



**Musicians:** Cindy Thurston-piano; Carolyn Pillsbury-organ; Jake Potter-flute;

Bob Driver, Ashley Dubois, Sue Leister-voice

**Presenters:**

**Narrator 1** Delainey LeBlanc

**Narrator 2** Lauren Morris

**Mary** Eliza Averyt

**Joseph** Alec Blevins

**Donkey** Aron Omland, Charlie Meisenzahl, Carmen Stanko

**Gabriel** Madelyn Morris

**Lambs** Phoebe Omland, Trevor Lewis

**Inn Keeper** Dylan LeBlanc

**Shepherds** Dylan LeBlanc, Cody Potter, Andrew Meisenzahl

**Angels** Lainey Averyt, Henry Rousseau, JJ Garcia

**Stars** Nevaeh Mullen, Connor Lewis

**King 1** Aiden Blevins

**King 2** Jake Potter

**King 3** Aidan Morris

**Sing Alongs:** (see insert)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hark The Herald Angles Sing

Joy to the World

Silent Night

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

**And from the bottom of our hearts...thank you to all who helped with the presentation!**

# Williston Federated Church

*United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ – Federated 1899*

*An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation*

*Mission Statement*

*Our church is a community which seeks, welcomes and gathers people to share the Gospel of God's love, enables people to find fullness of life through Jesus Christ, goes into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ, and responds actively to human need.*



*Pastor ~ Reverend Paul Eyer 878-5792, [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com)*

*Emeritus Pastor ~ Rev. Charlie Magill*

*Lay Leader ~ Ashley Dubois, Ministers ~ The People of the Church*

*Church Office Administrator ~ Sally Nowotarski*

*Music Director ~ Martin Hain, Organist ~ Carolyn Pillsbury*

*Choir Accompanist ~ Cindy Thurston Nursery Caregiver ~ Michelle Davis*

*44 North Williston Road, Williston, VT 05495*

*Church Office: (802) 878-5792, e-mail address: [office@steeple.org](mailto:office@steeple.org), Website: [www.steeple.org](http://www.steeple.org)*

## Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

December 17, 2017 ~ 9:30 A.M.

Childcare is available downstairs in the nursery for children up to age three.

Hearing assistance devices are available—please ask an usher for assistance.

A Fellowship time follows worship—Please join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall

*Centering Words:*

*Joseph was indeed righteous. But more importantly,  
he was merciful, faithful, and courageous. David Ewart*

Prelude O Come Little Children (J.F.A Schulz)  
Fairest Jesus (Ancient German)

Introit People Look East

Greeting and Announcements

\*Sharing the Peace of Christ (a brief time of greeting other worshipers nearby)

\*Hymn **Good Christian Friends Rejoice**  
(Hymnal #224)

Lighting the Peace Candle

Call to Worship

One: It's almost time.

All: **Time for renewed wonder and awe.**

One: Time for gratitude and joy.

All: **Time for celebration.**

One: Time for loving.

All: **Time for adoration.**

One: Look! A Virgin shall conceive and give birth to a son,

All: **and his name shall be called Emmanuel  
which means, God-with-us.**

One: It's almost time.

All: **Emmanuel, God is with us!**

All: **Hallelujah!**

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Lighting the Advent Candle

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle of hope.  
*-one candle is lit-*

On the second Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle of peace.  
*-a second candle is lit-*

On the third Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle of joy.  
*-a third candle is lit-*

**Anthem**

Come, Come Emmanuel  
(by Joel Raney)

Celebrations & Concerns Response: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father 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, the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.**

Offering

Offertory The Virgin Mother Had Baby Boy  
(Songbook #126)

\*Presentation of Gifts with Doxology Hymnal #94

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts:***

***Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts;***

***Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Eternal Lord, we thank you that you sent your Son Jesus to be with us and to save us. Teach us to live as your people and to serve you joyfully, as we look forward to the coming of Jesus. Amen.**

The Life and Mission of the Church

Christmas Pageant

\*Benediction

Postlude

Basque Noel (Dom Paul Benoit)

**Poinsettia Sales!** It's that time again to order your poinsettia to adorn the altar for Christmas Eve. Poinsettias are \$10 a piece and come in red, white, or marble. You can order your poinsettia online <https://goo.gl/forms/bjOmtzsnr43IeDNq1> or check in with Ashley on Sunday morning. All orders must be submitted by December 17th. Checks can be made out to WFC Youth. Questions? Email or call Ashley [ashley0705@gmail.com](mailto:ashley0705@gmail.com) 233-5824.

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**Giving Tree** – A warm ‘Thank You’ to all who made this years Giving Tree a wonderful success.

