

Service Notes...

Welcome to worship! We hope that you will find our service inspiring and that some of the spirit of the season will remain with you all throughout Christmas Day and into the new year ahead. To keep up with all we have going on, follow us on Facebook and Instagram or email Rev. Jeff at jgallagher@ucctolland.org to be added to our weekly email list. Merry Christmas and thanks again for joining us tonight!

Masks are optional for all attendees, though we encourage you to wear a mask while singing. Grace Condos & family will light the Christ Candle this evening.

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey M. Gallagher, *Senior Pastor*
Allan Conway, *Minister of Music*
Keri Condos, *Director of Communication and Technology*
Kristen Gallagher, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Teresa Green, *Director, Tolland Green Learning Center*
Rev. Donald G. Miller, *Pastor Emeritus*
Rev. Hannah Howe, *Pastor Emerita*
Rev. Dr. Robert J. Wright, Jr., *Pastor Emeritus*

“Silent Night, Holy 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 host sings 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.

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United Church of Christ

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CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2022

8:00 P.M.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME

PRELUDE “A Trio of Carols” Paul Manz

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: You must have heard the angels’ song. You must have seen the shepherds quaking and raced alongside to see what was happening.

Many: It has been a long Advent journey. We have wondered and wandered and now we hope that this is the night we’ve been journeying towards.

One: Well, you have made it. Welcome, to the city of David—welcome to Bethlehem. We have good news of great joy to share with you!

Many: Then the star, the angels: could it be? Is it all true?

One: It is true! Jesus is born, wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

Many: Glory to God, all glory in the highest! Christmas is here!

One: O Come, all ye faithful. Come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord is born!

*CAROL “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

red #132

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Can you imagine the shepherd’s surprise . . . will light our way to the Christ child’s side. *(The four Advent candles are lit.)*

One: People of God, your waiting in darkness is over! The light of God’s promise has dawned. Even now Christ the child, Christ the savior, seeks entrance into our hearts. *(The Christ candle is lit.)*

One: Let us pray:

Many: God of joy, fill our hearts with the light of your promise. Enter our lives as softly and quietly as a child so we might learn to love you in simplicity and purity of heart. Come into our hearts with power and compassion, that we might always draw strength from your abiding presence in our lives. Thank you holy God, for this gift of all gifts on this night of all nights. Amen.

ANTHEM “Glory to God in the Highest”

Mark Hayes

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: Filling the Manger

SOLO “O Holy Night”

(Susie Lotreck)

Adolphe Adam

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL LESSON: The Gospel of Luke 2:1-20

NT P.58

MEDITATION “December 25, 1729”

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey M. Gallagher

*CAROL “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

red #120

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

OFFERTORY “What Sweeter Music”

John Rutter

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS “In the Bleak Midwinter vs.4”

red #128

What can I give him, Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what can I give him—Give him my heart.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS

INTRODUCTION

*CAROL “Joy to the World”

red #130

THE ACT OF CANDLELIGHTING

The Deacons will take their light from the Christ candle during the singing of “Joy to the World” and recess outdoors. At the conclusion of the carol, worshipers are invited to proceed outdoors to the front lawn. Candle lighters will be spread out across the lawn. Please keep moving onto the Green and light your candle from anyone whose candle is lit (please note: the unlit candle should be tipped to light from the lit candle). You may also exit by the side doors. We will sing “Silent Night” and hear words of benediction before extinguishing our candles and taking the love of the Christ Child into the world.

*CAROL “Silent Night, Holy Night”

insert

*The congregation may stand.

Our worship has ended; now let our service begin!