



# 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 2016**  
**8:30pm - Music of the Season**  
Julie Panke, Director of Music  
Avery Tunningley, Organist

*Gesu Bambino* Pietro A. Yon  
*Ave Maria* Franz Schubert  
*Prelude and Fugue in F major* J.S. Bach  
*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring/O, Holy Night* Eric Rath

***Carols and Lullabies of the Southwest***  
Conrad Susa

***O, Bethlehem*** Biscayan

Oh, my Bethlehem!  
Your beloved hour has arrived!  
The light you shine so unceasingly  
Is like a beacon that guides us  
On our way, night and day.  
Oh, my Bethlehem!

***In Frozen December*** Catalonian

In frozen December, our confusion vanishes.  
April is crowned with flowers,  
and all the world adores.  
For in this garden, love bears a divine flower.  
It's a beautiful rose, fruitful and fragrant.

The first Father made the dark night,  
So that sleep might calm our troubled eyes.  
But on this midnight, a sun shines without end.  
With its beautiful light, heaven itself falls in love.

May blooms here, though far away.  
A lily white and gentle, of rarest fragrance  
Which all the world will enjoy forever.  
All His Sweetness! The fragrance!—  
And our great good fortune!

***Alegria*** Puerto Rican

Walking slowly unto Bethlehem,  
Holy Mary and her husband,  
Traveling with them, though in secret,  
Is the Savior of all nations.

Refrain:  
Joy and pleasure!  
For the Virgin passes by us  
with her husband to Bethlehem.

When to Bethlehem they had travelled,  
They were searching for a haven.  
All the innkeepers refused them,  
Dressed so poor and heavy laden. (Refrain)

As they see Mary and Joseph,  
All the songbirds of the forest  
Serenade them with their singing;  
Precious gifts come from the poorest. (Refrain)

***A la Nanita Nana*** Spanish

A la nanita nana, nanita ea,  
Blessed be my child Jesus! Now you must sleep!  
Crystal fountain resounding clearly and brightly,  
Nightingale in the forest, weeping so sweetly,  
Hush! Now the child is sleeping, laid in a cradle.  
A la nanita nana, nanita ea bandito sea, nanita ea.

***There's a Fire in Bethlehem*** Castilian

There's a fire in Bethlehem,  
In the stable see the flames!  
For they say that born of a Virgin  
From heaven to earth He came!

Refrain:  
Fish in the river are glistening and dancing,  
Dancing and leaping to celebrate his birthday.

In Bethlehem's humble stable  
There's a lovely white carnation,  
It will grow into a purple Lily.  
Greet the Savior of the nations! (Refrain)

Virgin Mary, by the river  
Hangs the swaddling clothes of Jesus,  
All the birds around her are singing  
And the river flows rejoicing! (Refrain)

***Chiquirriquitin*** Andalucian

Refrain:  
In the manger! He is laid in a manger bed.

Follow us to the manger.  
Find them all through the doorway,  
There in the stable, Mary Joseph,  
and Jesus, their holy baby.

Ox and mule are His guardians  
sleeping beside Him,  
In the poorest of stables humbly abiding.

Christmas Eve 9pm, 2016  
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 Walton Family

ANTHEM *The Child of Mary*  
Trad. Catatlan, arr. Ellingboe

*Translation:*

What shall we bring to the boy of [the] Mary?  
What should we bring what would he like?  
Should we bring bread and a scale  
(we should bring),  
Should we bring figs and a sweet bread (we should  
bring).

Tam pa tan tam how the figs are green.  
Tam pa tan tam how the figs are ripe.  
What can we give to the Son of the Virgin?  
What can we give that will bring the babe joy?  
First, let us bring Him a basket of raisins  
Then we shall offer sweet figs to the boy.

Tam pa tan tam, Let us bring Him some raisins,  
Tam pa tan tam, Bring our gifts to the boy.

What should we bring to the son of Maria?  
What should we bring to the boy infant?  
Bread and figs, nuts and olives.  
Bread and figs and honey and milk.

What shall we give the beloved of Mary?  
What can we give to her beautiful child?  
Olives and raisins and figs and sweet honey,  
These we will bring and will make the boy smile!

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 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 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

*Good Christian Folk Rejoice/He is Born*

Eric Rath

\*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

*Angels Standing Before Us*

Bill Levering



**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 all 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*

*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.**

**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

*Noel On A Sicilian Carol*

Alexandre Guilmant



Thanks to Lydia Zotto, harp; Andrew Janack and Erin Eberhardt, marimba and vibraphone; Gail Blinckmann and Kate Rose, choir soloists; and the Chancel Choir for their participation in tonight's service.

