



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
Wayne Hawkins, Organist
Lydia Zotto, Harpist

A Ceremony of Carols

Benjamin Britten

This work draws on Christmas tradition using Latin and texts from the Middle Ages

Procession

Borrowed from an ancient Latin chant from the Liturgy of Christmas Day

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!

Uses ancient text calling saints, martyrs, innocents to proclaim New Years

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

Likens Mary to a rose, wonders of the Nativity, Mystery of the Trinity

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.

Balulalow

Christine Walthers, soloist

Mary's humble, tender Lullaby to the baby Jesus

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 Rachel Rose, soloists

Thanking God for Spring after Winter

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

Shows God's preparations through Jesus's birth for battle with Satan

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

Rachel Rose, soloist

Christmas Eve 9pm ~ 2018
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*) Liam Battjes

**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
Gay & Joe Doolittle

ANTHEM Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin

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* Liam Battjes

*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* Abby Norton Levering

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 is for
The MoonCatcher Project*

OFFERTORY

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin

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

HARP 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

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*.

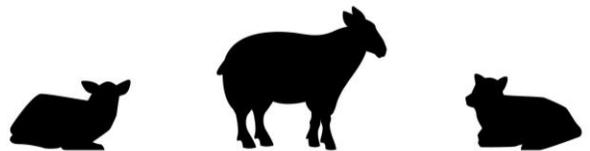
Many thanks for their participation in tonight's service: Guest Singers: Marjorie Rush, Mary Anne Gauger, Cathy Roberts.

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

- Margaret (Peg) Shultes by her family
- David Bain by Audrey Bain and family
- Dick Blackmer, provided by his family
- Julie Lawton with love by Vicki Brooks and John Lawton
- Our parents from Wayne & Amy Brule
- Jean Kemp Bundy, love the Bundy family
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Burgoyne from their family
- Timothy Burgoyne from his family
- Parents and siblings by Gay & Joe Doolittle
- Bill Dotter by his wife, Elsie & children
- Carlton W. Dyer by his wife, Janice B. Dyer
- Warren D. & Ethel F. Barrett by their children, grandchildren, and great grandson
- Rudolph & Therese Mahlberg, and Paul Erickson by the Erickson family
- William & Louise Stange and Sam Croce by Marlene Risseuw & the Erickson family
- Erin Falconer and our parents by the Falconer family
- Janet R. Crandell & 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 Ann & Joe Gotwals
- White-Hamilton families by Cynthia Hamilton
- Loved ones by the Hjelmar family
- Leroy Jewett by his family
- Scott Jewett by his family
- John T. Stuart from Sean Kent
- Ruth & Harry Kent from Sean Kent
- 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
- Mark McDermott by his wife, Gini
- Richard & Beverly McLane, by their children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren
- Margaret "Peg" Miller by Jim Miller
- Neil W. Moynihan by Sandy Moynihan and family
- Dorothy & Edmund Sanderson by Sandy Moynihan & family
- Our parents Dr. Henry & Emily Nagamatsu, from Nancy, Brian, & their families
- Loved ones by Anne Peterson
- The Cottrell family from Anne Putnam
- The Bolz-Putnam families from Anne Putnam
- Our parents from Richard and Kate Rose
- Eldon Springsted by his wife, Elaine
- Daniel J. Thuener by his wife, Vernetta and family
- Parents and Donald Troost from Carol and Deborah Troost
- Earl Wainwright by Nancy, Jeff, Tim, Dori, Leanne, Jon, Nick, Tom and Katie
- Ann Walraven by the Walraven family
- Anne Shepherd Wemple, Robert V. Shepherd and Susan Shepherd by the Welch family
- Carolyn Shepherd Welch by the Welch family
- Palmer V. Welch, Marian A. Welch, Mary C. Welch by the Welch family
- Glenn Winchester by his family and loved ones
- Eugene Zeltmann by Mary Zeltmann
- Donald E. Craig, Elizabeth Craig, Corinne Craig; Eugene C. Zeltmann and Ruth Zeltmann by their family
- Eugene W. Zeltmann from his family
- Hank Drisgula from Lian & Tom



“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*