

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Wednesday, December 24, 2008 – 6 PM Service

A Thought as the Service Begins:

*You must give birth to your images.
They are the future to be born.
Fear not the strangeness you feel.
The future must enter you
long before it happens.
Just wait for the birth,
for the hour of new clarity.*

(Improvisation by unknown author on a passage from *Letters to a Young Poet*, Rainer Maria Rilke)

(We ask that you turn off the ringers on your cell phones, beepers and electronic devices. Please join us in a time of quiet during the prelude.)

Prelude Go Tell It On The Mountain (Spiritual) Dave Hill
In Dulce Jubilo (J.S. Bach)

Call to Worship Gloria (Jacques Berthier)
Children's Choir

Welcome Jim Moisson, Worship Leader

Chalice Lighting Dina Samfield

*Hymn O Come All Ye Faithful

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.

Lo, humble shepherds, Hasting to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks in the fields, draw near.
We, too, with gladness, thither bend our footsteps,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God in the highest,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Reading from the Gospel of Luke The Deenik-Oehler family

*Hymn Do You Hear What I Hear

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
do you see what I see
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
do you see what I see
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite,
With a tail as big as a kite

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
do you hear what I hear
A song, a song, high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea,
With a voice as big as the sea.

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
do you know what I know
In your palace warm, mighty king,
do you know what I know
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold
Let us bring Him silver and gold,
Let us bring Him silver and gold.

A Story for the Child in Us All This is the Stable
by Cynthia Cotton, illustrated by Delana Bettoli

Anthem Peace On Earth (Lui Collins) Children's Choir

*Hymn What Child is This?

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.

