

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 Domenico Scarlotti Krissy Teng - harp

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!





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.

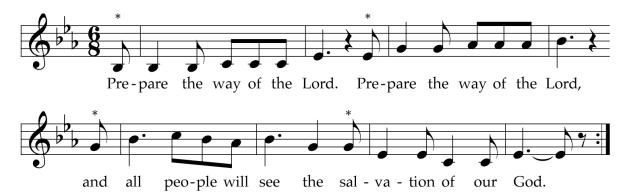
For four weeks, we have lit candles, reminding us of the hope, peace, joy, and love that God has gifted to us. (Light all four Advent candles.)

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.



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

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

Carol No. 140

Once in Royal David's City (verses 1 & 2)

Irby





Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem

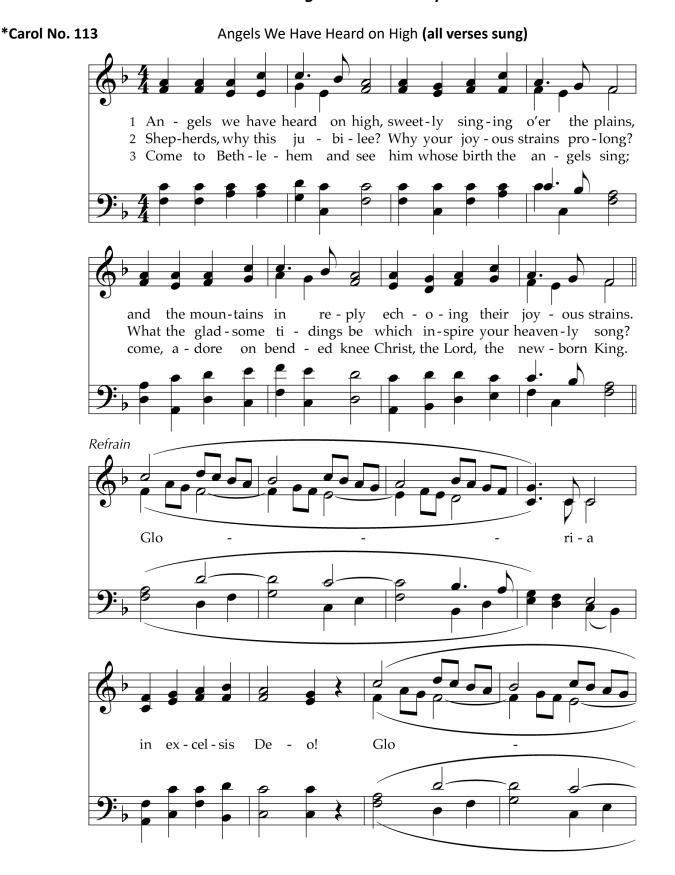


Away in a Manger (verses 1 & 2)

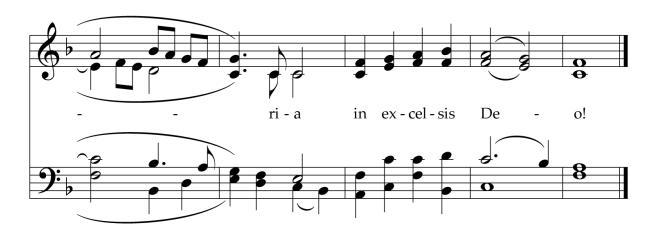
Mueller



The Angels Visit the Shepherds



Gloria

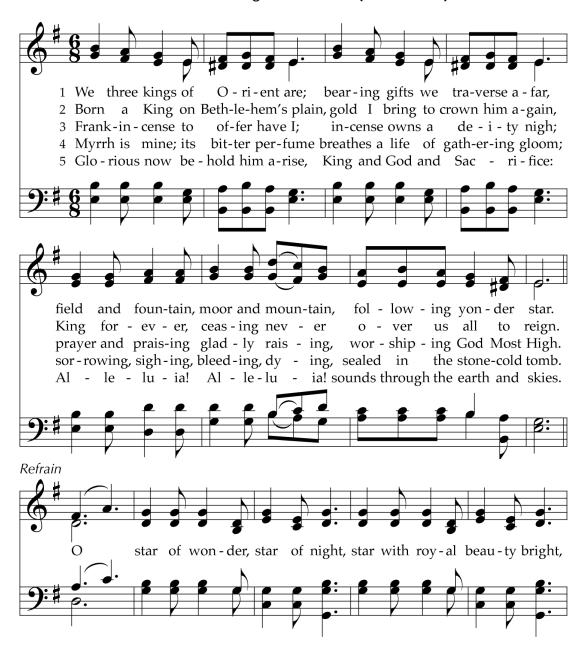


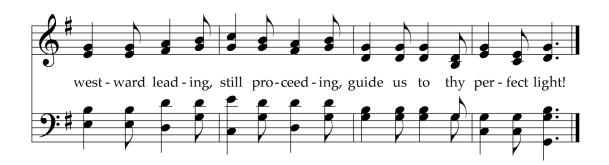
The Shepherds Find Jesus and the Magi See the Star

