

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD
CHRISTMAS EVE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024
4:00 & 8:00PM



FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD IS A WELCOMING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
THAT SEEKS WAYS TO DEEPEN SPIRITUALLY, BUILD COMMUNITY,
AND MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

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CHRISTMAS EVE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024
4:00PM & 8:00PM

Gathering Music: Organ Improvisation – Simon Andrews, organist
4:00 – “Da Dawn & Christmas Day ida Morning” - Shetland Fiddle Tunes,
Kristin Moore and Beth Norton

Words of Welcome

Centering Music: 4:00 – *Carol of the Bells* by M. Leontovich - Christmas Chamber Choir
8:00 – *The Blessed Son of God* by R. Vaughan Williams - The Conchords

Call to Worship

Carol: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

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.

CHORUS:

O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him
Christ the Lord.

2. Lo, humble shepherds,
Hastening to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks in fields draw nigh
We, too, with gladness
Thither bend our footsteps

CHORUS

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God, all glory in the highest
CHORUS

Unison Chalice and Advent Candle Lighting:

Unison Response:
I will light candles this Christmas

Candles of joy, despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all the year long.

— Howard Thurman (adapted)

Prayer

Sung Response: *Each Night a Child is Born* - music: Jason Shelton, words: Sophia Lyon Fahs

Each night a child is born is a holy night:
A time for singing, a time for wondering
A time for worshipping
Each night a child is born is a holy night.

Invitation to Offering: Partner Congregation and UU Urban Ministries, Renewal House

Organ Offertory: “*Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen*” by Johannes Brahms
*To give to the Offering via text message, send a text to
855-691-2592.*

Reading: “Room for Christ” by Dorothy Day

Anthem: 4:00 – *Holly and the Ivy*, Traditional, arr. Reginald Jacques - The Conchords
8:00 - *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* by John Gardner - First Parish Choir

Lessons and Carols

Lesson: Luke 2: 1-7
4:00 – Anderson Manuel
8:00 – Ted Smongeski

Carol: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* by E.H.Sears/R.S. Willis

1. It came upon a midnight clear,
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold.
“Peace on the earth, to all good will,
From heaven the news we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;

And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3. But with the woes of war and strife
The world has suffered long
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong.
And we who fight the wars hear not
The love song which they bring.
O hush the noise of battle strife
And hear the angels sing.

4. For lo! The days are hastening on
By prophet bards foretold
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold:
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Lesson: Luke 2: 8-18

4:00 – Eric Moore

8:00 – Gib Metcalf

Carol: *The First Nowell* (English Carol)

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell
Born is the king of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell
Born is the king of Israel.

3. And by the light of that same star
Three magi came from country far

To seek a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell
Born is the king of Israel.

Lesson: Matthew 2: 1-12

4:00 – Liza Bowden

8:00 – Virginia Taylor

Carol: *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

1. We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star.

CHORUS:

O star of wonder, star of light
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us through this perfect night.

2. Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all are raising
Worship God most high. CHORUS

3. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying
Sealed in a stone cold tomb. CHORUS

4. Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown him again
Love forever, ceasing never
In our hearts to reign. CHORUS

Homily: “By Another Route” by Rev. Jennifer Beth Johnson

Anthem: 4:00 - *Someday at Christmas* by R.N. Miller/B.Wells - Gospel Choir
8:00 - *Glow* by Eric Whitacre - First Parish Choir

Reading: “How the Light Comes” by Jan Richardson

Candle Lighting

Closing Carol: *Silent Night, Holy Night* by J. Mohr and Franz X. Gruber

1. 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

2. 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

3. 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

Closing Words & Benediction:

Go out into the world in peace
Have courage
Hold on to what is good
Return to no person evil for evil
Strengthen the faint-hearted
Support the weak
Help the suffering
Honor all beings

Organ Postlude: "*In dulci jubilo*" by J.S. Bach

We invite you to stay seated as our service concludes with the postlude.

First Parish in Concord
A Unitarian Universalist congregation

20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

Many people contribute to making our worship services a smooth and meaningful experience, both in person and on Zoom. Thank you to the many volunteers who give generously of their time including the First Parish Choir, flower committee, ushers, and Zoom chat hosts. Thanks also to our staff worship team:

Rev. Jennifer Beth Johnson, Lead Minister

Rev. Elizabeth Ide, Minister for Congregational Care

Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education

Dawn Van Patten, Assistant Director of Religious Education

Elizabeth Norton, Director of Music Ministry

Simon Andrews, Organist

Anderson Manuel, Gospel Choir Director

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley, Minister of Social Action

David Wisniewski, AV Technician

Arkadiy Barshteyn, AV Technician

Ben Pincus, AV Technician

Catherine Hill, Communications & Office Coordinator