



# 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.*

## Music of the Season

Corine Salon, Director of Music  
Avery Tunningley, Organist  
Lydia Zotto, Harpist

### **A Ceremony of Carols** Benjamin Britten

*A Ceremony of Carols was written by Benjamin Britten in 1942 during WW II while Britten was at sea, going from the United States to England. The text is in Middle English from The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems.*

#### **Procession**

Translation: Today Christ is born: Today the Savior appears: Today the angels sing on earth, and the Archangels rejoice. Today the just exult, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

#### **Wolcum Yole!**

Wolcum be thou hevenè king,  
Wolcum Yole! Wolcum born in one morning,  
Wolcum for whom we sall sing!

Wolcum be ye, Stevene and Jon, Wolcum,  
Innocentes everyone, Wolcum, Thomas marter one,  
Wolcum be ye good newe yere, o good newe yere,  
Wolcum, twelfthe day both in fere, Wolcum, seintes  
lefe and dere, Wolcum yole, wolcum!

Candelmesse, Quene of Bliss, Wolcum bothe to more  
and lesse. Wolcum be ye that are here, Wolcum alle  
and make good cheer! Wolcum alle another yere,  
Wolcum yole, Wolcum!

#### **There Is No Rose**

There is no rose of such vertu, As is the rose that bare  
Jesu. Alleluia! For in this rose containèd was Heaven  
and earth in litel space, Res miranda By that rose we  
may well see, There be one God in persons three,  
Pares forma

The aungels sungen the shepherds to: Gloria in  
excelsis Deo! Gaudeamus Leave we all this werldly  
mirth, and follow we this joyful birth. Transeamus!  
(let us go across from worldly to heavenly things),  
Alleluia, Res miranda (*marvelous thing!*), Pares forma  
(*of equal form*). Gaudeamus (*let us rejoice!*),  
Transeamus.

### **That Yonge Child** Marey Bailey, soloist

That yongë child when it gan weep With song she  
lulled him asleep: That was so sweet a melody It  
passèd alle minstrelsy. The nightingalë sang also: Her  
song is hoarse and nought thereto: Whoso attendeth to  
her song And leaveth the first then doth he wrong.

### **Balulalow** Lisa Backman, soloist

O my deare hert, young Jesu sweit, Prepare thy  
creddil in my spreit, And I sall rock thee to my hert,  
And never mair from thee depart. But I sall praise  
thee evermoir With sanges sweit unto thy gloir; The  
knees of my hert sall I bow, And sing that richt  
Balulalow

### **Interlude** Lydia Zotto, Harpist

### **Spring Carol** Kate Rose and Marjorie Rush

Pleasure it is to hear iwis, The Birdès sing, The deer  
in the dale, The sheep in the vale, The corn springing  
God's purvayance For sustenance. It is for man. Then  
we always to him give praise, And thank him than

### **This Little Babe**

This little Babe so few days old, Is come to rifle  
Satan's fold; All hell doth at his presence quake,  
Though he himself for cold do shake; For in his weak  
unarmèd wise the gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field, His naked  
breast stands for a shield; His battering shot are  
babish cries, His arrows looks of weeping eyes, His  
martial ensigns Cold and Need, and feeble Flesh his  
warrior's steed.

His camp is pitchèd in a stall, His bulwark but a  
broken wall; The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes;  
Of shepherds he his muster makes; And thus, as sure  
his foe to wound, The angels' trumps alarum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight; Sticks to the  
tents that he hath pight. Within his crib is surest  
ward; This little Babe will be thy guard. If thou wilt  
foil thy foes with joy, then flit not from this heavenly  
boy

### **Recessional**

### **Lo How a Rose e're Blooming** Michael Praetorius

Lo how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath  
sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, As those of old  
have sung. It came a flow'r-et bright, Amid the cold  
of winter. When half spent was the night.

Isaiah "twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, The Virgin Mother kind. To  
show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.

### **O Holy Night** Kate Rose, soloist Adolphe Adam Arr. McDonald and Wood

Christmas Eve 9pm ~ 2017  
Service of Worship

*\*congregation is invited to stand*

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!*

**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)*

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**  
*(Chorus)*

\*PRAYER (*unison*) Daniel Carlson

**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

Tom and Joan Lindsay

ANTHEM Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz

*On This Still and Silent Night* James Koerts

In manger bed he lies,  
The glorious King of Light,  
And all is calm as angels sing  
On this still and silent night.

The shepherds humbly kneel;  
How precious is the sight,  
And Mary cradles Heaven's heir  
On this still and silent night.

