



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.*

Christmas Eve 2015
8:30pm - Music of the Season
Julie Panke, Director of Music
Avery Tunningley, Organist

Fanfare on Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. by Robert A. Hobby

Chanson de la Vierge Pensive Andrew Carter

O Holy Night arr. by V.C. Thomas

Away in a Manger Keith Chapman

Noel on a Sicilian Carol Roger C. Wilson

Jesus Christ, The Apple Tree Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compar'd with Christ, the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see
in Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought;
I miss'd of all but now I see,
Tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

John Gardner

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance;

Sing, oh! my love,
oh! my love, my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
To call my true love to my dance.

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was,
So very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance.

Saw You Never? 15th century French melody
arr. by Don Michael Dicie

Saw you never in the twilight,
when the sun had left the skies,
up in heav'n, the clear stars shining
through the gloom like silver eyes?
So of old, the wise men watching,
saw a little stranger star,
and they knew the King was given,
and they followed it from far.

Heard you never of the story,
how they crossed the desert wild;
journeyed on by plain and mountain,
'til they found the Holy Child;
How they opened all their treasure,
kneeling to that infant king;
gave the gold and fragrant incense,
gave the myrrh in offering.

Know ye not that lowly baby
was the bright and morning star,
He who came to light the pathway
of all people near and far.
And we too may seek his cradle,
there our hearts' best treasures bring,
Love and faith and true devotion,
for our Savior, God and King

Sussex Carol

Traditional English
arr. by Don Michael Dicie

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.

Christmas Eve 9pm, 2015
Service of Worship

**congregation stands*

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

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

**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 heav'n 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 giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!**
(Chorus)

*PRAYER *(unison)* Stacey Midge
**God of true light, guide our journey to your
holiness. Transform our lives to show your
love to all. Assure us of your presence as
we seek to serve the world we touch. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE
The Rose Family



ANTHEM *He is Born* French Carol
arr. Don Michael Dicie

He is born, the divine Christ Child,
Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the divine Christ Child,
Sing we all of the Savior mild.

Through long ages of the past,
prophet's have foretold his coming.
Through all the ages of the past,
now the time has come at last.

O how lovely, O how pure
is the perfect Child of heaven.
O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift to humankind.

Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a Child among us.
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us thy heav'nly peace. Alleluia.

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 9:2-7*

*CAROL *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* #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 the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
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.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!**

**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!**

READING

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* #38

**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 men,
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.**

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Let Our Gladness Know No End

Bohemian Carol

arr. Hermann Schroeder

Let our gladness know no end,
Hallelujah!
Unto earth did Christ descend,
Hallelujah!

On this day God gave us
Christ, His Son, to save us.

See the loveliest blooming Rose,
Hallelujah!
From the branch of Jesse grows,
Hallelujah!

Into flesh is made the Word,
Hallelujah!
'Tis our Refuge and our Lord,
Hallelujah!

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

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

READING

Luke 2:8-16

HOMILY *Home for Christmas* Bill Levering



CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #44

**O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above your 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 thy holy birth
And praises sing to God, the King,
And peace to men on earth.**

**How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is giv'n!
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 in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!**

PRAYERS

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE

I Wonder as I Wander

*CAROL *Silent Night* #60

*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.**



***CAROL** *Joy to the World* #40

**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**

Toccata For The Christmas Season

Lani Smith

Thanks to: Olivia Cox, cellist; Sarah Horaczek, flautist; Abby Norton Levering, violinist; Amy Selkirk, oboist; Gail Blinckmann, choir soloist; and the Chancel Choir for their participation in tonight's service.

The congregation is invited to Friendship Hall for refreshments following the service.

If you are visiting this evening, you are invited to make First Reformed your church home.

The Mission & Benevolence committee has designated this year's Christmas offering for: The First United Methodist Church's Soap and Toilet Paper Ministry.

After the service, please stop in the Dirck Romeyn Room to view the Chrismon tree which has been donated by Carolyn Jones-Assisi and Carol Welch in memory of Alice and Russell V Jones, Carolyn's parents, and Robert V. Shepherd and Anne Shepherd Wemple, Carol's parents and Susan Shepherd, Carol's sister.

The Chrismon ornaments are white and gold. You will see crosses, palms, fish, and the hand of God among other symbols of Christianity.

