



Christmastide
Hybrid Morning Worship
December 26, 2021

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**
Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

***CAROL 135** Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1 and 2)

*GREETING

Dan Smith

*LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Jaz Buchanan

L: The light of Christ!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Marianne Jensen

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace.

C: **Holy God, we confess
that we move too quickly to the next thing,
busy with lists of things to do, places to go, and people to see.
We are done with the old year and ready for a new one.
On this second day of Christmas, slow us down.
Let us linger in this Christmastide
and at the threshold of a New Year,
glad for the gift of Jesus,
grateful for the simple pleasures of life,
and focused on how we treat ourselves and others.
Let these brightening days fill us with your love,
that we may see your world illumined anew. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*Staying in place and observing social distance, share this good news wherever you are!
Send it back to us! Share it with a neighbor! Send it to the world!*

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

OPENING THE WORD

READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

Kate Layzer

CAROL (insert)

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light (verses 1 and 2)

READING

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL 129

Of Eternal Love Begotten (verses 1 and 2)

READING

Luke 2:8-20

MUSICAL MEDITATION

The Bells

William Byrd

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CAROL 141

The First Nowell (verses 1 and 2)

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

L: In peace, let us pray to God!

C: Lord, hear our prayer!

L: That the heart of the world might rejoice this day
at the birth of a merciful savior, let us pray to God!

C: Lord, hear our prayer!

L: That the work of justice may capture every human heart
and lead to peace, let us pray to God!

C: Lord, hear our prayer!

L: For an end to all war and violence, that all people may live in hope
and safety, so that free of fear we build a new tomorrow, let us pray to God.

C: Lord, hear our prayer!

L: For the health of the earth, and the integrity of all creation,
let us pray to God.

C: Lord, hear our prayer!

L: For the sick, the troubled, the sorrowing and the dying, that they may
know the comfort of God's mercy, let us pray to God.

C: Lord, hear our prayer!

L: For our enemies and all who have done us harm, and for all whom we
have harmed, let us pray to God.

C: Lord, hear our prayer!

L: For the church throughout the world, that we may love God, God's world and one another, welcome and serve all people and show forth the mercy of Christ Jesus, let us pray to God.

C: Lord, hear our prayer!

L: And now, in the words our savior gave us, we make bold to pray together:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.)

All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GOING FORTH

***CAROL 134**

Joy to the World! (verses 1 and 2)

***BENEDICTION**

Leading worship today are Senior Minister Dan Smith, Minister of Street Outreach Kate Layzer, Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan, Liturgist Marianne Jenson, and Director of Music Peter Sykes.

The bulletin cover image is by Freddie Funck, youth group member.



SCAN ME

Do you want to know what events, programs and activities are coming up at First Church in the next few weeks? Use your phone's camera to hover over the QR code marked "scan me;" this will take you to the **Members & Friends** page of our website, where you'll find links to news, events, and more. For prayer requests, please visit the First Church List.

You can scan these codes to connect with First Church via social media:



Give by
Text



Give
Online



Angels We Have Heard on High

1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav - en - ly song.
 come a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

WORDS: Traditional French carol, tr. *Crown of Jesus II*, 1862, alt.
 MUSIC: French carol melody

Published in a French collection in 1855, this carol probably originated in the 18th century.

GLORIA
 77.77 w. refrain

Break Forth , O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Break forth, O beau-teous heaven-ly light, And ush - er in the

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The treble staff contains the vocal melody, and the bass staff contains the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Break forth, O beau-teous heaven-ly light, And ush - er in the".

morn - ing; Ye shep-herds, shrink not with af - fright, But

The second system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the vocal melody with a fermata over the first measure. The bass staff continues the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "morn - ing; Ye shep-herds, shrink not with af - fright, But".

hear the an-gel's warn - ing. This child, now weak in in - fan - cy, Our

The third system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the vocal melody with a fermata over the first measure. The bass staff continues the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "hear the an-gel's warn - ing. This child, now weak in in - fan - cy, Our".

con - fi - dence and joy shall be, The power of Sa - tan

The fourth system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the vocal melody with a fermata over the first measure. The bass staff continues the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "con - fi - dence and joy shall be, The power of Sa - tan".

break - ing, Our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing.

The fifth and final system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the vocal melody with a fermata over the first measure. The bass staff continues the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "break - ing, Our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing."

Of Eternal Love Begotten

Unison

1. Of e - ter - nal love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -
 2. O ye heights of heaven sing prais - es; an - gel hosts sweet
 3. Christ, to thee with God Cre - a - tor, and O Ho - ly

gan to be, Christ is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the
 an - thems sing! And on earth let all the faith - ful now their
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un -

source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that have been,
 joy - ous car - ols ring, ev - 'ry tongue Christ's name con - fess - ing,
 wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion,

and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 count - less voic - es an - swer - ing, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

WORDS: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (4th century); sts. 1,3, tr. John Mason Neale, 1854, DIVINUM MYSTERIUM and Henry W. Baker, 1859, alt.; st. 2, tr. R. F. Davis, 1906, alt. 87.87.877

MUSIC: Plainsong, Mode V (13th century); harm. C. Winfred Douglas, *The Hymnal*, 1940

Prudentius was a Spanish lawyer and magistrate who became a Christian at age fifty-seven, withdrawing to a monastery for a life of meditation and writing.

The First Nowell

1. The first Now - ell the an - gel did say was to
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing
 3. And by the light of that same star three
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west; o'er
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, full

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in the east, be - yond them far; and to the
 wise men came from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem it took its rest, and there it
 rev - erent - ly up - on their knee, and of - fered

they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave great light, and so it con -
 king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop and stay, right o - ver the
 there, in his pres - ence, their gold and

Refrain
 night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh and frank - in - cense.

ell, Now - ell, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

WORDS: Traditional English Carol, 17th century
 MUSIC: Traditional English Melody

THE FIRST NOWELL
 In. w. edwards

Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

134

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: let earth her
 3. Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; let fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heaven and na - ture sing and
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing.
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. Georg Frederick Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848

ANTIOCH
 CM w. repeat

This is Congregationalist Watts' paraphrase of Psalm 98.
 His free paraphrasing helped wean churchgoers from
 singing only literal renditions of the Psalms.