

# **First Congregational Church of Lyme**

**1 Sterling City Road, Lyme, CT 06371  
860-434-0220**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
December 24, 2020**



# First Congregational Church of Lyme

Rev. Susan K. Olson, Pastor  
Emily Bjornberg, Lay Minister  
Rev. Eileen Sypher, Organist

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24, 2020 ~ 5 PM

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles: Anna Bjornberg and Selam Olson, acolytes

\*Hymn: "Once in Royal David's City"

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
2. Christ came down to earth from heaven, love incarnate for us all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew, he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he feels for all our sadness and he shares in all our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child who seemed so helpless lives and reigns in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

\*Call to Worship:

Selam Olson

L: Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life.  
The promise is fulfilled.

**P: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

L: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

**P: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

The candles tell the story. Dawn invades midnight.

The Light of the world has come.

**P: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

This light is a light for all, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God in human flesh, within us and among us now and always.

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace. Goodwill to all.**

Carol "O, Come All Ye Faithful"

1. 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;

*Refrain:* O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (*Refrain*)

Lighting of the Advent Candles and Christ Candle

The Bjornberg Family

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Ryann Montesanto

“Christmas Story”

Emily Bjornberg

Carol “Away in a Manger”

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Scripture Lesson: John 1:1-18

Sermon

Rev. Susan Olson

\*Carol “*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*”

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

*Refrain:* *Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the God head see; hail the incarnate Deity, please in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. (*Refrain*)

Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Emily Bjornberg

Carol “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*”

1. 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.

2. 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.

The Distribution of the Light:

*Please light a candle at home and let it be visible in your Zoom screen. If you'd like to pass the light to others in your family, please do so. Remember, when passing candlelight, only the unlit candle should be tilted. Remember to thoroughly extinguish your candle at the end of the service, and place it in a fireproof location while it cools. While we aren't able to physically pass the light from neighbor to neighbor this year, please know that we are doing so with our intentions and our hearts, sharing the Good News of Christ's arrival into our world.*

\*Candlelight Carol "*Silent Night, Holy Night*"

*(Please extinguish your candles at the end of the hymn)*

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night, shepherd quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven a far, heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the savior is born!
3. 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.

Extinguish candles

\*Carol: "*Joy to the World*"

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.
2. 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.
3. 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.

\*Benediction



### **Children's Pageant Participants**

Mary: Anna Bjornberg

Gabriel: Courtney Santiago

Joseph: Elliot Bjornberg

Shepherds: Graham Sterling, Mason Swain and Charlie Swain

Angels: Ryann Montesanto and Mabel Sterling

Magi, Eliana Cicchello, Malcom Cicchello and Selam Olson

Animals: May (the cow), Rosie and Daisy (the donkeys), Cow #21, Lily and Laurel (goats), Fifi and Sam (sheep) and Flika (donkey)

### **Announcements**

Offering: While we can't collect an offering during the service, we welcome offerings mailed to our church address:

1 Sterling City Road, Lyme, CT 06371

### **Thank you!**

Thank you to the many church members and friends that have helped to organize this service during unique and challenging times. We are especially thankful to:

Maria and John Nihoul and George House for decorating the sanctuary and the church yard.

Maria Nihoul, Jacqueline Jaffe and Selam Olson for creating the luminaries.

The Olson family and the Bjornberg family for managing zoom technology during the service.

Connie Hurtt for creating the bulletin and managing a million details during this quarantine.

Eileen Sypher for pre-recording the organ music and sharing the harpsichord music during the service.

