

A painting of a shepherd with a staff and a bright star in the sky. The shepherd is depicted from the chest up, wearing a red tunic and a blue shawl. He has a green beard and a red headband. He holds a long, dark staff that curves upwards. In the background, a bright yellow star shines in a blue sky, with a white halo around the shepherd's head. The overall style is soft and painterly.

Love

was
born
at

Christmas

**Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**
An Open and Affirming Congregation
Christmas Eve Family Service

5:00 PM

December 24, 2017

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

MEDITATION

May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! Psalms 72:11

HONORING OUR CALL TO BE PEACEMAKERS

*Passing the Peace of Christ

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

(As a sign of our reconciliation with God and one another, we invite you to turn and greet those around you sharing the peace of Christ. "The Peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you.")

PRELUDE

"Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella"

French Carol

"Deck the Halls"

Olivia Henderson - Soloist

BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

A CHRISTMAS WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (see insert)

The Coleman Family

UNISON PRAYER

Welcome Jesus, welcome to Bethlehem. We have loved and fought and longed for the peace the world can never give. We ask for your peace. We ask for your love. Show us how to live life with gentleness and kindness towards others. Give us the courage to live your commandments of love. Amen.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WITH INTERPRETATIONS AND HYMNS

SCENE ONE

Kids In Present Day

SCENE TWO

Mary, Joseph and the Angels

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-4, 14

Aiden Hendry

***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:*

*Refrain:
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 new-born King. [Refrain]*

CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

One: Lift up your voices and sing

All: For this is a holy night.

One: Light many candles and hold them high

All: For this is a holy night.

One: Listen for the flutter of angel wings

All: On this most holy night.

One: Open your hearts to the lost and poor

All: On this most holy night.

One: Wipe away every tear

All: On this most holy night.

One: Open your eyes to the starry sky

All: On this most holy night.

One: Ready your heart for the child of God

All: Coming on this most holy night.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

SCENE THREE

Kids in Modern Day Time

SCENE FOUR

Wise Men

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-2

Ethan Hendry

***HYMN**

"Do You Hear What I Hear"

N. Regney/G. Shayne Baker

*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 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*

*Said the king to the people everywhere,
Listen to what I say
Pray for peace, people everywhere!
Listen to what I say
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light*

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

**The Invitation
The Offertory**

“The First Noel”

Jessica Collins, Kristen Coleman and Ruth Smith

SCENE FIVE

Kids in Modern Day Time

SCENE SIX

Jesus is Born

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:6

Natalie Murray

***HYMN**

“O Holy Night”

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope--the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees!
O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!*

CANDLELIGHTING 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.)

HYMN

“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.*

SCENE SEVEN

Kids in Modern Day Times

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Pastor Michael

***HYMN**

"Joy to the World"

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.*

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

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

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Pastor Michael Richards

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

G.H. Handel/D. Cherwein

(*) Please rise in body or spirit

Throughout the order of worship, if print is in **bold**, words may be spoken together in unison.



Worship Participants

Greeters: Steve & Kim Hendry

Ushers: Rodney & Anne Coleman, John Boothby, Steve Hendry

Advent Readers: The Coleman Family



Our thanks for the many children and families who participated in tonight's service. We are especially grateful for Kristen Coleman, Christian Education Administrator for all of her hard work and vision in bringing this intergenerational family service to fruition.

THE CAST

Kid 1: Audrey Murray

Kid 2: Sydney Shibben

Mary: Haley Barrett

Joseph: Camden Shibben

Angel Gabriel: Kailyn Walker

Angel 1: Olivia Henderson

Angel 2: Caroline Pond

Angel 3: Emily Pond

Wise Man 1: Finn Cameron

Wise Man 2: Kaleb Barrett

Wise Man 3: Brendon Walker



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



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