



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

*Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect*

**Christmas Eve • December 24, 2024 • 5:00pm**

178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG

*Grace and peace to you, and welcome!*

*As you prepare for worship, please sign the red welcome pad, and pass it to your neighbor. At the end of the row, have the last person please pass it back to the center aisle so we can know our fellow worshipers.*

*Then, prayerfully allow the silent, sacred space of where you are, and the quiet stirrings of the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

**\*PLEASE STAND IN BODY AND/OR SPIRIT.**

## THE GATHERING

**Prelude:**

Sonata in F minor, K. 466  
Krissy Teng - harp

Domenico Scarlotti

**Welcome**

The Rev. Scott Herr

**\*Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

**People:** **Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.**

**Leader:** The angels proclaim the Christmas good news for all.

**People:** **Let us rejoice, let us sing and give praise! Let us adore our newborn King!**

**\*Carol No. 133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Adeste Fideles*

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*

born the King of an - gels!  
got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
glo - ry in the high - est!  
now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Julia, Niki & Charlie Sulkowski

**Readers:** Advent, our season of waiting, is over! We have waited with fervent anticipation for the arrival of the Christ child. We have waited through the darkness for our light to come.

For four weeks, we have lit candles, reminding us of the hope, peace, joy, and love that God has gifted to us. **(Light all four Advent candles.)**

Each week another candle glowed, and our wreath shone more brightly. Tonight, we light the Christ candle, the candle which represents the light to our world that is Jesus. It is the center of our wreath, just as Jesus is the center of our lives. **(Light the Christ candle.)**

The waiting is over, and Jesus is born!

Let us pray together...

**People:** Thank you, God, for the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Our hearts sing with praise to you for your many blessings upon us. At this happy season we rejoice that Jesus has come to light our way. By his birth and life, he shows us that we are your people – that we are your beloved children. Help us to remember Christmas all year long, as we share with this world the gifts you have given to us. Amen.

Pre-<sup>\*</sup>pare the way of the Lord. Pre-<sup>\*</sup>pare the way of the Lord,  
and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

**THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS: THE COMING OF LIGHT TO THE WORLD**

*The Prophecy of Isaiah and an Announcement from the Angel of the Lord*

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like  
4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -  
cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and  
deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and  
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our  
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 on to the place where he is gone.

**Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem**

Carol No. 115

Away in a Manger (verses 1 & 2)

Mueller

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

# The Angels Visit the Shepherds

\*Carol No. 113

Angels We Have Heard on High (all verses sung)

Gloria

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 him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad-some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-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!

**The Shepherds Find Jesus and the Magi See the Star**

Carol No. 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are (verses 1 & 5)

Kings of Orient

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

***The Magi Worship Jesus and Joseph has a Dream***

\*Carol No. 145

What Child is This? (verses 1 & 2)

*Greensleeves*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

**Unto Us A Child is Born...Emmanuel**

\*Carol No. 134

Joy to the World (all verses sung)

Antioch

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -  
 her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness  
 and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,  
 and



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heaven and na - ture sing,

**Call for the Offering**

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Leader: As we have heard in the pageant narrative, “God's love is so immense that we cannot comprehend it—but maybe, just maybe, this story allows us to share a small portion of God’s love for us with others.” We now receive the offering of our tithes and gifts, but more importantly, at this time we remember that our lives – our thoughts, words, actions – can be an offering of God’s love for the world.

**Offertory**

Allegro Moderato  
 (from *Concerto in B flat Major; Op. 4, No. 6; HWV 294*)  
 Krissy Teng - harp

George Frideric Handel

**SENDING**

**Reading: John 1:1-5, 14**

Stacy Arevalo

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

*(Please light the glow stick you received during Silent Night.)*

**\*Carol No. 122**

**Silent Night (all verses sung)**

*Stille Nacht*

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth-er and child! Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu - ra - dian beams from thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re-deem - ing with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our mild, sleep in heav-en-ly peace, sleep in heav-en-ly peace. ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!" grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

\*Benediction

The Rev. Scott Herr

\*Postlude:

Fanfare on *Mendelssohn* (from *Preludes and Fanfares*)

Alec Wyton

CCLI #11412435 / ONE LICENSE, License A-734274

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**Narrators** – Terence D. Flanagan and Christopher Cluett

**Isaiah** – Yates Allen-Alnouri

**Mary** – Margo Steen

**Gabriel** – Ashley Godina

**Joseph** – William Kramer

**Shepherds** – Charlotte Allen, Yates Allen-Alnouri, Elise Spering, Hudson Spering, Marian Steen, Mimi Steen

**Angels** – Margaux Allen-Alnouri, Cooper Feldman, James Kramer, Bonnie Peterson, Haley Peterson, Lily Peterson

**Star** – Cooper Feldman

**Magi** – Thomas Godina, Jim Lucie, Mike Peterson

**Pageant Written and Directed by:** Stephanie Hare and Jan Lucie

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

**Welcome to Worship!** Grace and peace to you, and welcome to this Christmas Eve Service of Worship! Tonight we experience the story of Jesus' birth together through our Christmas Pageant. Our narrators will tell the story as our performers take us on a journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem; from the time of Isaiah the prophet to the era of the Roman Empire; and from darkness to light. Everyone is invited to sing along with our carols during the service to help tell the story. Hold on to your glowsticks until we sing Silent Night when we will share our lights together, bringing light to our community just as Jesus brought light to the world for everyone.

