



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
34 South Main Street
Rochester NH 03867



December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve

(†) *The congregation is invited to stand as your able*
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Silent Prayer and Time for Centering

Love Came Down At Christmas

Arr. Philip Stopford

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Flautist Sharon Bove

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSION OF THE LIGHT

Alajandra Hernandez Parsell, Natalia Hernandez Parsell, and Charlotte Pyrich – Flute-trio

PRELUDE

Child of the Bells

Arr. by John Wilderman

GREENSLEEVES and CAROL OF THE BELLS, public domain; permission granted by composer for recording.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

In the darkness, stars shine.

In the cold of winter, a warmth rises.

In the silence, angels approach.

**In the mystery of this night,
your people gather, O God.**

Your Word is made flesh, and we come in humble awe.

Your grace unfolds among us,

**and we come to witness,
to worship, and to wonder. Alleluia!**

† CAROL (Verses, 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6) (Gavin Meehan - Trumpet)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words: John F. Wade, ca. 1743

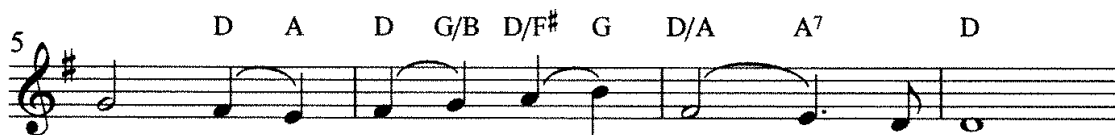
Trans.: Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

Music: John F. Wade, ca. 1743

Tune: *ADESTE FIDELIS*, Irr.



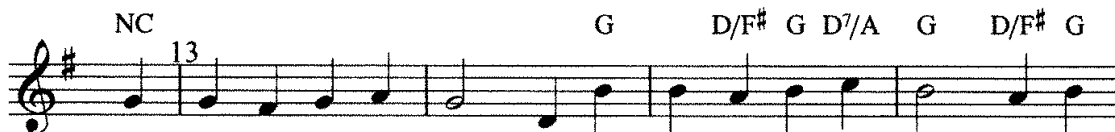
1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,___
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
4. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,___



- come ye, O come___ ye, to Beth - le - hem.
 lo, he___ shuns___ not the Vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven___ a - bove!
 leav - ing their flocks,___ draw___ nigh___ to gaze;



- Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 Glo - ry to God, all___ glo - ry in the high - est;
 we too will thith - er___ bend our joy - ful foot - steps;



- O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O



- come, let us a - dore him,___ Christ___ the Lord.

5. Child, for us sinners
 poor and in the manger,
 we would embrace thee
 with love and awe.
 Who would not love thee,
 loving us so dearly?
Refrain

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning,
 Jesus, to thee be
 all glory given.
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing:
Refrain

Latin: *Adeste, fideles,
 laeti triumphantes;
 venite, venite in Bethlehem.
 Natum videte
 Regem angelorum.
 Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
 venite adoremus, Dominum.*

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***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF CHRIST CANDLE**

We light these candles for those who need them most:

For all who need more hope.

For all who yearn for peace.

For all whose joy lies dormant.

For all who need the healing balm of love.

For all who need this Child of possibility.

Our question tonight,

as we gather at the scene of the Nativity, is this:

How do the messages of this Child

reverberate into our time,

our lives,

and our world?

What Child *is* this?

This, this, is Christ the King,

who reigns with hope, peace, joy,

and love, now and forever.

SUNG RESPONSE

This, this is Christ, the King,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:

Haste, haste to bring Him laud,

The Babe, the Son of Mary.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

What strangers are these that wander through the town?
Hush, 'tis Joseph and weary Mary.
And what does he seek so hopeless and in vain?
He is seeking shelter for Mary.
For she is the blest and chosen of the Lord,
 who will bear to us a goodly King.
And who is this King of whom ye proudly sing?
Know ye not the Christ, Jesus the Savior?


What wee child is this that in a manger lies?
Hush, 'tis Jesus Christ, Son of Mary.
Say what fair maid is this whose joy is mixed with awe?
O 'tis Mary, mother of Jesus.
O these are the shepherds and these the magi kings
who have brought him their gifts of gold and myrrh.
But why kneel in homage here before a babe?
They adore their King, Jesus the Savior.

Who are these that march from death into life?
These are they who love Jesus the Christ child.
And how do they triumph o'er the gates of hell?
Through the grace of him, Jesus the Savior.
He is born to redeem mankind from sin and strife,
 to bring peace, joy, love and brotherhood.
O where shall I find him? Where shall I seek?
He is here and now, Jesus your Savior.



