



# Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Serving Christ and Community since 1754  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
The Reverend Amelia Edson  
Settled Pastor & Teacher



## Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Make Room

7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE  
LESSONS & CAROLS

December 24, 2023



**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

*Welcome! If you would like more information about our community, please fill out a blue visitor card. Throughout the order of worship, if the print is in bold, words may be spoken in unison.*

**PRELUDE**

“Mary Had a Baby”

American Spiritual,  
arr. William Averitt  
Bach-Gounod  
Alfred Burt

“Ave Maria”

“The Star Carol”

Mary Carol Kennedy, flute; Jan Stover, organ

**\*PROCESSIONAL  
CAROL**

“Once in Royal David’s City”  
v.1 Kristen Tripp, solo

No. 165, v. 2,3,4

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** “Light of Hope”

Joel Raney  
(words adapted)

**CHORAL INTRODUCTION**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Tonight we celebrate the birth that forever changed the world

**All: O come, O come, Emmanuel**

One: Because Christ came to us, we have experienced the ultimate hope that combats ever the darkest moments

**All: O come, O Come, Emmanuel**

One: Because Christ came to us we have seen the face of peace in its purest form

**All: O Come, O come Emmanuel**

One: Because Christ came to us, we have heard the tidings of great joy to all the earth

**All: O come, O come Emmanuel**

One: Tonight we celebrate God's birth that unleashes hope, peace, joy and love into the world

**All: O come, O Come Emmanuel**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**CONGREGATIONAL SUNG RESPONSE**

See screen

*Christmas Poinsettias  
In Memory and Honor of Our  
Loved Ones*



*Poinsettias*

*December 2023*

*Falmouth Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Falmouth, Maine*

# *In Loving Memory of:*

*Beloved Family Members  
From Ken and Cathy Bowden*

*Dell & Eddie Schmalz  
From Katie Howison*

*Darryl Collins  
Barbara Jones  
From the Collins Family*

*Charles & Emma Grubb  
From Their Family*

*Our Parents  
Nancy & David Althaus*

*Carolyn Wiles  
Winnie Drowns  
Pamela Carroll  
Ruth Norton  
From David & Phoebe Horne*

*Our Moms, Dolores Greenlaw  
and Anita Mathieu  
From The Mathieu's*

*Charles & Elizabeth Cousins  
Ron & Patricia Myers  
From Paul & Melissa Cousins*

*William G. Russell  
From Joan Russell*

*Harriet Wright  
James & Joyce Donegan  
From Kathleen, Bill and  
James Henderson*

*Charles L. Grubb, Jr.  
Heather May Grubb  
From Their Family*

*Florence & Harvey McCann  
From their Family*

*Robbie E. Coleman  
From his Family*

*Gladys & Everett Coleman  
Harvey & Dorothea McCann  
Myrtle & Edward Winslow  
From Jeaneen Coleman*

*Ted & Drummie Frost  
Jack & Ginny Davis  
From Laurie & Jack Davis*

*Jon & Jane Barton  
Emagene & Heinz Wiesener  
From the Hendry Family*

*Ralph & Nancy Harper  
Charlotte & Clifford Sinnett  
From The Sinnett Family*



*Beatrice Hardy  
Ona Jenkins  
From Jennifer Major*

*Charles H. Grubb, Jr.  
From his Family  
Florence M. McCann  
From her Family*

*Cliff & Gerry (Mom & Dad) Ashley  
From Joan Ashley*

*Our Parents: Howard & Ruth Crosby  
and Ken & Julie Jacobs  
From Tom & Judy Crosby*

*Loved Ones  
From Beth Stouder & Bill Nugent*

*Our Parents  
From Jo & Joe Blinick*

## ***In Honor of:***

*Benjamin, Anna, Bethany, David, Jackson & Micah  
From Nancy & David Althaus*

*Our Family  
From David & Phoebe Horne*

*Bee O'Brien  
From Carol Kauffman*

*Ken & Marcia Bushnell  
From Ken and Cathy Bowden*



## *The Legend of the Poinsettia*

*There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together, it goes like this:*

*There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up.*

*'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him, will make Jesus Happy."*

*Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.*

*The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.*

*Wishing You and Yours a Blessed Christmas!*

<b>*CAROL</b>	“O Come, All Ye Faithful”	No. 148, v.1,2
<b>THE FIRST READING</b>	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	Laurie Davis
<b>*CAROL</b>	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	No. 144, v.1,3
<b>THE SECOND READING</b>	Luke 2:1-7	Bill Nugent
<b>ANTHEM</b>	“He Is Born” Chancel Choir	arr. Dave & Jean Perry
<b>THE THIRD READING</b>	Luke 2:8-16	Marilee Beinema
<b>*CAROL</b>	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	No. 155, v.1,3
<b>THE FOURTH READING</b>	Matthew 1:18-23	Steve Hendry
<b>VOCAL SOLO</b>	“Breath of Heaven” Alicia Johnson	Amy Grant & Chris Eaton
<b>HOMILY</b>		
<b>*CAROL</b>	“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”	No. 167, v.1,3
<b>THE FIFTH READING</b>	John 1:1-14	Virginia Eddy
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	“Ding Dong Merrily! He Is Born!” Mary Carol Kennedy, flute; Jan Stover, organ	Anna Laura Page
<b>*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY (tune: “Old 100<sup>th</sup>”)</b>	<b>God’s love has come at Christmastime God’s love in Jesus brightly shines God’s Spirit love is on the move Our gifts are blessed and shared in love.</b>	
<b>FLUTE SOLO</b>	“Night of Silence” Mary Carol Kennedy, flute	Daniel Kantor



**\*CAROL** "Silent Night, Holy Night" No. 145, v.1-4  
*As the carol is sung the light of Christ will be passed throughout the congregation.*

**\*CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

**\*DEPART IN JOY AND SONG** "Joy to the World" No. 143, v.1-3

† Musical material is presented under CCLI License #11176026

\* *Please stand in body or spirit.*



**Thank you to our worship participants**

Presiding: Rev. Amelia Edson  
Minister of Music: Jan Stover  
Minister of Children & Families: Lydia Hoffman  
Ushers: Larry Perry, Bill Nugent, Sue Stouder, Linda McGill  
Advent Candle Lighters: Sue Stouder and Joan Buehler  
Online Worship: Virginia Eddy, Tom Stegemann, Jack Gervais



As a community of the people of God, we minister to all of God's creation, affirming that we are made one in Christ. The love of Christ for each person knows no bounds. We welcome all people regardless of race, age, marital standing, gender, economic status, mental and emotional abilities into the full life and ministry of this community of faith.