

WORSHIP AT THE COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH
www.ColchesterFederatedChurch.org Phone 537-5189

Rev. Dr. Linda U. Barnes, Pastor

Patricia Korenkiewicz, Director of Music

CHRISTMAS EVE 2007 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

INTROIT

Alleluia

Thompson

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Come away, come away, come today to Bethlehem.

PEOPLE: **Come adore on bended knee, one whose birth the angels sing.**

LEADER: Come away, come away from our rousing celebrations, to
a place of quietness and peace.

PEOPLE: **Come with wonder, come with awe.**

LEADER: Sing praise to God, for the time of promise has come.

PEOPLE: **Sing the good news of Emmanuel: God with us! Christ has come!**

LEADER: Come away, come away, come today to Bethlehem.

*CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

#44

ADVENT WREATH: THE CHRIST CANDLE IS LIT

Leader: We have spent the four weeks of Advent on a pilgrimage together,
journeying to Bethlehem.

People: **Now we've arrived, with all the others who have traveled with us, to
see the Christ child, lying in a manger. (light the Christ candle)**

Leader: In joyous thanksgiving we acknowledge this gift of love, this child so
generously given to us that we might experience God with us. We pray that we
might be open to receive this wondrous gift.

**Unison Prayer: Dear God, we pray that we are ready for your coming. May we
know deep in our hearts, your love for each of us. May we be open to share
with others the love you have gifted us with, through Jesus. Amen.**

BELL CHOIR

Cradle Songs

Leader: This night is one of profound mystery.

People: **A night for unusual sounds and sights in the heavens.**

Leader: This night is one of wonderful clarity.

People: **A night to celebrate our Savior's birth into this world.**

Leader: This night is one of far reaching complexity.

People: **Strangers crowding into a stable and kings starting upon a journey.**

Leader: This night is one of touching simplicity.

People: **A night for receiving a gift and for cradling God's love in our hearts.**

*CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Verses 1 & 4

#38

THE PROPHECY

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (p 555)

ANTHEM

Mary, Mary

Avery/Marsh

THE BIRTH

Luke 2:1-7 (p 832)

*CAROL

Once In Royal David's City

vs. 1 & 2

#49

PROCLAMATION OF THE ANGELS

Luke 2:8 -14 (p 833)

ANTHEM

When Christ Was Born of Mary Free

Walters

RESPONSE OF THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:15-20 (p 833)

*CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High Choir vs. 1, Sing vs. 2 & 3

#23

RESPONSE OF THE MAGI

Matthew 2:1-12 (p 783)

*CAROL

What Child Is This

#53

CHRISTMAS LITANY

LEADER: Jesus is born into this world.

PEOPLE : **Glory to God!**

LEADER : This world where the poor remain poor and the hungry still starve: On
this day we pray for heaven's riches to be given to the world and for our tables
to be open and welcoming.

PEOPLE: **Jesus is born into this world. Glory to God!**

LEADER : This world filled with war and rumors of war: On this day we pray for the
Prince of Peace to surround us and for our lives to welcome him.

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CHRISTMAS EVE 2007 FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

PRELUDE Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring Colin Hiscox

GREETING AND WELCOME

INTROIT Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming Chime Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome everyone, on this holiest of nights. As Mary readied herself to give birth to Jesus,

People: **Let us prepare ourselves to welcome new birth into our own lives.**

Leader: As a child prepares to open a special gift,

People: **Let us prepare our hearts to receive the wonder of God's love.**

Leader: As heaven and earth sing of great joy,

People: **Let us sing our joyful praises to God.**

Leader: Come let us worship God together.

UNISON INVOCATION **O God, we come with filled with excitement to hear again the Christmas story, on this holiest of nights. Open wide the crowded inns of our hearts, that we may see with new eyes, what happened that night so long ago. Open our ears that we may hear your voice in the voices of those around us. Fill us with wonder and mystery that we may experience your presence with us now, we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN **O Come All Ye Faithful** **#41**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE AT CHRISTMAS:

Leader: The Advent time of waiting and preparing is over! We have lit four candles that remind us about waiting in hope and peace and joy and love.

(Light the four Advent candles.)

People: **These candles remind us that God promises to be with us, to comfort us, to help us rejoice, and to teach us to love.**

One: Tonight we celebrate that God has come to be with us in the baby called Jesus. We light one more candle and call it the Christ candle.

(Lights white candle.) This candle reminds us of all God has done for us.

People: **God fills us with good things, like hope and peace and joy and love.**

God is faithful to us. God is with us, now and always.

UNISON PRAYER: **God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thank you for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine this night with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine with your grace.**

ANTHEM O Come, O Come Emmanuel Chime Choir

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (p 555)

SOLO Mary Did You Know Emily Baseler

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 (p 832)

ANTHEM What You Gonna Call That Baby Wolfe-White

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8 -14 (p 833)

ANTHEM Hurry, Shepherds! Govenor

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:15-20 (p 833)

*CAROL **Away in a Manger** **#25**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

LEADER: Christmas is a time of giving

PEOPLE: **Help us God, to give to others.**

LEADER: Christmas is also a time of receiving.

PEOPLE: **Help us God, to receive your precious gift of love, and lovingly receive what others have to give.**

LEADER: Love came down at Christmas to live among us.

PEOPLE: **Help us O God, to feel loved by you and others this Christmastime.**

LEADER: We thank you for your gift of unending love.

PEOPLE: **Help us O God to reach out with that love to others.**

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 (p 783)

*CAROL **We Three Kings of Orient Are** verses 1 & 5 **#66**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY O Holy Night Jake Poulos

CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY *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;
What can I give him? Give my heart!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Loving and generous God, we praise you and thank you for the joys of Christmas: the music, the gathering of family and friends, the gifts we give and receive. We thank you most of all for your great gift to us, the gift born this night – your child Jesus. In thanksgiving we offer you lives of generosity, joy and love. Help us to reflect the light of your love as Jesus did. Amen.

*CANDLELIGHTING *(Please tip your unlit candle as the light is passed to you.)*

CAROL **Silent Night** (Please remain seated) **#60**

MOMENT OF MEDITATION

Leader: As I blow out my candle, we ask that you do so also. As we go forth from this place, carry the light of Christ in your lives, out into the world, now and always.

*CAROL **Joy to the World** vs. 1 & 2 **#40**

BENEDICTION May Christ the Light of the World, fill your lives with radiance, and grant you peace which passes all the world's understanding, throughout this Christmas season and the New Year to come!

POSTLUDE Good Christian Folk, Rejoice!

**Indicates, those who are able, may stand.*

PEOPLE : **Jesus is born into this world. Glory to God!**

LEADER : This world of fear and insecurity for the future: On this day we pray for
God-with-us to stay with us and for our world to recognize Emmanuel.

PEOPLE : **Jesus is born into this world. Glory to God!**

LEADER : This world where our communities long for hope and new beginnings:
On this day we pray for the promise to be fulfilled and for our society to be reborn.

PEOPLE : **Jesus is born into this world. Glory to God! Amen**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (trespasses)

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Still, Still, Still Luboff

CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY *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;
What can I give him? Give my heart!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY (*Tip your unlit candle as the light is passed.*)

PRAYER AND SILENCE

CAROL (*Please remain seated*) **Silent Night** **#60**

READING John 1:1-5 (*p 862*)

*CAROL **Joy to the World!** **#40**

BENEDICTION *May Christ the Light of the World, fill your lives with radiance,
grant you peace throughout this Christmas season and the New Year to come!*

POSTLUDE In Dulci Jubilo Bach

*[*Indicates those who are able may stand.]*