



**Trinitarian Congregational Church
Concord, Massachusetts**

**Christmas Eve 2020
8:00 service**

*...and best of all, the Christmas carols are true.
(Ernest Cadman Colwell, 1901-1974)*

MUSIC

That Night in Bethlehem (Emily Kaplan, Bob and Sawyer Lawson)
Traditional Irish carol

WELCOME

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Congregation and organ)

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!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, 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!

Words: John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743), trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841
Music: John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743). Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CAROL

Angels We have Heard on High (Congregation and the Haring sisters)

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 heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo

French carol, trans. James Chadwick (1813-1882)
arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah foretells Christ's birth and Kingdom

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

MUSIC

Lo, How a Rose (Kathy and Pat Bentley)

Music: 16th c. German melody, arr. Peter Sykes, 2020

Words: 15th c. German carol; trans. Theodore Baker (1851-1934)

THE SECOND READING

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary

Luke 1: 26-25, 38

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Congregation and Molly Callahan)

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 fear of all the years are met in Thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868. Music: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

THE THIRD READING

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

Music

What Sweeter Music (Alden, Piper and Reilly Harring)

Words: Robert Herrick (1591-1674). Music: John Rutter

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Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868 Music: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

THE FOURTH READING

The shepherds go to the manger

Luke 2: 8-16

CAROL

The First Nowell (Congregation and Lucas Hickman)

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, 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.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

17th c. English carol

THE FIFTH READING

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Matthew 2: 1-11

CAROL

What Child Is This (Congregation and Marcia Macres)

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?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The king of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Music: English ballad, 16th c. Words: William C. Dix, c. 1865, alt.

THE SIXTH READING

St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation

John 1: 1-14

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Congregation and organ)

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!"

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840, arr. W. H. Cummings, 1855

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering (Carolyn Stein)

Music ***In the Bleak Midwinter*** (Audrey, Lena and Natalie Stein)

Words: Christina G. Rosetti, 1872; alt. Music: Gustav Holst, *The English Hymnal*, 1906

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Words of Remembrance

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

MUSIC ***Creator of the Stars of Night*** (Emily Roos)

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE
Christmas Prayer and Passing of the Light

CAROL ***Silent Night*** (Congregation with Bob and Sawyer Lawson)
Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heav'nly peace, sleep in heav'nly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glorious streams from heaven afar,
Heav'nly 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.

Word: Joseph Mohr, 1818, trans. John Freeman Young, 1863.
Music Franz Xavier Grüber, 181

BENEDICTION

MUSIC ***Silent Night*** (Emily Roos)

*Grant O Lord, that what we have heard with our ears and sung with our lips,
we may believe in our hearts and practice in our lives.
For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.
(Martin Luther, 1483-1546)*

Worship Leaders

Rev. Robert Brown, Senior Minister; Rev. Gail Miller, Minister for Congregational Life;
Victoria Wagner, Director of Music.

This year's Christmas offering will be sent to the Greater Boston Food Bank to further their goal of providing at least one nutritious meal a day for those in need. Each month they feed over 142,000 people in 190 cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts, including *Open Table Pantry* in Maynard. Donations can be made through our website, www.triconchurch.org.

<p>We invite you to join us for online worship every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. via zoom or Youtube. For more information about our church, please visit our website at www.triconchurch.org, or call the church office at 978-369-4837. You can also reach us via email: info@triconchurch.org.</p>
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A Merry and Blessed Christmas to You!