



*Jesus*  
*is born*

*For unto you is born...a Saviour;  
which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11*

Falmouth Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
**Lessons, Carols and Candlelight Service**



8:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2017

**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

**MEDITATION**

*Like other truths, the Word made flesh can speak both to comfort and strengthen,  
and also to warn of the danger of disregarding what is true and just.*

**PRELUDE**

***Special Music Selections***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather this night to celebrate the Savior's birth.

**All: O come, all ye faithful!**

One: We gather as the holy family gathered in Bethlehem.

**All: O come, all ye faithful!**

One: We gather as the shepherds came from the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

**All: O come, all ye faithful!**

One: We gather to celebrate as faithful Christian saints have done for centuries.

**All: O come, all ye faithful!**

One: We gather with people around the world to worship the newborn Messiah.

**All: O come, all ye faithful!**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Reader: Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.

Reader: O God, now we light the candle of Your nativity!

Reader: With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, You come to us. This is the time of light and resplendent joy.

Reader: The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light would shine and a child would be born to us. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, "Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!" John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God's glory—full of grace and truth. At Christ's nativity, we now rejoice.

**All: God, our Life and Light, thank You for coming this night to us. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with Your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine with Your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine with Your grace. Amen.**

Unison

Shine on us O God of jus - tice; Guide our path through  
 gloom of night; Bear with-in us Wis - dom's glo - ry  
 Come to us, O Christ the light. Glo-ry be to God and  
 peace on earth Christ is born! Al - le - lu - ia!

**A BIDDING PRAYER**

Pastor Michael

**OUR LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)**

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.

**\*CAROL**

***"O Come, All Ye Faithful"***

**No. 148, vs. 1,3,4**

**THE FIRST READING**

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

**Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

**CAROL**

***"Angels We Have Heard on High"***

**No. 155, vs. 1,2,4**

**SECOND READING**

The prophet Micah foretells the Glory of little Bethlehem

**Micah 5:2-5a**

**CAROL**

***"O Little Town of Bethlehem"***

***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 street shineth the everlasting Light;  
 The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

***For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above  
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
 O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.  
 Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.***



## CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

*(As the carol is sung the ushers will come to receive the light of Christ and pass it among the congregation. Please tip the unlit candle to receive the light and then hold your candle straight and your neighbor tips their candle to receive the light from you. Parents please assist your children carefully. Candles are to be extinguished at the end of "Silent Night." Thank you.)*

### \*CAROL

#### **"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.***

### A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*(All candles should be extinguished at this time. Thank you.)*

### \*DEPART IN JOY AND SONG

#### **"Joy to the World"**

**No. 143**

### POSTLUDE

#### **"Joy to the World"**

G.H. Handel/  
David Cherwein

*(Let us go forth into the night in joy and celebration, safety and peace!)*

### (\* Please rise in body or spirit

Throughout the order of worship, if the print is in **bold**, words may be spoken (or sung if appropriate) together in unison.

### Worship Participants

**Greeter:** Virginia Eddy

**Ushers:** Paul Davis, Mark Horton, Peggy Horton

**Advent Readers:** Michel Kanyambo, Mimi Mahirwe

**Nursery:** We welcome your little ones to attend the evening service

**Visitors** are invited to sign the guest book located by the church entrance. Welcome bags are also located at either entrance for you to take. If you would like to receive a Pastoral visit or receive a copy of the church's newsletter please let us know.

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The **church office will be closed** Monday, December 25 thru Monday, January 1, 2018. The office will resume regular office hours on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

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In case of an emergency, you may contact Pastor Michael by leaving him a confidential voicemail at 781.3413, ext. 101. The Office Manager will be monitoring the other office voicemail lines.

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To those of you who donated poinsettias, you may take home your poinsettia plant(s) tonight.



*We would like to thank our talented Chancel Choir members and the following musicians who performed special music selections for us this evening:*

*Kristen Coleman  
Jessica Collins  
Marilee Pillsbury  
Ann Sanborn  
Ruth Smith  
Bob Stakel*



*We are especially grateful for Doris Krueger, our Minister of Music, whose talents and generosity of time are a blessing to us all.*

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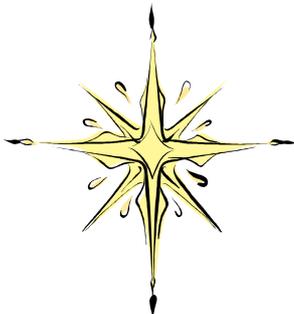
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*The Staff of Falmouth Congregational Church UCC wishes you and yours  
a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.*