

THE MEMORIES THAT TOUCH US,  
THE MOMENTS THAT WARM US,  
THE GOD WHO LOVES US...

# Christmas

SHINES ITS  
*miracle*  
IN OUR  
*hearts.*

*When they saw him, they worshipped him.*

MATTHEW 28:17

**Falmouth Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

*Christmas Eve Family Service*

5:00 PM

December 24, 2018

**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

**MEDITATION**

*Because we are reticent to be quiet, we often miss the voice of God.*

**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**

***"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"***  
a cappella soloist

Olivia Henderson

**BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**A CHRISTMAS WELCOME**

**Pastor Michael**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Rebecca, Ryan, Sydney, and Jojo Gibbons

**see insert**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 2:1-2**

Adeline Ziobro

***In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.'***

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WITH INTERPRETATIONS AND HYMNS**

**PAGEANT SCENE ONE: Mary and the Angel Gabriel**

**\*HYMN**

***"O Little Town of Bethlehem"***  
kids sing Vs. 1 all join in on 2<sup>nd</sup>

**No. 144**

*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 streets shineth, the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts, the joys of highest heaven.  
No ear may hear Christ's coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.*

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCE**

**“Hallelujah”**

Adeline Ziobro/piano solo

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Galatians 4:4-5**

**Natalie Murray**

***But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.***

**PAGEANT SCENE TWO**

**Wisemen**

**\*HYMN**

**“We Three Kings”**

**No. 172**

*We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder star  
O Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy Perfect Light  
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign  
O Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to Thy perfect light*

**Group Prayer**

**Older Children**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**1 Timothy 1:15-17**

**Natalie Murray**

***The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.***

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**THE INVITATION**

**THE OFFERTORY**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“The First Noel”**

**Youth Group**

*The First Noel, the Angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel*

*They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!*

### **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***

**unison**

*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.*

#### **PAGEANT SCENE THREE**

#### **The Nativity**

#### **\*HYMN**

#### ***"O Holy Night"***

**unison**

*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!*

**BENEDICTION**

**A CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

**Pastor Michael**

**POSTLUDE**

**“Joy to the World”**

**No. 143 vs. 1,2,3**

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

*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.*



**Worship Participants**

**Greeters:** Sam Davidson, Edie and John Boothby  
**Ushers:** Paul Davis, Steve Hendry, Mark and Peggy Horton  
**Advent Readers:** Rebecca, Ryan, Sydney and Jojo Gibbons



*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**

Mary: Caroline Pond	Angel 4: Sydney Gibbons	
Joseph: Brendon Walker	Donkey: Milo Davis	
Wiseman 1: Camden Shibem	Sheep: Josh Pond	Sheep:
Wiseman 2: Aaron White	Josie Gibbons	
Angel Gabriel 1: Kailyn Walker	Horse: Beatrice Davis	
Angel Gabriel 2: Olivia Henderson	Sydney Shibem	Adeline Zi-
Angel 1: Avery Henderson	obro	Audrey Murray
Angel 2: Emily Pond	Natalie Murray	
Angel 3: Alice White		

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**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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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 **Church Office will be closed** Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 though Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The office will resume regular office hours on Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

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**Mark your calendars!** The Ministry of Community Life meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, has been rescheduled to Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM. All are welcome.

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Hospitality Table: Beginning in January, the hospitality table will only be available following worship service on the first Sunday of the month and on special Sundays. Coffee Fellowship will continue weekly following the worship service.

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Please put on your calendar and plan to attend the **Annual Meeting and Lunch** on January 27, 2019, 11:30 AM in Beinema Hall.



**Church Office Hours this Week**  
**Monday and Thursday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM,**  
**Closed on Christmas, Wednesday and Friday**  
**Church Phone: 207.781.3413**

**Visit our Web site:** [www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org)  
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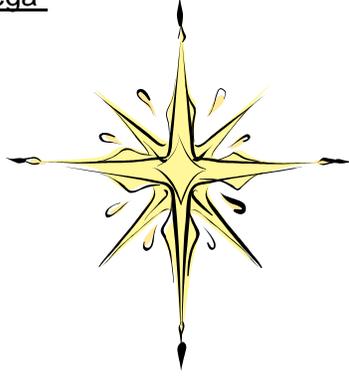
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*The staff of Falmouth Congregational Church UCC wishes you and yours  
a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.*