

# CHRISTMAS EVE

SONG, WORD, LIGHT



**THE FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN**

*An Open and Welcoming Church*

**Sunday, December 24, 2022 ❖ 5 p.m.**

# SONG

*\*All are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

<b>PRELUDE</b>	Chorale Prelude on "In Dulci Jubilo"	Dietrich Buxtehude
	Noels	Claude d'Aquin and Claude Balbastre
	Ding Dong Merrily on High	David Lasky
	Paean on 'Joy to the World'	David Lasky

## \*CAROL SING

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (v.1-3)

**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 angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
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,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

**3.** Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings,  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

"What Child Is This" (v.1-2)

**1.** 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!

**2.** So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
come, rich and poor, 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!

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear” (v.1-2)

1. 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 men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

3. Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

WELCOME

Rev. Nate Klug

OPENING WORDS

From “Amazing Peace,” Maya Angelou

One: It is the Glad Season. Hope is born again in the faces of children.

All: *It rides on the shoulders of our aged, as they walk into their sunsets.*

One: In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.

All: *At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.*

One: We listen carefully, as it gathers strength.

All: *We hear a sweetness. The word is Peace.*

\*PASSING THE PEACE

*All are invited to greet those around them with a sign of peace.*

\*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;  
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  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of our God,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!

## WORD

**TIME FOR ALL AGES**

Rev. Kit Novotny

**\*CAROL**

“The First Nowell” (v.1-2)

1. The first Nowell, the angel 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.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

2. 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.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

**READING**

The Prophecy

From Isaiah 9

Joey Kelly

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE**

The Kelly Family

**\*CAROL**

“Away in a Manger” (v.1-2)

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright 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 you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

**READING**

The Birth

From Luke 2

Zoe Carey

**\*CAROL**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (v.1-2)

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.  
 And praises ring: from God they bring  
 Good will to all on earth.

**READING**

The Shepherds and the Angels

From Luke 2

Charlotte Graves and Natalia Brook

**\*CAROL**

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (v.1-3)

1. Angels we have heard on high  
 Sweetly singing o'er the plain  
 And the mountains in reply  
 Echoing their joyous strain  
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
 Why your joyous strains prolong?  
 What the gladsome tidings be?  
 Which inspire your heavenly songs?  
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
 Christ Whose birth the angels sing;  
 Come, adore on bended knee,  
 Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Alice DeNormandie

*The entirety of this evening's offering will benefit the Waltham Alliance for Teaching, Community Organizing, and Housing. WATCH is known for its advocacy around housing and empowering underrepresented residents through civic engagement and education.*

**OFFERTORY**

“What Child is This”

Vince Guaraldi

Michael Carey, flute

**READING**

“Making the House Ready for the Lord”

Mary Oliver

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but  
 still nothing is as shining as it should be  
 for you. Under the sink, for example, is an  
 uproar of mice—it is the season of their  
 many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves  
 and through the walls the squirrels  
 have gnawed their ragged entrances but it is the season  
 when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And  
 the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard

while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;  
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling  
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly  
up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will  
come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,  
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know  
that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,  
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

**REFLECTION**

“Come In”

Rev. Nate Klug

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“A Child is Born”

Thad Jones, music  
Alec Wilder, lyrics  
Michael Carey, saxophone  
Jessica Cooper, voice

## LIGHT

**CAROL AND PASSING OF THE LIGHT**

“Silent Night”

*Please remain seated as ushers pass the light.*

**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  
Shepherds quake, at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
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.

**MEDITATION ON THE LIGHT**

Sarah Klockowski

**\*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 earth! 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.

**\*A CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

The Ministers

“The Work of Christmas” by Howard Thurman

**POSTLUDE**

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach

Variations on Christmas Carols



*We are an open and welcoming community church formed in 1942 by the union of the Congregational (1746) and Unitarian (1842) churches in Lincoln.*

We will be streaming this service and it will be archived on YouTube. Please speak to an usher should you have any concerns in this regard.

Cover Image: Ponder, Paper lace with watercolor, by Hannah Garrity, Inspired by Luke 2:15-21 | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

We thank the ushers who greeted you tonight: Judy Casarella, Alana Halstead, Steven Halstead, Ariel Majidi.

Grateful thanks to Nancy Henderson for the flowers and greens decorating the sanctuary tonight, and to Deacons Ben Wells and Andy Clark for helping coordinate this evening's service.

We are grateful to welcome our special soloists: Michael Carey, saxophone and flute, and Jessica Cooper, soprano.

Note: There will be NO worship service held tomorrow, Christmas morning, Dec 25.

On Sunday, January 1st at 10 a.m. Joan Kimball and Ben Wells will lead a service of quiet reflection and meditation in the Stearns Room. All are welcome. Please note – neither Religious Education nor nursery childcare will be offered during this service.

*The First Parish in Lincoln*

[www.fplincn.org](http://www.fplincn.org)

*Rev.s Kit Novotny & Nate Klug, Co-Ministers; [kit@fplincn.org](mailto:kit@fplincn.org); [nate@fplincn.org](mailto:nate@fplincn.org)*

*Sarah Klockowski, Ministry Associate; [sarah@fplincn.org](mailto:sarah@fplincn.org)*

*Lora Venesy, Religious Exploration Coordinator; [lora@fplincn.org](mailto:lora@fplincn.org)*

*Miranda Loud, Music Director and Organist; [mirandaloud574@gmail.com](mailto:mirandaloud574@gmail.com)*

*Paris Parks, Livestream Coordinator*

*Silvia Dieckow, Administrator; [silvia@fplincn.org](mailto:silvia@fplincn.org)*



*Join us in 2023!*

REGULAR PROGRAMS

<b>MONDAY</b>	Racial Justice Journey
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Meditation Sangha
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Coffee & Compassion, Sacred Texts
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Quiet Walks, Ladies' Tea, Poetry for Seekers
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Transcendentalist Running Club
<b>SUNDAY</b>	The Forum: Adult Religious Education

---

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- ✦ Theology on Tap
- ✦ Buddhism & Mindfulness
- ✦ Lent Retreat
- ✦ Food for Thought
- ✦ ... and more!

Visit [FPLINCOLN.ORG](http://FPLINCOLN.ORG)  
for event details and more  
information about our church.