Beneath the stars so bright,  
Her songs of love and praise  
On this still and silent night,  
Holy night!

Salvation's joy has come,  
God's glory, our delight.  
And now new hope to us is giv'n  
On this still and silent night

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 9:2-7* Daniel Carlson

\*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*      Viki Brooks

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.**

## OFFERING

*This year's Christmas offering for the  
Working Group on Girls' "Girl Circles"  
activities and the "Boy's Day Out".*

OFFERTORY      Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz  
*Ave Maria*      Caccini/ Vavilov

\*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      Bill Levering

*O Holy Night*



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

PRAYERS

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE

*I Wonder as I Wander* John Jacob Niles

*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 let 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

Many thanks for their participation in tonight's service: Lydia Zotto, harpist; Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violinist; Palma Catravas rehearsal pianist; Mohawk Valley Chorus members: Al Cavallaro, Mary Anne Gauger, Cathy Roberts and Marjorie Rush; Kate Rose, Marey Bailey, Lisa Backman, choir soloists; and the Chancel Choir.

The congregation is invited to Dirck Romeyn room for refreshments following the service.

The First Reformed Church is a welcoming and affirming congregation. We invite you to make us your church home and wish you a joyous Christmas and all a peaceful New Year!

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 in the Narthex & in the front of the Sanctuary near the pulpit.

The ministers for tonight's service are the Reverend Drs. Viki Brooks, Daniel Carlson and Bill Levering.



**The sanctuary and chapel is adorned to the glory of God and in loving memory of:**

- *Margaret (Peg) Shultes by her family*
- *Our parents Alice & Russell Jones and Dr. Charles Assini by Drs. John & Carolyn Assini*
- *David Bain by Audrey Bain & family*
- *Dick Blackmer by his family*
- *Julie Lawton who loved Christmas by Vicki Brooks and John Lawton*
- *Dorothy Davidson, Donna Porter, George and Pauline Gaige 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, and great grandson*
- *Sylvia & Dolph Ebeling, Lorraine Ebeling and Elyne Shultes by Scott & Bev Ebeling and Dianne Schwartz*
- *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 Risseeuw & the Erickson family*
- *Janet R. Crandell and Bruce Crandell by their daughters Donna, Sandy and Linda Fentiman*
- *Janet Gardner and Gardner Families by Richard*
- *Merry Christmas by Marjorie Geiger*
- *Loved ones by Cynthia Hamilton*
- *Leroy Jewett by his family*
- *Scott 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*
- *Harold Lapham by his family*
- *Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Lovell Sr. and Mr. & Mrs. F. L. Cox by Joseph and Theo Lovell*
- *Neil W. Moynihan by Sandy Moynihan & family*
- *Dorothy & Edmund Sanderson by Neil & Sandy Moynihan*
- *Dr. Henry & Emily Nagamatsu by Nancy, Brian, Felicia and Tim*
- *Loved ones by Anne Peterson*
- *Loved ones by Richard and Kate Rose*
- *To honor our family by Ellie & Gene Rowland*
- *Dr. Alfred Tuttle and Louise Scholl Tuttle, Corine's parents*
- *Eldon Springsted by his wife, Elaine*
- *Daniel J. Thuener by his 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 and loved ones*



*“I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night.”*  
— Sarah Williams

*“The darker the night, the brighter the stars,  
The deeper the grief, the closer is God!”*  
— Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *Crime and Punishment*

*“The night is the hardest time to be alive and 4am knows  
all my secrets.”*  
— Poppy Z. Brite

*“Melancholy were the sounds on a winter's night.”*  
— Virginia Woolf

*“I love the silent hour of night,  
For blissful dreams may then arise,  
Revealing to my charmed sight  
What may not bless my waking eyes.”*  
— Anne Brontë, *Best Poems of the Brontë Sisters*

*“It was the possibility of darkness that made the  
day seem so bright.”*  
— Stephen King, *Wolves of the Calla*

*“On nights like this when the air is so clear, you end up  
saying things you ordinarily wouldn't. Without even noticing  
what you're doing, you open up your heart and just start  
talking to the person next to you—you talk as if you have no  
audience but the glittering stars, far overhead.”*  
— Banana Yoshimoto

*“Everything was an adventure, at night, when you were  
where you shouldn't be, even if it was somewhere you could  
go perfectly well in daylight, and it was then only ordinary.”*  
— Robin McKinley, *Pegasus*

*“We sat in the car & the night dropped  
down until the  
only sounds were  
the crickets &  
the dance of our voices  
& for a moment  
the world became  
small enough to  
roll back & forth between us.”*  
— Brian Andreas, *Hearing Voices*