**GATHERED FOR WORSHIP**

***Pre-Service Program of Christmas Music Selections***

*Offered by Ilana Ofgang & Jon Coffin*

**PRELUDE**

**OPENING PRAYER, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WORSHIP IN SONG**

**HYMN*: “****O Come All Ye Faithful” (arr. David Willcocks)*

Verse 1

***O Come All Ye Faithful Joyful and Triumphant***

***O Come Ye O Come Ye to Bethlehem;***

***Come and Behold Him Born the King of Angels***

***O Come Let Us Adore Him, O Come Let Us Adore Him,***

***O Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

Verse 2

***God of God, Light of Light,***

***Lo! He abhors not the Virgin’s Womb;***

***Very God, Begotten, not created:***

***O Come Let Us Adore Him…***

Verse 3

***Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,***

***Sing, all ye citizens of Heav’n above;***

***Glory to God in the highest:***

***O Come Let Us Adore Him…***

Verse 4

***Yea, Lord we greet thee, Born that Happy morning,***

***Jesus to thee be glory giv’n;***

***Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:***

***O Come Let Us Adore Him…***

**SONG: “***Christmas Must Be Tonight,” The Band*

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**\*HYMN:**#125*“Angels We Have Heard On High” (New Century Hymnal)*

**\*PRAYER OF REPENTANCE**: (responsive)

Holy God, mindful of this season’s call for us to turn anew to you, we ask that you hear our prayers:

**Let the love that shaped earth and heaven dwell within us this Christmas.**

Let the love that created humanity dwell within us this Christmas.

**Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred dwell within us this Christmas.**

Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones dwell within us this Christmas.

**Let the love that forgives and renews dwell within us this Christmas.**

Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation dwell within us this Christmas.

**Let the love that brings the blessing of peace dwell within us this Christmas.**

And may we share that peace with all people near and far. Amen.

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND THE PASSING OF PEACE**

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *“O Holy Night,”* Paul Tiesler

**ISAIAH 9:2-7** 2 \*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. 3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**LUKE 2:1-20** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah,\* the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,\* praising God and saying, 14 ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’\* 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**SERMON**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**\*HYMN:** #385 “*What Child is This” (red hymnal)*

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (“debts/debtors”)

**OFFERING:** Thank you for [supporting our ministries!](https://trumbullcongregationalchurch.breezechms.com/give/online)

Offerings are gratefully received in the box in the back of the sanctuary, via QR code, or by US post.



**HYMN:** #393 *“Silent Night, Holy Night” (red hymnal)*

We light our candles during this time and share the light of Christ.

**SENT TO SERVE**

**WE ARE COMMISSIONED TO SHINE OUR LIGHT**

**\*SONG:** #132 *“Joy to the World”*

***Joy to the world, the Lord is 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.***

***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, repeat the sounding joy.***

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Merry Christmas to all! Join us again on Dec. 29 and Jan. 5 as our Christmas celebrations continue with guest preachers, Revs. Eric Fjeldal and Caroly Gibson. Pastor Tim will be back in the pulpit on Sunday, Jan. 12. We worship at 10am on Sundays. TCC is an “Open & Affirming” congregation, which means all are welcome!*

Special Thanks to Soprano Soloist Zhanna Alkhazova for sharing her time and talents with us this evening!



*To add to our prayer list please email Pastor Tim with a brief description of your prayer. Please indicate if you would like the prayer to be listed on an ongoing basis.* [tim.hare@trumbullcc.org](mailto:tim.hare@trumbullcc.org).

~Rose Heiser, Angela Hare’s mother, struggling with health concerns

~Stephanie Marko, Jo Ann Hunt’s friend, who lost her son (48 years old) to heart failure

~Karolina Szabo’s sister, Irma, experiencing health concerns.

~Charlotte Coe and family, Jo Ann Hunt's friend with dementia and cancer

~The parents of Paul Nestro, experiencing health concerns

~Maria Coffin, prayers for healing and peace as she goes through chemotherapy

~Nancy and Mike Szwejkowski, both dealing with health concerns.

~Ian and Jacqueline Sugrue-Tait and Griffin, their youngest, who struggles with significant health

issues

~Rev. John Russell, former TCC Pastor, experiencing health concern

~George Fitch, Grandfather of Jennifer Avery, experiencing health concerns

~Marlene, Amy Ronge’s friend, healing prayers as she undergoes cancer treatment

~The Consolati family, grieving the death of Michelle’s mother, Gail Winick

~Eric Farrell, recovering from surgery

~Chuck Hare, recovering from surgery



**ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

**THANK YOU!!: Many Thanks to all who helped us provide Christmas gifts items for nOURish Bridgeport families!**

**POINSETTIAS:**  **If you ordered flowers for the service you are welcome to take them home after the service. Thank you for adding to the beauty of our sanctuary and contributing to our Music Fund. Additional contributions can be made to “TCC'' with “Music Fund” in the memo line.**

**HOUSE CHURCH: Jan. 16 at 7pm. Save the date! Interested in hosting this special time for casual fellowship, bible discussion, prayer and Communion? Please contact Pastor Tim**

**GOVERNING BOARD: Jan. 6 at 7pm.**

**VALENTINE’S CONCERT AND GIFT BASKET RAFFLE: Save the date for a lovely evening of**

**music and fun: Feb. 2, 4pm. This year will feature jazz sounds drawing from the Great American Songbook, performed by The Malin Carta & John Hoddinott Group with Conor Brennan, Drums; & Preston Murphy, Bass.**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Please feel free to reach out to Lisa – Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9am-12pm at 203-268-2433 or at [office@trumbullcc.org](mailto:office@trumbullcc.org). **Also, Pastor Tim will be on vacation following the service on Dec. 24 until Monday, January 6, 2025.**