

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

3 Gray Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097

Organized in 1806



The First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021 ~ 9:30 a.m.

***Please rise in body or spirit.**

PRELUDE

CANDLELIGHTING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

LESSONS IN CAROLS *written by Rev Sara Brobst Bartlett, used with permission*

Announcement of the birth

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Reflection

Mary added to the scene

Hymn: "O Come, O Ye Faithful" #148

Words: John Francis Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

Music: John Francis Wade, 1743; desc. David Willcocks, 1961

**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 for our salvation, 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!*

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Reflection

Joseph added to the scene

Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel #119 (vs 1,2)

Words: Latin hymn (12th Century); st. 1-2 tr. John Mason Neale, 1851

Music: French melody (15th century); arr. And harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Day-Spring, 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!**

Going to Bethlehem

Scripture: Luke 2:1-5

Donkey added to the scene

Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #144

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868, alt. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

**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 shin-eth the ever-lasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

In the Manger

Scripture: Luke 2: 6,7

Reflection

Animals added to the scene

Hymn: "Away in a Manger" #147

Words: Anonymous (19th Century) Music: attr. James R. Murray, 1887; harm. LBW, 1978

**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.**

Jesus is Born

Scripture: John 1: 9-14

Reflection

Star/Lights added to the scene

Hymn: "What Child Is This" #162

Words: William C. Dix, c. 1865 Music: English melody (16th century)

**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.**

Rejoice!

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6

Reflection

Angels added to the scene

Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" #155

Words: Traditional French carol; tr. Crown of Jesus, 1862, alt.

Music: French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

Harm. Austin C. Lovelace, 1964, alt.; desc. Richard E. Gerig, 1956

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth.

Come, adore on bended knee, Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

**See within a manger laid, Christ, whom choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph,
lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Announcement from Angels to the Shepherds

Scripture: Luke 2:8-12

Reflection

Shepherds added to the scene

Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" #150

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William H. Cummings, 1856; desc. Paul Liljestr nd

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!

Reception of New Members Laurie and Odie Bachelder

Sacrament of Baptism Emery and Avery Bachelder, Alyssa Jacobs

The Arrival of the Magi

Scripture: Mathew 2:1-12

Reflection

Magi are added to the scene

Hymn: "The First Noel" #151

Words: Traditional English carol (17th Century)

Music: Traditional English melody; desc. Healey Willan, 1926

Magi are added to the scene

**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 o'er the place where Jesus lay.**

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel!

**Then entered in those Wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.**

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel!

**Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

**Dedication of the Offering Going to Egypt*

Reflection:

Hymn: "I am the Light of the World" #469

Words: Jim Strathdee, 1969, in response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

Music: Jim Strathdee

Chorus

***“I am the Light of the World!
You people come and follow me!”
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.***

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the magi and the shepherds have found their way home,
The work of Christmas is begun!**

Chorus

**To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal that broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below the sky above!**

Chorus

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Jesus is added to the scene

Benediction: “Go Tell it on the Mountain” #167

Words: African-American spiritual; adapt. John W. Work, Jr., 1907

Music: African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, 1986

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold,
throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

GO IN PEACE:

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Lessons in Hymns written by Rev Sara Bartlett, used with permission.

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Nancy J. White

Administrative Assistant: Lyn Glassock

*Organist: Peter Dickson**

Organist: Linda Lambrides

Choir Director: David Myers, Jr.

Sexton: Mark R.H. Heath

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Maine Conference Website: www.maineucc.org

YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://www.youtube.com/c/nyccucc)

Due to the Corona Virus-Covid-19, this service was held in-person and live streamed on YouTube with all CDC protocols in place.

If you are not receiving church emails and would like to, please send an email to nyarmouthcucc@gmail.com asking to be added to the list. Like the NYCC FB page and you will be notified of what is happening there, too!

Offering can also be made online through Tithely at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1301940>