

**Christmas Eve 11pm, 2011 Service  
Service of Worship**

*\*congregation stands*

VOLUNTARY Edee Silva, organist

*Classic Carols*

Robert Lau

*I Wonder as I Wander  
What Child is This  
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  
Away in a Manger  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

INTERLUDE

*Of the Father's Love Begotten  
(Divinum Mysterium)*

Robert Weidner

CALL TO WORSHIP Daniel Carlson

\*CAROL #41 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels!**

*(Chorus)*  
***O come, let us adore Him, O come let us  
adore Him, O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!***

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!**

*(Chorus)*

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh  
appearing!**

*(Chorus)*

\*OPENING PRAYER (*unison*)

**As we hear the story that is told year  
after year, give us new ears to listen for  
your truth. As we join in the praises of  
all creation, come among us, O God.  
Shine your light into our darkness. Let  
your love and joy shine through us this  
Christmas, and through our whole lives.  
Amen.**

\*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Bill and Linda Ward

The people walking in darkness have seen a  
great light. Those who lived in a land of deep  
darkness - on them light has shined. We light  
this Christ candle in celebration of God  
entering our lives. In Jesus Christ was life,  
and that life was the light of all. The light  
shines in the darkness, and the darkness has  
not overcome it.

\*CAROL #49 *Once in Royal David's City*

**Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.  
He came down to earth from heaven,**

**Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor, the scorned,  
The lowly, lived on earth our  
Savior holy.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew.  
And he feels all our sadness,  
And he shares in all our gladness.**

LESSON *Isaiah 9:2-7* Daniel Carlson

CAROL #38

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

**It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
From heaven's all gracious King:  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.**

LESSON *Luke 2:1-7* Stacey Midge

SOLO *O Holy Night* Adam  
Margaret VanNorden, soloist

\*CAROL #31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;**

**With angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

*(Chorus)*

***Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn 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 incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

*(Chorus)*

**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.**

*(Chorus)*

LESSON *Luke 2:8-16* Bill Levering

SERMON *Silent Night* Bill Levering

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *A Shepherd's Lullaby*  
*(Silent Night)* Charles Callahan

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Please come down the center aisle starting  
from all the FRONT pews. Take a piece of  
bread, dip it in the cup, and then partake.  
Return by way of the side aisles. Gluten-  
free wafers are available from the station  
on the left.*

CAROL #44 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see the lie!  
Above them 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.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to all 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.

CAROL #53 *What Child is This*

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

*(Chorus)*  
*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 feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

*(Chorus)*

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

*(Chorus)*

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE

PRAYER

\*CAROL #60 *Silent Night*

*When passing the flame of candles, the lit candle*  
*should remain upright.*

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.

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.

\*TOLLING

\*CAROL #40 *Joy to the World*

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.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Joy to the World*

David Lasky

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*We would like to thank the many participants*  
*and helpers for tonight's service. You are also*  
*invited to our Christmas Day worship at*  
*10am. Our Sunday 5pm Jazz Vespers will not*  
*be held until January 8.*

*If you are visiting this evening, you are invited*  
*to make First Reformed your church home.*  
*Please speak to one of the ministers if you are*  
*interested.*

*The Mission & Benevolence committee has*  
*designated the Schoharie Flood Victims as the*  
*beneficiary of this year's Christmas Offering.*

**The Sanctuary and chapels are adorned to the glory of God and in loving memory of:**

-Margaret (Peg) Shultes from her family  
-Our parents, Richard & Ruth Arthur; P.J. & Edith Brownell by Dick & Judy Arthur  
-Mr. Russell V. Jones & Dr. Charles J. Assini by their Grand Children, Andrew, Cindy & Alicia Assini  
-Grandpa Al Holland and Uncle Alan Attanasio by Emily Attanasio  
-Loved Ones by Audrey & David Bain  
-Parents-Emma & James Stepanian; brothers-James Stepanian, Jr. & Basil Stepanian; sister-in-law-Elaine Stepanian by Ronnie Bartholic  
-Dick's parents by Roberta & Dick Blackmer  
-Jean Kemp Bundy from the Bundy Family  
-Robert Bruce Crandell by Janet Crandell  
-Arthur & Alma Paulson; Julian & Luella D'Andrea by Tom & Linnea D'Andrea  
-Mr. & Mrs. Bruno De Paoli, Sr.; Dr. & Mrs. James M. Neill by the family  
-Parents and siblings by Gay & Joe Doolittle  
-Bill Dotter by his wife Elsie Dotter & children  
-Dr. G. Wesley Dunlap & Dr. Stanley L. Jones by Maude Dunlap  
-Warren D. & Ethel F. Barrett by their children & grandchildren  
-Carlton W. Dyer by his wife Janice B. Dyer  
-Sylvia R. Ebeling by Dolph Ebeling  
-Lorraine Ebeling by Scott Ebeling  
-Rudolph & Therese Mahlberg by the Erickson Family  
-William & Louise Stange by Marlene Risseuw & the Erickson's  
-Raymond and Marion Falconer, Lois Weidenfeller by their families  
-Our Parents & Dear Friends that we lost this year by Janet & Richard Gardner

-Melissa Lynne Greskovich from your loving mother Maria & siblings, Chad & Ann  
-Charles D. Greskovich from your loving family  
-Our parents, grandparents, sister, & brother by Joyce & Jerry Griggs  
-Loved ones by Cynthia Hamilton  
-Loved Ones by Joan & Peter Ipsen  
-LeRoy Jewett by his family  
-Our parents from Gini & Mark McDermott  
-Richard McLane by his wife Beverly, his children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren  
-Our son Stephen by Anne & Don Middleton  
-Dorothy & Edmund Sanderson by Neil & Sandy Moynihan  
-Our Children, Laurel Davis Jeffer & Michael John Ontkush by Peter & Diane Ontkush  
-Loved ones, by Anne Peterson  
-Lorraine Schulte Ebeling; Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Howard; Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Cope; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McNeil by Elyne Schulte  
-Eldon Springsted by his wife Elaine  
-Mr. & Mrs. Francis R. Swann; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E Niles; Florence B. Niles & Donald T. Armington by Dale & Nancy Ellen Swann  
-Mills and Edith Ten Eyck from the family  
-Our Parents Clarence & Sara Hollister Linder, Claribel Wescott Linder, Jacobus and Gesina Walraven and our brothers Jim Walraven & Fred Wescott by the Linder's and Walraven's  
-Palmer V. Welch, Marian A. Welch, Mary C. Welch. Anne Shepherd Wemple, Robert V. Shepherd, & Susan Shepherd by the Welch family  
-Loved ones by Glenn & Martha Winchester  
-Donald E. Craig, Elizabeth Craig & Corinne Craig; Eugene C. Zeltmann & Ruth Zeltmann by Susan & Eugene Zeltmann

*First Coming  
by Madeleine L'Engle*

*He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.*

*He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine. He did not wait*

*till hearts were pure. In joy he came  
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
he came, and his Light would not go out.*

*He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.*

*We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!*



# First Reformed Church

Schenectady, New York

11:00 p.m.

*Christmas Eve Worship*

*O Come All Ye Faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*