

Christmas Eve 2011

8:30pm - Music of the Season

Julie Panke, Music Director
Charles Moose, Organist

Sussex Carol Trad. English

On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sins he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

All out of darkness we have light
which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to men,
now and forever more, amen.

Away in a Manger arr. Paul Sjoland

I Sing of a Maiden Patrick Hadley

I sing of a maiden that is makeless;
King of all kings to her son she ches.

He came all so still where his mother was,
As dew in April that falleth on the grass.

He came all so still to his mother's bower,
As dew in April that falleth on the flower.

He came all so still where his mother lay,
As dew in April that falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden was never none but she:
Well may such a lady God's mother be.

A Stable Lamp is Lighted Michael Larkin

A stable lamp is lighted whose glow
shall wake the sky;
The stars shall bend their voices,
and ev'ry stone shall cry.
And ev'ry stone shall cry,
and straw like gold shall shine;
A barn shall harbor heaven,
a stall become a shrine.

This child through David's city
shall ride in triumph by;
The palm shall strew its branches,
and ev'ry stone shall cry.
And ev'ry stone shall cry,
though heavy, dull, and dumb,
And lie within the roadway to pave
his kingdom come.

Yet he shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die;
The sky shall groan and darken,
and ev'ry stone shall cry.
And ev'ry stone shall cry,
for stony hearts of men:
God's blood upon the spearhead,
God's love refused again.

But now, as at the ending,
the low is lifted high;
The stars shall bend their voices,
and ev'ry stone shall cry.
And ev'ry stone shall cry,
in praises of the Child
By whose descent among us
the worlds are reconciled.

A Maiden Most Gentle

French tune arr. Andrew Carter

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.

Ave, ave, ave Maria, Ave, ave, ave Maria.

How blessed is the truth of her heavenly child,
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.

The Archangel Gabriel foretold by his call
The Lord of creation, and saviour of all.

Three kings came to worship with gifts
rich and rare,
And marveled in awe at the babe in her care.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;
Sing praise to the saviour, sing endless 'Ave'.

Ave Maria Franz Schubert

O' Little Town of Bethlehem (1995) arr. Chip Davis

Christmas Pastoral on From High Heaven J.S. Bach

9pm Service of Worship

**congregation stands*

WELCOME Bill Levering

CALL TO WORSHIP Daniel Carlson

*HYMN #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!
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 heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!**

*PRAYER (*unison*)

**God of true light, guide our journey to
your holiness. Transform our lives to
show your love to all. Be with us as we
seek your presence in our world. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Richard & Natalie Davis

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.

ANTHEM

Let Us See This Child, This King
Daniel Gawthrop

Let us see this child, this king,
softly now He comes, as was foretold.
Angels surround Him, Heaven sings His
name.

Let us see this child, this king,
wrapped in swaddling as we wrap our own,
Born of a virgin, born in David's city.

Why should the angels of heav'n
come down
unto poor shepherds of Bethlehem town?
Why should God love us and send His Son,
His only begotten, the radiant One?

Let us see this child, this king,
wrapped in swaddling as we wrap our own,
Born of a virgin, born in David's city,
born this holy night, born to wear a crown.
Let us see this king.

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 9:2-7*
Catherine deSalle

CAROL #44 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above they 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.**

READING *Luke 2:1-7* Daniel Carlson

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

(solo)

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.

(choir)

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, oppressed,
And lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

(all)

**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**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *In the Bleak Midwinter*
Gustav Holst, arr. Daniel Burton

*CAROL #31

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)

READING *Luke 2:8-16* Bill Levering

HOMILY *Silent Night* Bill Levering

*CAROL #22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

**Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing
your flight o'er all the earth; Ye, who
sang creation's story Now proclaim
Messiah's birth: Come and worship,
come and worship, Worship Christ, the
new born King!**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night, God
with us is now residing, Yonder shines
the infant light: Come and worship,
come and worship, Worship Christ, the
new born King!**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar; Seek the
great desire of nations; Ye have seen His
natal star: Come and worship, come and
worship, Worship Christ, the new born
King!**

**All creation, join in praising God the
Father, Spirit, Son, Evermore your
voices raising To the eternal Three in
One: Come and worship, come and
worship, Worship Christ, the new born
King!**

PRAYERS

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE

I Wonder As I Wander

*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

Merry Krismoose Musings on Silent Night
Noble, Rawsthorne, Oxley and Ray

+ + +

*Thanks to Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, harp;
Jessie Brehm, flute; Nancy Ellen Swann,
soloist; and the Chancel Choir for their
participation in tonight's service.*

*The congregation is invited to Assembly Hall
for refreshments following the 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

9:00 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.*