**This evening we welcome harpist Krissy Teng to FPCNC.** Krissy is a 20-year-old Australian Harpist currently studying with renowned harpist Nancy Allen at the Juilliard School of Music, Dance and Drama in New York. She began her musical studies with piano at 4 years old. At age 7, she joined the Griffith University – Young Conservatory program and started her harp studies under the guidance of French harpist Sebastien Lipman. In 2018, she moved abroad to Belgium to continue her musical studies at the Musica Mundi music boarding high school. During her years in Belgium, she studied under the great harpists Catherine Michel and Sivan Magen, and she participated in lessons and masterclasses with renowned artists including Maxim Vengerov (chamber). She is now currently enrolled in the Undergraduate Bachelors of Musical performance program at the Juilliard School. Krissy has participated in numerous national and international competitions, including Soka International Harp competition (Japan), Pratte International Harp competition (Sweden), Lyon and Healy Awards (USA) and Suoni d'arpa (Italy). She has given concerts in Australia, Hong Kong, Belgium, The Netherlands, and the USA. She has held multiple recitals as a solo harpist in Australia and in Belgium, as well as many concerts as principal harp with the Juilliard Orchestra. She performed at Carnegie Hall as principal harp with the New York String Orchestra Seminar, and as principal harp of the Juilliard School orchestra.



FPCNC offers **childcare during our Christmas Eve and Sunday services** provided by Saturnina Greeves-Cooper and Lizz Reyes from Wee Care Nanny Agency. Our worship service nursery is located just off our Common Room vestibule down the long hall from the sanctuary. **Parental and guardian sign-in is required and we do ask that you please pick up your child promptly after the service.**

**If you wish to place flowers** in the Sanctuary to celebrate an anniversary, baptism, or birthday, or to memorialize a beloved family member or friend, please contact the church office.

**SIGN UP** to Read, Usher or Greet <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday>

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:



DONATE:



TONIGHT

a service of *Lessons & Carols*



Scripture Readings

Carols

FPCNC Choir

Handbell Choir

Harp

Organ

Candle Lighting

---

Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr,  
*Pastor*

Terence J Flanagan,  
*Director of Music  
and Fine Arts*

December 24, 2024, 10 PM



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN

178 Oenoke Ridge New Canaan CT 0684  
203.966.0002 [www.fpcnc.org](http://www.fpcnc.org)

# Christmas Flowers LIST

## In Loving Memory Of


Their parents, **George & Emilie Thompson**, and **Perry & Midge Bartlett** by Dede and Jim Bartlett  
**Steve Benko**, husband, father and all things New Canaan, by Sue, Lindsay, Steph, and Pete  
Her husband, **Julian Brix** and her son, **Scott Weston Kiernan** by Kay Kiernan Brix  
**Robert Brownley** by Anne and family  
**Loved ones, family and friends** by Peg and Sherman Bull  
**Roger E. Clark** with love from Kate, his kids, and his grandkids  
**Andrew M. Clarkson** by his family  
**Darren Dionne** by Special Church  
**Peter R. Adams and David P. Findlay, Jr.** by Mimi Adams Findlay  
Great-Grandmother **Arlene W. Young** and Grandparents **Terence J. Flanagan, Allen E. and Elitia G. Besecker** by  
Terence J. Flanagan  
Grandparents **Ruth and Samuel Duncan, Alda and William Glover** by Lisa Flanagan  
Their parents, **Carl & Frieda Nolte, Jim & Bunny Otto** and to **JR and Tricia** by Len and Cindy Graziano  
**Chuck Gulden, Alan Wentzel**, and **loved ones** by the Gulden/Wentzel family  
**Melissa Hogan** by Kim and Scott Herr  
**Gordon and Marilyn Jones** by the Holden family  
**George Hooker** by his family  
My mother, **Mary Ann Marston Jackson** by Lynn Jackson and family  
**John Lanaway** by Janet Lanaway and family  
Their parents, **James & Phyllis Russell and Reginald & Noreen Martin** by Linda and Paul Martin  
**George H. Megrue and Kevin S. Megrue** by Suzanne Megrue and family  
**Constance and Donal O'Brien, Donal O'Brien, Jr. and Donal O'Brien III, Nancy and George Slight** by their  
families  
**George B. Post** by The Rev. Susan M. Pfeil  
**George and Linda Post** by the Post family  
Our parents and grandparents, **Maxine & Tracey Mackle and Rodger Reeves** and in honor of **Betty Lou Reeves**  
by Julie, Michael, Spencer, Kate and Vivi Reeves  
**Helen H. & Louis A. Dahle, Julia vdV & James H. Riehl, Sr., David M. Kispert, and Dominique Dahle Schieck** by  
the Riehl family  
**Kathryn & Charles Cunningham** by their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren  
**Robert Schneider** by his family  
Her husband, **Peter Schurman**, and her brother, **Don Calhoun** by Judy Schurman  
Her parents, **Jack and Mary Ellen Taylor and George Post** by Ellen Taylor Sisson  
Her parents, **Margret & William Marple** by Mary Marple Thies, and his mother, **Eleanor Kamphoefner** by Armin  
Thies  
**Craig B. Tate, William F. & Hazel S. Graham, Richard & Elizabeth Krebs, and John & Evelyn Tate** by the Tate  
family  
**Ronald Watkins** by his family