*Words: Traditional Scottish carol, Public Domain: Music: Old Scottish folk song Public domain, Arr. by Dan Forrest
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(Sharon Bove – Flute; Patrick Meehan – Guitar)



230 O Little Town of Bethlehem





1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given;
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;


a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 so God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars to - geth - er, pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



WORDS: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868
 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
 86.86.76.86

Alt. tune: FOREST GREEN

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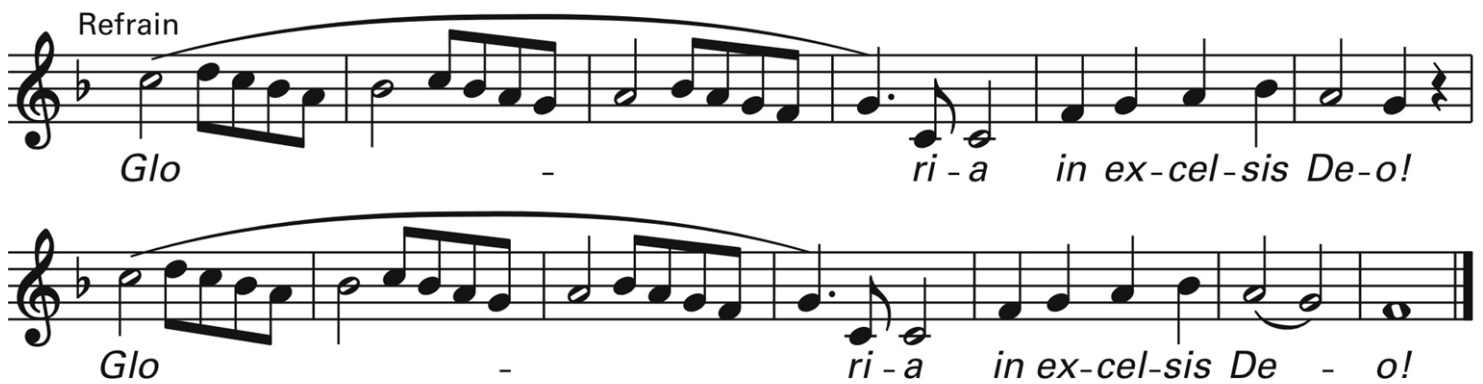
† GOSPEL LESSON: [Luke 2: 1-19](#)

(Pg. 832) **

PRESIDER: For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

† GLORIA PATRI



Text: 77 77 with refrain; trad. French carol, ca. 18th cent.; tr. fr. *Crown of Jesus Music, II*, London, 1862;
tr. by James Chadwick, 1813–1882, and others, alt. Music: Trad. French carol.

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SERMON: Ho-Soon Han

“What Child IS this?”
THE BABE”

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

† **CAROL** O Holy Night *P. Cappeau / Adolphe Adam*

Verse 1

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears 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; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Verse 2

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend

Verse 3

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us Praise His Holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim

Words: (1843) Placide Cappeau, Public Domain; Music: (1843) Adolphe Adam, Arr. J. S. Dwight, Public Domain.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(UMH p. 895)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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OFFERTORY MUSIC

Improvisation on “*What Child Is This?*” – Joel Lee

† DOXOLOGY

D Bm A A⁷ D/F# G D A⁷ D A⁷
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all

7 D G A⁷ D A⁷ D A⁷ Bm A A⁷
crea - tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye

12 D/F# G D A⁷ D A⁷ D G A⁷ D A⁷ D
heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

18 A⁷ D Bm F#m D G A⁷ D A
No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

22 Bm D/A G D A⁷/E D/F# D/A A⁷ D
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: Trad. English Carol

THE FIRST NOEL
Irr. with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain.

Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

† CANDLELIGHT CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

239

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight;
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant, so ten-der and mild,
nur das trau-te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold-er Kna-be mit lock - i - gem Haar,
 glo-ries stream from heav-en a-far, heav-en-ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!
 ra-diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young;
 st. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2:6-20)
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT
 Irr.

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*Benediction

Voluntary

Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist:

Donna Downes

Video and Sound Engineer

Brogan Meehan

Altar Flowers: Donated by the Congregation members to honor or remember family members.

Cover Art: From Worship Design Studio; Used with permission.

Special thanks to our guest musicians, Alejandra and Natalia Hernandez-Parsell, Charlotte Pyrich, Sharon Bove, Gavin and Patrick Meehan and Joel Lee. Our worship service is enriched by their gifts of music. THANK YOU and MERRY CHRISTMAS

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***Worship elements by Marcia McFee at *worship design studio.com*

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Looking Ahead

Readings for December 28, 2025

The First Sunday After Christmas Day

Isaiah 63:7-9 / Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18 / Matthew 2:13-23



First United Methodist Church

"Feed the Need"

Putting Our Faith into Motion

By Feeding the Body, Mind, and Soul

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