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

- Margaret (Peg) Shultes by her family
- Richard & Ruth Arthur, and P.J. & Edith Brownell by Dick & Judy Arthur
- David Bain by Audrey Bain & family
- Great Grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Marshall; Grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Chester S. Rice; Parents, Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin F. Bennett by Douglas M. and David S. Bennett
- Mrs. Helen Bogatka & Mrs. Emma Aumic by the Bogatka/Aumic family: Dave, Lorraine, Briana & Amanda
- Jean Kemp Bundy by the Bundy family
- Dorothy Clock by Bill Clock
- Jean C. Collins & David N. Collins by Bill Collins
- Robert Bruce Crandell by Janet Crandell
- Parents and siblings by Gay & Joe Doolittle
- Bill Dotter by his wife Elsie & children
- Warren D. & Ethel F. Barrett by their children, grandchildren, & great grandson
- Carlton W. Dyer by his wife, Janice B. Dyer
- Lorraine Ebeling by Scott Ebeling and Elyne Schulte
- Sylvia & Dolph Ebeling by Scott & Bev Ebeling, Dianne Schwartz, and family
- Rudolph & Therese Mahlberg, and Paul Erickson by the Erickson family
- William & Louise Stange & Sam Croce by Marlene Risseuw & the Erickson's
- The Gilbert & Gardner Families by Richard Gardner
- Loved ones by Dorothy Graham
- Loved ones by Cynthia Hamilton
- LeRoy Jewett by his family
- Tom & Viola Ruckman, Tom Ruckman Jr., and Ross & Hazel Marrs by the Kiesow & Tobin Families
- R. Ned Landon by his wife, Barbara
- Mr. & Mrs. S.D. Miner by their daughter, Barbara Landon
- Julie Lawton by Viki Brooks
- Mark McDermott by his wife, Gini
- Mary L. McCarty and John D. Willis, by Therese McCarty and Johnny Willis
- Richard McLane by his wife Beverly, his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren
- Linda & John Malgieri by Justine Ochal
- Dorothy & Edmund Sanderson by Neil & Sandy Moynihan
- Dr. Henry & Emily Nagamatsu by Nancy, Brian, Felicia and Tim
- Loved ones by Anne Peterson
- Our Parents by Ellie & Gene Rowland
- My husband, Carl by Sue Settle
- Eldon Springsted by his wife, Elaine
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Niles; Mr. & Mrs. Francis Swann; Florence B. Niles, Donald T. Armington and Virginia Christensen by Dale & Nancy Ellen Swann
- Donald Troost and Dena Van Heynigen by Carol, Deborah & Matt
- Earl Wainwright by Nancy, Jeff, Tim, Dori, Leanne, Jon, Nick, Tom and Katie
- Anne Shepherd Wemple, Robert V. Shepherd & Susan Shepherd by the Welch family
- Palmer V. Welch, Marian A. Welch, Mary C. Welch by the Welch family
- Glenn Winchester by his family
- Dr. & Mrs. Witkowski; Mr. & Mrs. Palilo, parents of Jack & Linda Witkowski
- Allen Wood by his wife and children
- Donald E. Craig, Elizabeth Craig, Corinne Craig; Eugene C. Zeltmann & Ruth Zeltmann by Susan & Eugene Zeltmann
- All past members by Group V



“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.”

— Edith Sitwell

“Home's where you go when you run out of homes.”

— John le Carré, *The Honourable Schoolboy*

“At the end of the day, it isn't where I came from. Maybe home is somewhere I'm going and never have been before.”

— Warsan Shire

“Home wasn't a set house, or a single town on a map. It was wherever the people who loved you were, whenever you were together. Not a place, but a moment, and then another, building on each other like bricks to create a solid shelter that you take with you for your entire life, wherever you may go.”

— Sarah Dessen, *What Happened to Goodbye*

“Perhaps home is not a place but simply an irrevocable condition.”

— James Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room*

“We leave something of ourselves behind when we leave a place, we stay there, even though we go away. And there are things in us that we can find again only by going back there.”

— Pascal Mercier, *Night Train to Lisbon*

“The ache for home lives in all of us. The safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.”

— Maya Angelou, *All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes*

“One never reaches home,' she said. 'But where paths that have an affinity for each other intersect, the whole world looks like home, for a time.’”

— Hermann Hesse, *Demian: Die Geschichte von Emil Sinclairs Jugend*

Fire Extinguishers are located:
behind the pulpit, in the front of Sanctuary the by the Christmas trees,
and in the Narthex on the bride's side