

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF GROTON

Thursday, December 24, 2009 – 6 PM Service

A Thought as the Service Begins:

And it came to pass in those days (as it is always coming to pass, on any ordinary day, in any ordinary place), that the days were accomplished that a child should be born. And this child's name would be called a thousand beautiful names, every word there is for gladness, every word there is for love, every word there is for peace. Libbie Stoddard

Enough.
These few words are enough.
If not these words, this breath.
If not this breath, this sitting here.

This opening to the life
we have refused
again and again
until now.
Until now. (David Whyte)

(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.)

Pre-Prelude Go Tell It On The Mountain (Spiritual) Dave Hill

Prelude In Dulce Jubilo (J.S. Bach)

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

Welcome Jim Moisson, Worship Leader

Chalice Lighting Rebecca Sandy

***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,
with words by Libbie Stoddard
read by the Tessier-Clay Family: Colleen, Todd,
Trent and Jacob

***Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High**

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 these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing:
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

A Story for the Child in Us All Pippin the Christmas Rabbit
adapted from Jean Little
Liz Davis-Chaffin, Rev. Elea Kemler

Anthem The Little Drummer Boy
(Simeone, Davis, Onorati) 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.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh;
Come peasant, king to own Him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The mother sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Reflections The Turning Open of Each Life Rev. Elea Kemler

Offertory Of the Father's Love Begotten (arr. David Lasky)

(Tonight's offering is for the Caring Committee, which supports needs within the congregation and helps strangers and friends who come to our doors, as well as for outreach giving for local charitable organizations working to end hunger, poverty and violence in our larger community.)

Candle Lighting Ceremony Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly 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.

Benediction

Postlude O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam)

Ring of the Church Bells

Rebecca Pike, First Parish Bell Ringer

***Please stand as you are able.**

Large print bulletins and assisted listening devices are available from the ushers. If you don't wish to keep your bulletin, please place it one of the recycle baskets at the sanctuary exits.

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Join us downstairs for cookies and cider immediately following the service. Caroling will take place from 7:15-7:45 pm in the large room beneath us. All are welcome!

Greeters: Marge and David Kimpton,
 Jenny, Abbie and Caleb Clark

Ushers: Suzanne Nelson, Owen Shuman and Matt Shuman

Light Bearers: Youth of First Parish Church: Hannah Tellier,
 Sam Tellier, Brayden Woods, Abbie Clark

Fellowship Hosts: Nancy LaFosse, Rich Suval,
 Kira and Jared LaFosse-Baker

Special thanks this evening to soloist David Hill; and to Jeff Close and Tim Svarczkopf for fire safety.