## In Honor Of

In loving honor of **our parents** by Kim and Scott Herr



**COMMUNITY**



*Waveny Lifecare Network's*  
**NAVIGATOR**  
*Alzheimer's at Home for New Canaan*


Providing support and guidance to those impacted by Alzheimer's in New Canaan

*All Communications Confidential*

- » Personal Alzheimer's Navigation Specialists
- » 24/7 accessibility
- » Complimentary grant based program
- » Exclusive respite apartment
- » Access to adult day programming
- » Assistance with trusted affiliated resources outside of the Waveny Network
- » Wellness checks
- » Alzheimer's-specific caregiver support groups
- » Expedited access to Waveny's continuum
- » Dedicated mobile app

**Contact us for a consultation**  
**Phone: 203-594-5289**  
**Email: Navigator@waveny.org**

*In collaboration with*



NEW CANAAN  
 COMMUNITY  
 FOUNDATION

**SAVE THE NUMBER  
 SAVE A LIFE  
 CALL OR TEXT 988**



Add this number to your phone now. It could save a life later.

[nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention](http://nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention)

Save the number, save a life. Add the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988) to your phone now—it could save a life later. Trained crisis counselors are available to talk 24/7/365.

**NEW CANAAN**

**Behavioral Health**

**ALLIANCE**

Finding the right behavioral health support for yourself, family member or a friend can feel overwhelming. The New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance (NCBHA) is excited to announce the launch of its website. New Canaan Human Services, NCCF and Silver Hill Hospital have partnered with over 30 local agencies and organizations to encourage, develop and support a greater community awareness of behavioral health issues and resources in our area. To talk directly to someone that can help navigate available resources, or just to see what behavioral health events are happening around the area, visit [www.newcanaanbha.org](http://www.newcanaanbha.org).

**Support for domestic violence victims is available through the holidays.**



**24-hour Hotline:** (203) 588-9097

**CT Safe Connect 24-hour Hotline:** (888) 774-2900 (call/text)

**Main Business Line:** (203) 588-9100

**www.dvccct.org**

**Our services are free and confidential, multilingual and multicultural. Help is available.**

*DVCC is the only state-certified domestic violence agency recognized by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) serving the communities of Norwalk, Stamford, New Canaan, Darien, Westport, Weston and Wilton.*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN**

**CALENDAR – UPCOMING WEEK**

**TUESDAY, December 24**

5 pm Family Service & Pageant  
6:30 pm God's Acre Caroling  
10 pm Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

**WEDNESDAY, December 25**

*Office Closed – Christmas Day*

**THURSDAY, December 26**

*Office Closed*

**FRIDAY, December 27**

*Office Closed*

2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

**SATURDAY, December 28**

9:15 am A.A. Group (closed)

10:30 am A.A. Group (open)

**SUNDAY, December 29**

9 am Music Rehearsals

10 am Sunday Worship

11:30 am Coffee Hour

**CALENDAR – JANUARY–FEBRUARY**

Wed, Jan. 15, 6:00pm

Wednesday at the Well

Monday, Jan. 20, 10:00am

Interfaith Council to host Celebration of the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service at Methodist Church of New Canaan

Sunday, Jan. 26, 11:30am

Adult Forum – Jamie Boris, Director of ABC House

Sunday, Feb. 2, 11:30am

Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, Feb. 2, 3:00pm

Lumos Orchestra Concert

Thursday, Feb. 6, 3:00pm

New Canaan Chamber Music Concert

Friday, Feb. 7, 7:30pm

New Canaan Chamber Music Concert

Wed, Feb. 19, 6:00pm

Wednesday at the Well

Saturday, Feb. 22, 4:00pm

Charis Chamber Voices Concert

Sunday, Feb. 23, 11:15am

FPC Annual Meeting

**THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:**

**Ushers:** Jennifer Van de Graaf and Steve Van de Graaf

**MINISTERS**

The Entire Congregation

**OUR PASTORS**

The Reverend Dr. R. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor • The Reverend Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

**OUR STAFF**

Terence J. Flanagan, Director of Music and Fine Arts • Stephanie L. Hare, Director of Family Ministries  
Stacy Arevalo, Director of Pastoral Care, Adult Discipleship and Spiritual Formation  
Jim Riehl, Business Administrator • Wendy Starr, Office Manager • Kate and Matt Ziance, Operations Managers

**SIGN UP** to Read, Usher or Greet <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday>

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:



DONATE:

