

PRELUDE *The Shepherds at the Manger* Franz Liszt  
*Away in a Manger* AWAY IN A MANGER  
*Gesu Bambino* Pietro Yon  
 The First Church Brass Quintet

## WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING The Reynolds Family

One: Throughout the season of Advent, we have watched and waited for Christ's coming, remembering that God has promised salvation to all who follow the path of faith.

**All: Our prayers and spiritual preparation have brought us to this time and place. Now our redemption draws even nearer!**

[The congregation will pause to allow time for candle lighting.]

## UNISON PRAYER

**For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Creator, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. Amen!**

RESPONSE (HYMN 128, v. 5) *One Candle Is Lit* CRADLE SONG  
 Come, listen, the sounds of God with us ring clear,  
 and signs of a cross in the distance appear.  
 The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.  
 One candle is lit for the Christ birthday here.  
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## †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning, there was the Word.

**All: The Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

One: In the Word was life,

**All: And that life was humanity's light.**

One: And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us;

**All: We saw the glory of the Word — filled with grace and truth. Let us rejoice in the Word!**

†HYMN 148 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

## †OPENING PRAYER

**God, our guiding light, you have come into the world as truth and wisdom. You challenge us to have faith in you and to find you in the world around us. Open our eyes and our ears and our hearts to recognize your ongoing movement in our midst — beckoning, sending, lighting the way to peace and justice. Amen.**

## PASTORAL PREAMBLE

Rev. Fredd

## WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM: A CHRISTMAS STORY

Mary and Joseph  
 Carol 144 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, v. 1 & 2 ST. LOUIS

The Animals  
 Carol 162 *What Child Is This*, v. 1 & 2 GREENSLEEVES

The Angels  
 Carol 150 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, v.1 & 2 MENDELSSOHN

The Shepherds  
 Carol 167 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*, v. 1-3 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

The Wise Ones  
 Carol 172 *We Three Kings*, v. 1 & 5 KINGS OF ORIENT

Conclusion  
 Carol 155 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Christmastime Is Here* Vince Guaraldi

†RESPONSE (HYMN 134) *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* MCGEE  
**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.** Used with permission from CCLI, License 4720828

## †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**With these gifts, O God, accept the grateful praise of our hearts. We rejoice in your goodness and your love. May our gifts point to your presence in the world. May our offerings serve as symbols of your desire for goodwill among all people through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.**

†WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

†RESPONSIVE LITANY

One: We light the Christ candle! We rejoice as God's people! The light has come into the world!

[The congregation will pause for candle lighting and circulation.

When everyone has received the light, a carol is sung.]

†HYMN 145

*Silent Night*

STILLE NACHT

**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.**

**All: This great light lives among us. By this light we behold God's glory full of grace and truth. At the birth of Jesus, we now rejoice. Creator God, thank you for coming to us this day. Thank you for touching all heaven and earth with goodness. In every corner of the world -- in every corner of our being -- shine with your hope, peace, joy, and love.**

One: John declared that this great light is Christ -- the Word made flesh.

**All: This is an evening of love and light. O God, you come to us with the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy!**

†HYMN 143

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

†SENDING SENTENCES

One: In the beginning, the Word; the Word was present with God, and the Word was God. Through the Word all things came into being. In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light – a light that shines eternally.

**All: We go forth now to witness to the Light, to the Word, to the Glory of God dwelling in us. We go forth to live in grace and truth!**

POSTLUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729*

J. S. Bach

Tonight, the First Church Brass Quintet consists of:  
Eric Tunkel, first trumpet; Mason Layda, second trumpet; Alicia Rainwater, horn;  
Chris Schrock, trombone; David Winer, tuba

First Church of Christ Congregational  
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(860) 233-9605, [www.whfirstchurch.org](http://www.whfirstchurch.org)

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† Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.