

**The Journey of the Magi
Carol**

Matthew 2:1-12
“The First Noel”
(Hymnal #245)

Offering

(Half of tonight's Christmas Eve offering will support the Williston Federated Church steeple renovation project so that the visual testimony of this sacred space will carry forward for future generations. The other half of this evening's offering will go to the Williston Federated Church general fund to support the ongoing ministries and mission of the church. We are grateful for your generous support of these meaningful expressions of faith and commitment to community.)

Offertory:

“Ave Maria”
(Bach-Gounod)

***Presentation of Gifts with “Gloria” chorus from “Angels We Have Heard on High”**
(Hymnal #238)

Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo!
Glo-ria, in excelcis Deo!

The Mystery of Incarnation

John 1:1-5, 14

Lighting of Candles

Carol

“Silent Night” (see insert)
(Hymnal #239)

Benediction

Carol

“Joy to the World” (see insert)
(Hymnal #246)

Postlude

Deo

“Gloria in Excelsis”
(Todd Kendall)

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
Emeritus Pastor ~ 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, Website: www.steeple.org

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2017 ~ 7:30 P.M.

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

Centering Words:

Then the singing enveloped me. It was furry and resonant, coming from everyone's very heart. There was no sense of performance or judgment, only that the music was breath and food.

Anne Lamont, Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith 21st Century

Prelude

“Noel in G”
(by Louis-Claude Daquin)

Introit

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Call to Worship based on Psalm 96 and Luke 2: 1-14

One: Sing to our God a new song; Sing to our God all the earth.

All: Glory to God in the highest heaven, Peace on earth to all!

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God, Let the earth rejoice, let trees of the forest sing for joy!

All: Glory to God in the highest heaven, peace on earth to all!

Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
(Hymnal #234 v. 1,3,4,6)

Lighting of the Advent Candles

One: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined.” (*Isaiah 9:2*)

[Four coloured candles are lit first and then the white candle, and reading continues.]

One: “The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” (*John 1:9*)

One: And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

All: And we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (*John 1:14*)

The Birth Foretold Anthem

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
“Candelight Carol”
(by John Rutter)

The Peaceable Kingdom Carol

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9a
“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”
(Hymnal #218)

The Annunciation Carol

Luke 1:26-38
“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”
(Hymnal #216)

Joseph's Dream Carol

Matthew 1:18-25
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
(Hymnal #240)

Journey to Bethlehem Carol

Luke 2:1-7
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
(Hymnal #230)

Luke's Nativity Carol

Luke 2:8-20
“Angels We Have Heard on High”
(Hymnal #238)

Poinsettia Dedications

Joe and Sylvia Maloney

~In memory of loved ones~

Amy and Brian Vaughan

~In honor of our children, parents, and in memory of our grandparents~

The Hollick Family

~In memory of Jane, John, and Mary Hollick~

Meisenzahl Family

~In memory of my mother, Shelia P. White.~

Brian and Gayle Goodwin

~In loving memory of Claudia Goodwin mother of Brian Goodwin~

Bill and Ursula White

~In loving memory of our infant son Mark William ~

Christmas Eve Reception

After the **7:30 Christmas Eve service** there will be a Christmas cookie reception in the Fellowship Hall. Punch will be provided. You are invited to bring Christmas Goodies to share.

Community Christmas Eve Service is at the Old Brick Church at 11:00PM.

New Year's Eve Morning Worship Around the Breakfast table Pot Luck~ We will Worship Around the Breakfast table on New Year's Eve morning (December 31) at 9:30. Coffee and juice will be provided—please bring a dish to share.

Greeters: Barb and Rick Bristol

Ushers: Lois and Sarah Mason, Ken Stone

Scripture Readers: Derek Allen, Deanna Davis-Kilpatrick, Bob Driver

Tony Lamb, Jenny Rousseau, Ruth Skiff, Don Thurston

Advent Candle Lighters: Diane Davis, Debbie Kilpatrick,

Deanna Davis-Kilpatrick, Devica Davis-Kilpatrick

Liturgical resources:

The **Call to Worship** is adapted from a liturgy entitled “Come Just as You Are, Service Prayers for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day” was written by the Rev. Penny L. Lowes, found at “Worship Ways” on the United Church of Christ website www.ucc.org.

The **Advent Candle** liturgy was adapted from a liturgy prepared by Rev. David Beswick of the Uniting Church of Australia found at <http://www.beswick.info/rcresources/CEA95OS.htm>.

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.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to The world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove,
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonder wonders of His love.