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**Nativity Scene**—Our Nativity scene is placed on the altar this year so that people of the church may better view and enjoy these traditional symbols of the Christmas event. We are grateful for the persons who donated them, and for those in memory or in honor of, whom they are given. A list of those who donated them in on a plaque next to the Creche.

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**The Longest Night Service—Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00pm** ~ Not everyone is cheery at Christmastime; holiday celebrations can be painful for those who are dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, or living with cancer or some other disease. This service will be a quiet witness to the realities of loss and uncertainty, while offering healing and hope for the future.

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**Get your jams, pickles and pie fillings for Christmas** ~ Community Dinners will be selling canned goods this Sunday after church. Get your stocking presents of jam, pickles, berry sauces or pie filling. We will be featuring some of our canned goods at coffee hour.

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*After the 7:30 Christmas Eve service there will be an opportunity for people to gather for a small reception in the Fellowship Hall. Punch will be provided. Folks are asked to bring Christmas Goodies to share." Thanks,*

*Liturgical resources: The **Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication** are adapted from a liturgy entitled “From Valleys to Mountains: Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent” written by UCC pastor Rev. Penny Lowes and found at [http://www.ucc.org/worship\\_worship-ways](http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways). The **Advent Candle** ceremony is adapted from a liturgy found at <https://www.liturgylink.net/category/advent/candle-liturgy/> and a liturgy “Advent: Liturgy for Lighting Advent Candles” found at [http://www.ucc.org/worship\\_worship-ways\\_year-a\\_ace\\_advent-liturgy-for](http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways_year-a_ace_advent-liturgy-for).*

**Greeters:** Carol Bouchard   **Coffee:** Polly Malik and Vicki Walker

**Ushers:** Ursula White and Don Thurston

**Scripture Reader:**

Advent Candle lighting: **Jenny Rousseau and Henri**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Williston Federated Church ~ Week of December 17, 2016**

**Sunday, December 17**~ 9:30am Worship with Pastor Barb, Christmas Pageant

Fourth Sunday in Advent—Peace

**Tuesday, December 19** ~ The Longest Night

**Wednesday, December 20**~ 7:30pm AA Meeting

**Thursday, December 21**~8:00am Centering Prayer; 11:00 Membership Committee; 7:00pm Choir Researals

**Friday, December 23**~ 7:00am Men's Bible Study

**Sunday, December 24** ~ 9:30am Sunday Worship Services

**Sunday, December 24** ~ 5:00pm Candlelight Family Service

**Sunday, December 24** ~ 7:30pm Candlelight Service

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" **“OH, LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”**

Oh, little town of Bethlehem,

How still we see thee lie;

Above their deep and dreamless sleep,

The silent stars go by.

Yet in the dark street shineth

The everlasting light;

The hope and fears of all the years

Are met in thee tonight.

**“HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING”**

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful all the nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark, the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king.”

**“JOY TO THE WORLD”**

Joy to the world, the Lord has 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.

**“SILENT NIGHT”**

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.

**“WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS”**

We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas,  
And a Happy New Year...  
Good tidings to you, wherever you are;  
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**The story of our Advent Wreath.**

A long time ago in 1975 when Rev. VanDreser was our minister, during a music and worship committee meeting, we decided to have an Advent Wreath.

I volunteered to make the wreath and modeled it after the German version. (The advent wreath originated among German Lutherans in the 16th century.)

It was a small wreath on a small stand on top of the altar, held with red ribbons and 4 red candles.

I was touched that the congregation liked and wanted to continue this tradition.

After several years my husband Bill followed the design of the small table stand and built the version we use today, more fitting for our church. Our next Rev. Bill Cotant liked the tradition and took the idea to his next church. In 1990 Rev. Henry Frueh was our minister and he preferred the 4 purple candles and the white Christ candle. (the usual liturgical color in Western Christianity for Advent is purple)

In 1995 to be more safe we attached the ribbons to the frame instead of wrapping them around the greens. We made the ring larger in order to better fit the 5 candles. Bill also made the brass star for the top and saucers for the candles.

Because of the committees concerns over safety in 1996 Brian Hildebrand constructed a very pretty, traditional wooden Advent Wreath stand. I was surprised and a little sad, but understood. Brian delivered the stand and I made the wreath on the new stand and set it up on the first Sunday of Advent.

After church many people talked to me and asked me what happened to my Advent Wreath and that it was missed.

We decided to honor both stands by alternating them every other year.

I love making the Advent Wreath and feel happy that the church adopted this Tradition.

Thank You, Ursula