

Christmas Eve 5 O'clock, 2011 Service

*Congregation Stands

Lessons and Carols

VOLUNTARY Charles Moose, organist
Suite on Provençal Noels Achille Philip

GREETING Stacey Midge

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

INTROIT *O Come All Ye Faithful*
Kirk Ringers

*CAROL #22

Angels from the Realms of Glory

**Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new born King!**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new born king!**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new born king!**

**All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new born king!**

*PRAYER (unison) Elizabeth Gallagher
**We come to worship and celebrate the birth
of Jesus Christ. As we join in the praises of
all creation, come among us, O God. Shine
your light into our darkness. Let your love
and joy shine through us this Christmas,
and through our whole lives. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Olivia Mancuso

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in a land of deep darkness-on them light has shined. We light this Christ candle in celebration of God entering our lives. In Jesus Christ was life, and that life was the light of all. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

LESSON *Isaiah 9:2-7*

Camila Grande

*CAROL #2 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

LESSON *Luke 2:1-7*

Heather Ipsen

Mary, Mary

Traditional
High School Choir

*CAROL #25 *Away in a Manger*

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down
His sweet head. The stars in the sky
looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus,
look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.**

LESSON *Luke 2:8-14* Olivia Cox

ANTHEM *Gloria in Excelsis* John Horman
High School Choir

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

**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 glad 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.**

LESSON *Luke 2:15-20* Nicole Van Oort

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

**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!**

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing, in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!
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 The,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
O come, Let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!**

LESSON *Matthew 2:1-12* Nicholas Blinckmann

MESSAGE Stacey Midge

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Pat-a-Pan* Traditional
Youth Orchestra

*CAROL #38 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

**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 wary 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 bards foretold, When with the ever circling years Comes round the age of gold; When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling, And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Stacey Midge

*CAROL #60 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

Please pass the flame of the candles by holding the lit candle upright and tilting the unlit one.

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.

*TOLLING

*CAROL #40 *Joy to the World*

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 *Ding Dong, Merrily on High*
(1991) Roy Brunner

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We would like to thank the many participants and helpers for tonight's service. You are also invited to our Christmas Day worship at 10am. Our Sunday 5pm Jazz Vespers will not be held until January 8.

If you are visiting this evening, you are invited to make First Reformed your church home. Please speak to one of the ministers if you are interested.

The Mission & Benevolence committee has designated the Schoharie Flood Victims as the beneficiary of this year's Christmas Offering.

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

-Margaret (Peg) Shultes from her family
-Our parents, Richard & Ruth Arthur; P.J. & Edith Brownell by Dick & Judy Arthur
-Mr. Russell V. Jones & Dr. Charles J. Assini by their Grand Children, Andrew, Cindy & Alicia Assini
-Grandpa Al Holland and Uncle Alan Attanasio by Emily Attanasio
-Loved Ones by Audrey & David Bain
-Parents-Emma & James Stepanian; brothers-James Stepanian, Jr. & Basil Stepanian; sister-in-law-Elaine Stepanian by Ronnie Bartholic
-Dick's parents by Roberta & Dick Blackmer
-Jean Kemp Bundy from the Bundy Family
-Robert Bruce Crandell by Janet Crandell
-Arthur & Alma Paulson; Julian & Luella D'Andrea by Tom & Linnea D'Andrea
-Mr. & Mrs. Bruno De Paoli, Sr.; Dr. & Mrs. James M. Neill by the family
-Parents and siblings by Gay & Joe Doolittle
-Bill Dotter by his wife Elsie Dotter & children
-Dr. G. Wesley Dunlap & Dr. Stanley L. Jones by Maude Dunlap
-Warren D. & Ethel F. Barrett by their children & grandchildren
-Carlton W. Dyer by his wife Janice B. Dyer
-Sylvia R. Ebeling by Dolph Ebeling
-Lorraine Ebeling by Scott Ebeling
-Rudolph & Therese Mahlberg by the Erickson Family
-William & Louise Stange by Marlene Risseuw & the Erickson's
-Raymond and Marion Falconer, Lois Weidenfeller by their families
-Our Parents & Dear Friends that we lost this year by Janet & Richard Gardner

-Melissa Lynne Greskovich from your loving mother Maria & siblings, Chad & Ann
-Charles D. Greskovich from your loving family
-Our parents, grandparents, sister, & brother by Joyce & Jerry Griggs
-Loved ones by Cynthia Hamilton
-Loved Ones by Joan & Peter Ipsen
-LeRoy Jewett by his family
-Our parents from Gini & Mark McDermott
-Richard McLane by his wife Beverly, his children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren
-Our son Stephen by Anne & Don Middleton
-Dorothy & Edmund Sanderson by Neil & Sandy Moynihan
-Our Children, Laurel Davis Jeffer & Michael John Ontkush by Peter & Diane Ontkush
-Loved ones, by Anne Peterson
-Lorraine Schulte Ebeling; Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Howard; Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Cope; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McNeil by Elyne Schulte
-Eldon Springsted by his wife Elaine
-Mr. & Mrs. Francis R. Swann; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E Niles; Florence B. Niles & Donald T. Armington by Dale & Nancy Ellen Swann
-Mills and Edith Ten Eyck from the family
-Our Parents Clarence & Sara Hollister Linder, Claribel Wescott Linder, Jacobus and Gesina Walraven and our brothers Jim Walraven & Fred Wescott by the Linder's and Walraven's
-Palmer V. Welch, Marian A. Welch, Mary C. Welch. Anne Shepherd Wemple, Robert V. Shepherd, & Susan Shepherd by the Welch family
-Loved ones by Glenn & Martha Winchester
-Donald E. Craig, Elizabeth Craig & Corinne Craig; Eugene C. Zeltmann & Ruth Zeltmann by Susan & Eugene Zeltmann

Keeping Christmas
Henry Van Dyke

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing . . .

- to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you;
- to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world;
- to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground;
- to see that men and women are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy;
- to own up to the fact that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life;
- to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness:

Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing . . .

- to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children;
- to remember the weakness and loneliness of people growing old;
- to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough;

- to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts;
- to try to understand what those who live in the same home with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you;
- to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;
- to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open—

Are you willing to do these things, even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

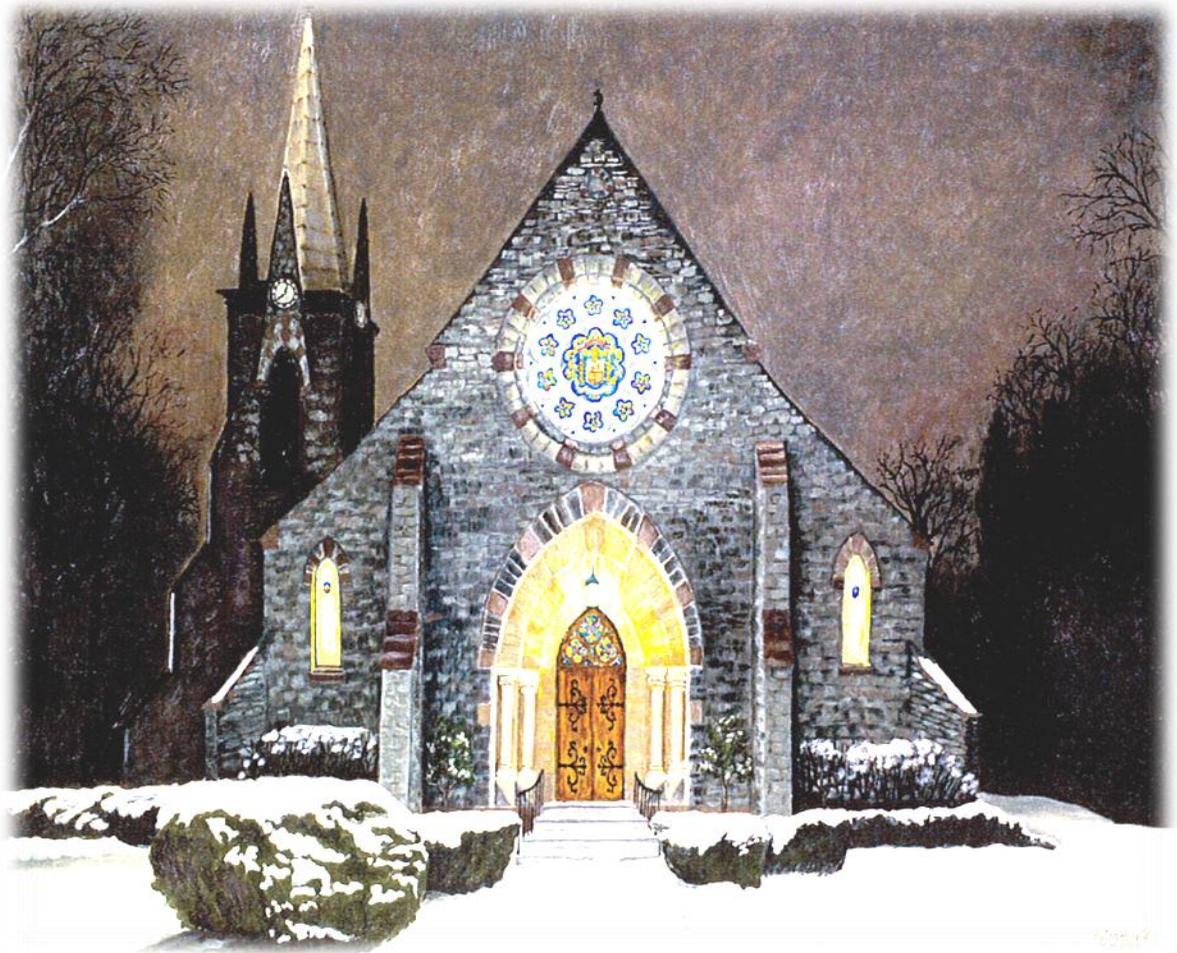
Are you willing . . .

- to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—
- stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—
- and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you can keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.



First Reformed Church

Schenectady, New York

5:00 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.*