Scene Four: Giving

Narr. 1: Many, many years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah spoke of a wonderful gift that God would give to the people.

SCRIPTURE *Read Isaiah 9:2, 6*

Narr. 1: We recognize Jesus' birth as that wonderful gift to our world. In response to that gift of love, we give our praise and thanks to God, each one saying,

Response Leader: God, here is my gift.

All: God, here is my gift.

Narr. 2: As we give gifts to others, both gifts of things they find delightful and exciting, and gifts of self—time and listening and caring—we also give our praise to God, saying

All: God, here is my gift.

Narr. 1: As we remember how Jesus grew up and healed and taught and showed the depths of love, even unto death, that we might have life in all its abundance, so we give ourselves—our very lives—to him, saying,

All: God, here is my gift.

Narr. 2: As we remember God's gift of Jesus on that holy night in Bethlehem: a gift of hope, peace, love, and joy, we say to God,

Response Leader: Thank you for your precious gift.

All: Thank you for your precious gift.

Narr. 1: As we remember all those who have brought to us the love of Jesus, who have been with us in our loneliness or pain, who have forgiven us, who have inspired us by their example, we say,

All: Thank you for your precious gift.

Narr. 2: As we remember how the peace of this night was broken by the need to flee the anger of King Herod, as we acknowledge that, for many, Christmas is a time of loneliness and sadness, and that hurt and pain still haunt God's children in this world, we are thankful that this night shines like a beacon of hope for ourselves and our world, and we say,

All: Thank you for your precious gift.

Reader: *(Shows the heart to the congregation.)* This heart is a reminder of the gift of love, so freely given to us by God, and willingly given by us in return. *(Places the heart by manger).*

*HYMN **Hark the Herald Angels Sing** **#31**

CALL TO OFFERING

VOLUNTARY Jesus Rest Your Head Moglebust

PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (trespasses)

Reading Five: Traveling On *Lighting the Christ Candle*

Narr. 1: Our Christmas journey has seen Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem, and the wonder of having their baby Jesus be born. We have seen shepherds celebrating. We have journeyed with them in our time and given thanks for the precious gift of Jesus in our hearts, and in our world.

Narr. 2: Of course, our journey doesn't stop here at the manger, any more than Jesus' life stopped there. But something is different. God's presence is more clearly seen. A light shines in the darkness to guide our way as we journey from here.

ANTHEM Be A Candle of Hope Mayo

Narr. 1: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Let us now light our Christ candle as a symbol of the light of Jesus, the light that can shine in and through each one of us. *(A youth or child lights the Christ candle.)*

Narr. 2: As this light of Christ now shines, may the love of Christ truly shine in each one of us. May we be a light for others as we seek to bring God's hope, peace, love, and joy to our world.

HYMN **Silent Night** **#60**
(light the first candles along the aisles. The light is passed from person to person along the aisle. Dim the lights gradually as the candles are lit, and turn them off completely in the end so the hymn is sung by candlelight.)

SCRIPTURE: *John 1:1-5: Philipians 4:4*

*HYMN **Joy to the World** **#40**

BENEDICTION Let us go now, traveling with a new joy in our step, following the light of Jesus, giving the love that we have received. And may the peace of this holy night be with us always. Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