The congregation is invited to Assembly 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 Mother of Mercy Hospice. Zambia. The staff, consistory, and congregation of the First Reformed Church wish for all people a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

The Chrismon Tree has been donated and decorated by Gay Doolittle and Carolyn Jones-Assini. More details about the tradition can be found in First Things and a brochure in the Dirk Romeyn room. It is given in remembrance of Carol Welch, who supplied the Chrismon Tree for so many years. Gay and Carolyn also want to honor two respective family members: Marjorie Doolittle and Russell Vernon Jones, who were both born on December 25th. They wish to also thank Tom Burgoyne, Gary Nelson and Karen Giuzio who helped transport and set it up.

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

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.

**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*
- *Julie Lawton by Vicki Brooks*
- *Jean Kemp Bundy by the Bundy family*
- *Robert Bruce Crandell by Janet Crandell*
- *Dorothy Davidson, Pauline Gaige, Donna Porter by Jeanette and Don Davidson*
- *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*
- *Rudolph & Therese Mahlberg, and Paul Erickson by the Erickson family*
- *William & Louise Stange & Sam Croce by Marlene Risseuw & the Erickson's*
- *Raymond and Marion Falconer, Donald and Lois Weidenfeller by their families*
- *Erin Falconer Cullen by Phil, Jane and Trevor Falconer*
- *In Honor of Jazz Vespers by Marjorie Geiger*
- *Loved ones by Cynthia Hamilton*
- *Tom & Viola Ruckman, Tom Ruckman Jr., and Ross & Hazel Marrs by the Kiesow & Tobin Families*
- *Mary L. McCarty and John D. Willis, by Therese McCarty and Johnny Willis*
- *Dorothy & Edmund Sanderson by Neil & Sandy Moynihan*
- *Dr. Henry & Emily Nagamatsu by Nancy, Brian, Felicia and Tim*
- *Loved ones by Anne Peterson*
- *In Memory of loved ones by Richard and Kate Rose*
- *In loving memory of Hans and Mary Stern by their children*
- *My husband, Carl by Sue Settle*
- *Eldon Springsted by his wife, Elaine*
- *Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Niles; Mr. & Donald T. Armington and Virginia Christensen by Dale & Nancy Ellen Swann*
- *Daniel J. Thuener by Wife, Vernetta and family*
- *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*
- *Carolyn Shepherd Welch by the Welch family*
- *Glenn Winchester by his family*
- *Donald E. Craig, Elizabeth Craig, Corinne Craig; Eugene C. Zeltmann & Ruth Zeltmann by Susan & Eugene Zeltmann*



*“Every angel is terrifying.” — Rainer Maria Rilke, Duino Elegies*

*“[Saint Anthony] said, in his solitude, he sometimes encountered devils who looked like angels, and other times he found angels who looked like devils. When asked how he could tell the difference, the saint said that you can only tell which is which by the way you feel after the creature has left your company.” — Elizabeth Gilbert, Eat, Pray, Love*

*“It's too cold outside for angels to fly.” — Ed Sheeran*

*“Ellie, you need to understand,” he said softly. “I exist only to serve you and fight by your side. Whether that fighting is to preserve your life or to make sure you smile, that is what I am built to do. You're all I have, and I will watch over you forever.” — Courtney Allison Moulton, Angelfire*

*“Poets are damned... but see with the eyes of angels.” — Allen Ginsberg*

*“Un-winged and naked, sorrow surrenders its crown to a throne called grace.” — Aberjhani, The River of Winged Dreams*

*“HOW ANGELS SLEEP. Unsoundly. They toss and turn, trying to understand the mystery of the living. They know so little about what it's like to fill a new prescription for glasses and suddenly see the world again, with a mixture of disappointment and gratitude ... Also, they don't dream. For this reason, they have one less thing to talk about. In a backward way, when they wake up they feel as if there is something they are forgetting to tell each other. There is disagreement among the angels as to whether this is a result of something vestigial, or whether it is the result of the empathy they feel for the Living, so powerful it sometimes makes them weep. In general, they fall into these two camps on the subject of dreams. Even among the angels, there is the sadness of division.” — Nicole Krauss, The History of Love*

*“Love is a dangerous angel.” — Francesca Lia Block, Weetzie Bat*

*“For truly we are all angels temporarily hiding as humans.” — Brian L. Weiss*