Carol No. 151

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

Kings of Orient



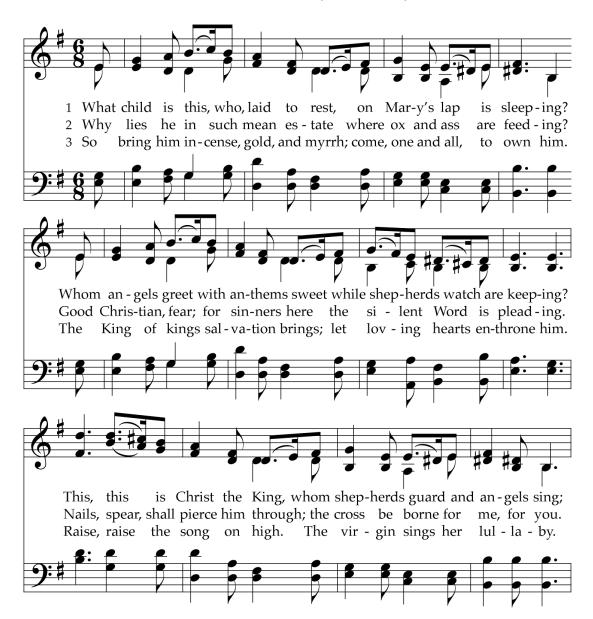


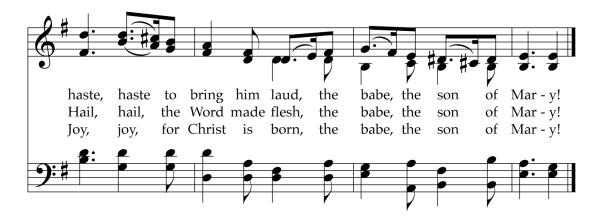
The Magi Worship Jesus and Joseph has a Dream

*Carol No. 145

What Child is This? (verses 1 & 2)

Greensleeves





Unto Us A Child is Born...Emmanuel

*Carol No. 134

Joy to the World (all verses sung)

Antioch





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.

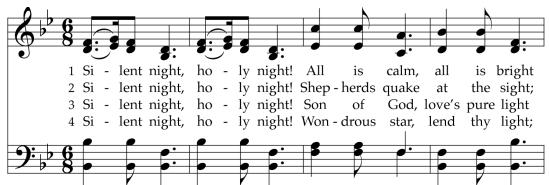
And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

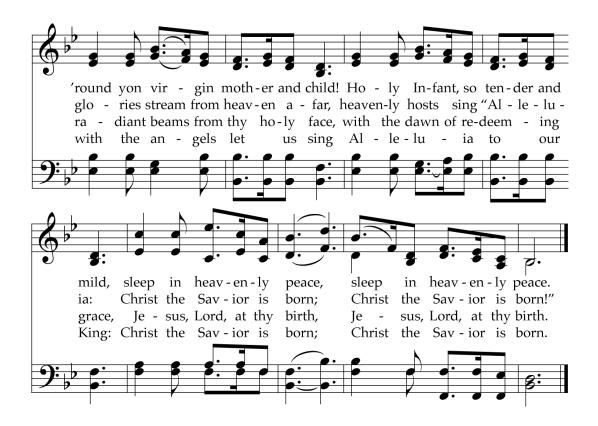
(Please light the glow stick you received during Silent Night.)

*Carol No. 122

Silent Night (all verses sung)

Stille Nacht





*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

<u>Isaiah</u> – Yates Allen-Alnouri

Mary – Margo Steen

Gabriel - Ashley Godina

Joseph – William Kramer

<u>Shepherds</u> – Charlotte Allen, Yates Allen-Alnouri, Elise Spering, Hudson Spering, Marian Steen, Mimi Steen <u>Angels</u> – Margaux Allen-Alnouri, Cooper Feldman, James Kramer, Bonnie Peterson, Haley Peterson, Lily Peterson <u>Star</u> – 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

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TONIGHT

a service of Jessons & 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



178 Oenoke Ridge New Canaan CT 0684 203.966.0002 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



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



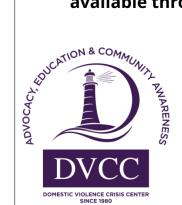


Save the number, save a life. Add the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988) to your phone now—it could save a life later. Trained crisis counselors are available to talk 24/7/365.



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.

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

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

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram: DONATE:





