

First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
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**December 24, 2014      Christmas Eve Year B**



ALL ARE WELCOME

*“Friend, you enter this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God.  
Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks upon your lips,  
and offer God today your love and your service.”*

(Adapted from a 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England)

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME AND PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

*Lighting of Advent Wreath*

*Libby Keller*

One: We light the candle of hope to remind us of God's promises.

**Many: Christ is our hope and our salvation.**

One: We light the candle of peace to remind us Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

**Many: Christ brings the peace of God to us with the Holy Spirit.**

One: We light the candle of joy to remind us that God gives joy to every heart!

**Many: As Mary rejoiced in the birth of Jesus – so do we!**

One: We light the candle of love to remind us that Jesus is God's gift of love.

**Many: Love never fails – it transforms all those who give it and receive it.**

One: We light the Christ candle to remind us that the light of the world was born this night.

**Many: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we approach this moment of joy, the light of new life is before us.

**All: The Christ Child lies in the center as shepherds gather from the fields of work.**

One: Wise ones are approaching with eyes fixed on the hovering star.

**All: The Celebration is Beginning!**

One: We too will gather round, from all the earth and every nation,

**All: sharing the hope of Christmas Day,**

One: within every race and culture – woman, man and child.

**All: Come let us worship God.**

## THE LITTLE PAGEANT

HYMN NO. 123

*"O Holy Night"*

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining

It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!

Long lay the world in sin and error pining

Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices

For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees; Oh hear the angel voices

Oh night divine; Oh night when Christ was born

Oh night divine; Oh night divine

HYMN NO. 124

*"Away in a Manger" (v. 1 & 2)*

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.

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.

HYMN NO. 125

*“Angels We Have Heard on High” (v. 1 & 2)*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;

Come adore on bended knee, God, our world now entering.

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

HYMN NO. 139

*“The First Noel”*

The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as  
they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night  
that was so deep.

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far, and to the  
earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o’er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it  
did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born in the King of Israel.**

(Children will return to their families at this time.)

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S LOVE**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive  
our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;**

**for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Just as God gave God’s Son as a precious gift to us, we are called to give  
generously to God’s work in this world.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy One, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, we seek to honor you with  
these monetary gifts. We know that everything in this world is a generous gift from  
you, O God, so we humbly return a generous portion of these gifts to you. We pray  
that these gifts may help this church to change people’s lives and to spread your  
message of salvation. In the name of the Babe lying in the manger, we pray. Amen.**

**WE ARE SENT OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE  
A LOVING, SERVING GOD**

CHRISTMAS LITANY – *Candle Lighting* (Welcome to the Light, written by Jennifer Phillips)

One: In a little town, known for nothing much, God's holy child was born.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: By the faint light of the moon, Mary and Joseph found their way.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: Shown by a courtyard fire, the open stable door.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: In the shadowy stable stall, Joseph kindled a lamp.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: There Mary gave birth to Jesus, called God-With-Us.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: Angels opened the doors of heaven, sang, "Glory to God in the heights!"

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: Shepherds saw the sky ablaze, left their sheep and came to see.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: In the darkest winter night, God set a brilliant star.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: Magi from the East divined God's shining sign.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

One: And on this Christmas night with joy, we greet the Child.

**All: Welcome the Light!**

HYMN NO. 134

*"Silent Night, Holy Night" (v. 1 & 2)*

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.

THE BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

THE POSTLUDE

Pageant Participants:

Quinn, Katie, Liah, Cindy, Matthew, Declan, MiKayla, Anna, MaKenna, Emily, Sarah, Kyle, John

Narrators:

Ella Simpson, Jaime Robinson, Malysa Deranian, Jen Robinson, Ashley Cox