

FIRST PARISH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)

176 West High St., P.O. Box 228, Somersworth, NH 03878

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An Open & Affirming Congregation

Bette Daley, Organist/Choir Director

A Christmas Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Prelude

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent and Christmas Candles

Congregation on the Pulpit Side: This is the last time this year we will light the Advent candles.

(the four candles are re-lit)

Congregation on the Choir Side: For four weeks the candles have been burning as we thought about hope, peace, joy and love. These are the gifts which Jesus brought to us that first Christmas long ago, and offers to us today. The waiting is over and Jesus is born.

Congregation on the Pulpit Side: Each week another candle glowed, and our wreath shone more brightly. Tonight we light our white candle, the candle which represents Jesus. It is at the center of our wreath, just a Jesus is at the center of our lives. Happy Birthday, Jesus!

(They light the Christ candle together.)

(All) Prayer: God, our hearts sing with joy and praise because of Jesus. At this happy season, we rejoice that Jesus came among us. By his birth and life, he has shown us that we are your people and that we are greatly loved. Help us to remember Christmas all year long by giving to others the gifts of life: hope, peace, joy, love, kindness and understanding. Amen!

Carol: *Joy to the World* No. 143

THE FIRST LESSON AND CAROL Isaiah 9.2, 6-7 Sharon Sirois
(The People Who Have Walked in Darkness)

Carol: *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* No. 150
1

The Second Lesson and Carol Mikah 5:2-5a Dave Hamel
(From Bethlehem Shall Come Forth a Ruler)

Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* No. 144

The Third Lesson and Carol Luke 2:1-7 Robin Hamel
(The Birth of Jesus)

Carol: *Away in a Manger* No. 147

The Fourth Lesson and Carol Luke 2:8-14 Gerri Cannon
(The Shepherds and the Angels)

Carol: *Angels We Have Heard on High* No. 155

The Fifth Lesson and Carol John 1:1-5, 14-18 Rich Whitten
(The Mystery of the Incarnation, the Word Became Flesh)

Carol: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* No. 148

Reflection "Because, Love"

The Offering of our Gifts

The Offertory

*Presentation of our Offering and Doxology (during Advent) No. 119

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel! *(Tune: Veni Emmanuel)*

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Merciful and gracious God, of whose bounty we have all received, accept this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given. Follow it with your blessing so that it may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance the realm of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. *(from The New Century Hymnal© 1995 The Pilgrim Press. Permission is granted for this one-time use.)*

The Candle-Lighting We welcome the Light of Christ in the world!

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A Carol Welcoming Christ's Light and Peace *Silent Night, Holy Night* No. 145

Benediction

Postlude

*The members of First Parish United Church of Christ, Somersworth
wish you and yours the joy of Christmas
- the deep love of God for us, God-with-Us –
Emmanuel.*

Priscilla Chellis

*Priscilla Chellis
The Richard Jutras Family
Eleanore L. Janetos and Family
The Anderson Family
Michael and Sharon Sirois
Michael and Sharon Sirois
John and Carol Cummings
Rachel and Gregg Fournier*

Robin and Dean Martin

*Keith and Sherie Dinger
Keith and Sherie Dinger*

*Eric & Carrie Hall, Scott & Kattie,
and our grandson, Wyatt Hall
In memory of Fred Chellis with love from
Priscilla, Eric, Christina, Geoff, Jon, Lizzie and
little Fred
In honor of Fred Chellis III
In memory of loved ones
In memory of Lewis E and William L. Janetos
In memory of Timothy Anderson
In memory of Shelby & Michelle Sirois
In honor of our Mothers
In memory of loved ones
In memory of Alan Fletcher and
Arthur Freegard
In memory of Robin's dad, Jared R.A. Gray, Jr
And our son Jamie Burdick
In memory of Jacob and Alta Dinger
In memory of Ray and Ginny Harmon*

Christmas Flowers

*Ken and Kathy Latchaw
Don and Pat Whitten
Ken and Deb Hall*

*In memory of loved ones
In memory of loved ones
In honor of our sons and their wives:*