



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
Lydia Zotto, Harp, Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz,
Leonid Polishchuk, Abby Norton Levering, Violins
Alexandra Carella Delfino, Cello

Traditional Carols

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee. O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring come and
cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee. O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations,
bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and discord cease,
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee. O Israel!

Coventry Carol

arr by Martin Shaw

Lully, Lulla, thou little tiny child, By by, lully lullay
O sisters too, How may we do For to preserve this day?
This poor youngling for whom we do sing
Bye-bye, lulle, lullay.

Herod the king, in his raging, Charged he hath this day
His men of might, In his own sight, All young children to slay

That woe is me, Poor child for thee! And ever morn and day,
For thy parting Neither say nor sing By by Lully lullay.
Lully, Lulla, thou little tiny child, By by, lully lullay

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

arr Charles Wood
16th Century French tune

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest and people sungen.
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

Away in a Manger

William Kirkpatrick
Christine Walthers, soloist

He is Born the Divine Christ Child

arr John Rutter
French Carol

Il est né le divin enfant, Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes;
Chantons tous son avènement. Depuis plus de quatre mille ans
Nous le promettaient les prophètes,
depuis plus de quatre mille ans
Nous attendions cet heureux temps.

Born on earth the divine Christ Child
Oboes rejoice with bagpipes vying
Born on earth the divine Christ Child,
Sing to welcome the Savior mild

Ah! Such beauty and charm adore! Ah!
Such perfection of grace undying!
Ah! Such beauty and charm adore!
Promised us in days of yore!

What Child is This

16th Century English Ballad

What Child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is Sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, hast to bring Him laud, the Babe,
the Son of Mary!*

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
(refrain)

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh;
come one and all to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

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.

Recession

A Ceremony of Carols

Benjamin Britten

Transition:

Today Christ is born; Today the Savior appears;
Today the angels sing on earth and the Archangels rejoice.
Today the just exult saying: Gloria to God in the Highest
Alleluia!

Oh Holy Night

Rachael Rose, soloist

Interlude

A Ceremony of Carols

Harp Solo
Benjamin Britten

**Christmas Eve 9pm ~ 2019
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

The Etkin Family

ANTHEM *Wexford Carol* arr Anna Laura Page

Good People all this Christmas time
consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done,
in sending his beloved Son.

With Mary holy we should pray
to God with love this Christmas day;
in Bethlehem upon that morn,
there was a blessed Messiah born.

The night before that happy tide,
the noble virgin and her guide,
were long time seeking up and down

to find a lodging in the town;
but mark how all things come to pass:
from every door repelled alas!
As long foretold their refuge all
was but a humble ox'e stall.

Near Bethlehem did the shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
to whom God's angels did appear
which put the shepherds in great fear.

"Prepare and go" the angels said,
"to Bethlehem be not afraid
for there you'll find, this happy morn,
a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind,
the shepherds went the babe to find,
and as God's angel had foretold,
they did our Savior Christ behold

Within a manger He was laid,
and by His side the virgin maid,
attending to the Lord of Life,
who came to earth to end all strife.

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* 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 Matogou Project.*

OFFERTORY

Saw You Never? 15th cent. 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.

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 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



*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;**

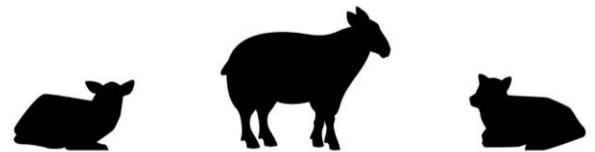
**While fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more 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



The congregation is invited to Covenant Hall 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 and in the front of the Sanctuary near the pulpit.

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

- Margaret (Peg) Shultes from her family*
- Alice and Russell Jones and Dr. Charles Assini, Parents of John and Carolyn Assini.*
- Dr. Charles Assini and Russell and Alice Jones by the Assini Family*
- David by Audrey Bain and Family*
- Dick Blackmer and given by his family.*
- Our parents from Wayne & Amy Brule*
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Burgoyne from their family*
- Timothy Burgoyne from his family*
- Our mothers, Ethel Slabaugh and Priscilla Carlson from Mary & Daniel Carlson*
- Parents and siblings by Gay & Joe Doolittle*
- William Dotter by his wife, Elsie & children*
- Sylvia & Dolph Ebeling, Lorraine Ebeling and Elyne Schulte by Scott Ebeling*
- Rudolph and Therese Mahlberg, and Paul Erickson, by the Erickson family*
- William and Louise Stange and Sam Croce by Marlene Risseeuw and the Erickson family*
- Erin Falconer, Raymond & Marion Falconer, Donald & Lois Weidenfeller from Phil, Jane & Trevor Falconer*
- Merry Christmas from Marjorie Geiger*
- Roy Hjelmar, Sidney White, and Elsie White by the Hjelmar Family*
- Scott Jewett by his family*
- LeRoy Jewett by his family*
- Harold Lapham from his family*
- My friend Brenda Spencer from Joan Lindsay*
- Robert Matz and Meg Kester by Mary Matz*
- Mark McDermott by his wife, Gini*
- Rev Margaret "Peg" Miller from her family*
- The Cottrell Family from Anne Putnam*
- The Bolz-Putnam Families from Anne Putnam*
- Frederic P and Florence Reimer from Florence Reed*
- Rick Reimer by Florence Reed*
- Robert E. Reed from Florence Reed and family*
- Our parents given by Richard & Kate Rose*
- To honor our family by Ellie & Gene Rowland*
- Hans and Mary Stern by their Children*
- Daniel J. Thuener by, Vernetta and family*
- Donald Troost from Carol, Deborah & Matt*
- Earle and Dena Van Heyningen by daughter Carol Troost*
- Claribel & Clarence H Linder Sr. from The Walraven Family*
- Ann Walraven from The Walraven Family*
- Carolyn Shepherd Welch by the Welch family*
- Anne Shepherd Wemple, Robert V. Shepherd and Susan Shepherd 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.*
- Gene Zeltmann from his family*
- Eugene Zeltmann from Mary Zeltmann*



“If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden.” — Frances Hodgson Burnett, The Secret Garden

“Some people see the glass half full. Others see it half empty. I see a glass that's twice as big as it needs to be.” — George Carlin

“Most misunderstandings in the world could be avoided if people would simply take the time to ask, “What else could this mean?” — Shannon L. Alder

“The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff. We are a way for the universe to know itself.” — Carl Sagan

“I will love the light for it shows me the way, yet I will endure the darkness for it shows me the stars.” — Og Mandino

“It is a narrow mind which cannot look at a subject from various points of view.” — George Eliot, Middlemarch

“It is the obvious which is so difficult to see most of the time. People say ‘It's as plain as the nose on your face.’ But how much of the nose on your face can you see, unless someone holds a mirror up to you?” — Isaac Asimov, I, Robot

“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!” — Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

“I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.” — Charles Dickens

*“Christmas, children, is not a date. It is a state of mind. ”
— Mary Ellen Chase*

“And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans--and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused--and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself.” — Sigrid Undset

“Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.” — G.K. Chesterton