



*Christmas Eve*  
*5:00 p.m.*

*First Presbyterian Church of East Hampton*

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

*The Nativity of the Lord – 5:00 p.m.*

### WE GATHER IN THE DARKNESS

#### Chimes and Processional

#### Welcome

#### Prelude

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

*Stella Brecker*

### GOD PROMISES LIGHT

#### \*Call to Worship – The Light Looked Down from Heaven

Pastor: Light looked down and saw darkness.

People: "I WILL GO THERE," SAID LIGHT.

Pastor: Peace looked down and saw war.

People: "I WILL GO THERE," SAID PEACE.

Pastor: Love looked down and saw hatred.

People: "I WILL GO THERE," SAID LOVE.

Pastor: So the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love

People: CAME DOWN AND CREPT IN BESIDE US.

#### \*Opening Prayer (*Robert Louis Stevenson*)

#### Lighting the Christ Candle

Josh, Summer, Coral, Sandra & Theodore Borsack

Response: Hymn 9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel;  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

#### \*Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs 1, 3)

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! O come, let us adore Him;  
O come let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! O come, let us adore Him;  
O come let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

### THE TRUE LIGHT IS BORN AMONG US

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-7 -- *Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

#### Solo

"Gesù Bambino"

*Suzanne Nicoletti*

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:8-16 -- *The shepherds go to the manger.*

*\*indicates: those who are able, please stand*

**\*Carol**

"What Child Is This" (vs 1,3)

*Greensleeves*

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

**Litany for the Holy Child**

*(based on The Book of God by Walter Wangerin)*

Mary and Joseph were married while the child God had promised them began to grow in her womb.

**Is the baby ok?**

Caesar decreed that all the people go back to the city of their birth in order to be enrolled and taxed.

**Is the baby ok?**

Mary rode slowly toward Bethlehem, exhausted by the travel.

**Is the baby ok?**

Joseph led the donkey over rough, stony roads, struggling to keep his wife comfortable on the difficult trip.

**Is the baby ok?**

Mary and Joseph came through the city gates at dusk.

**Is the baby ok?**

Her weary face was moist from exertion. "It's time, Joseph," Mary said.

**Is the baby ok?**

Fighting panic, Joseph lifted the wooden bar of a gate leading to a cave.

**Is the baby ok?**

He drew the donkey in and moved toward several food troughs carved into the stone at the back.

**Is the baby ok?**

Joseph kicked together a huge pile of clean straw as an exhausted Mary slowly started to slide off the donkey.

**Is the baby ok?**

Joseph caught his wife and gently laid her on the straw.

**Is the baby ok?**

Suddenly with a tiny sound, then another growing louder, Mary's baby was born in the straw.

**Is the baby ok?**

The baby kicked and wrinkled his face and began to cry.

**Is the baby ok?**

Mary opened small strips of cloth and began to wrap them around her baby.

**Is the baby ok?**

The strips were tight enough to assure the baby that he was still held secure, loose enough to allow him to live and breathe on his own.

**Is the baby ok?**

Mary and Joseph smiled at each other, their faces full of relief and delight.

**Is the baby ok?**

Yes, the baby is more than ok. The baby is Jesus.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Trio**

“A Child Is Born”

*Ada Rovatti, Peter Martin Weiss, Jane Hastay*

**Cloth for the Cradle**

*Chorus: Cloth for the cradle, cradle for the child,  
The child for your every joy and sorrow;  
Find him a shawl that's woven by us all  
O welcome the Lord of each tomorrow.*

Darkness and light and all that's known by sight,  
Silence and echo fading,  
Weave into one a welcome for the Son,  
Set earth its own maker serenading. *Chorus*

Hungry and poor, the sick and the unsure,  
Wealthy whose needs are stranger,  
Weave into one a welcome for the Son,  
Leave excess and want beneath the manger. *Chorus*

Claimant and queen, wage earners in between,  
Trader and traveling preacher,  
Weave into one a welcome for the Son,  
Whose word brings new life to every creature. *Chorus*

Wrinkled or fair, carefree or full of care,  
Searchers of all the ages,  
Weave into one a welcome for the Son,  
The savior of shepherds and of sages. *Chorus*

**THE LIGHT IS REFLECTED**

**Offertory Invitation**

**Offertory**

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

*Chancel Choir & Saxophone*

**Prayer of Dedication**

\* **Lighting of the Candles**      *(Please tip unlit candle to receive the flame from the lighted candle.)*

\* **Carol Medley (1st verses)**

***"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"***

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven's all-gracious King":  
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

***"The First Nowell"***

The first Nowell the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

***"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"***

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

***"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.

\* **The Candles are Extinguished**      *(When you leave, please place candles in baskets at the doors.)*

**WE CARRY THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD**

\* **Closing Prayer**

\* **Carol**      "Joy to the World!" (vs 1, 4)

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.

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

\* **Benediction**

**Postlude**

"Wexford Carol"

*Chancel Choir & Handbells*

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**Participating:** The Rev. Scot McCachren, Pastor; Jane Hastay, Music Director; Josh, Summer, Coral, Sandra & Theodore Borsack, wreath lighting; Gabrielle Miller, lay reader; Chancel Choir; Stella Brecker, violin; Suzanne Nicoletti, vocalist; Ada Rovatti, saxophone; Peter Martin Weiss, bass; Nicholas Cooper, Linda McCachren, Joan Osborne, bells; Karen, Megan & Kerri McCaffrey, Donna Nichols, Regina Foley and Debbie Mansir, ushers.

**Flowers** are given in memory of Harriet and John Boettger, “remembering Christmas’s past! – with love, from your daughter.”

**Poinsettias** today are offered to the glory of God and are in memory or honor of those notated on the insert to this bulletin.

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