

First Congregational United Church of Christ

December 24, 2023

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Image: Index Image: Section and Sectio

DECEMBER 24, 2023

Please speak the bold-printed words in unison. Asterisk () indicates those who choose to may stand in body/spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC	"Christmas Time Is Here" "It's Christmastime"	Lee Mendelson, Vince Guaraldi Sean Baker, Peter Oprisko	
GREETING & OPENING	G PRAYER	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund	
*HYMN 135	"O Come, All You Faithful"		
LIGHTING OF THE AD	VENT & CHRISTMAS CANDLES		
SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 9: HYMN 116	2-7 "O Come, O Come, Emmai	nuel" (1 st & last stanzas)	
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:1- HYMN 133	-5 "O Little Town of Bethlehe	em" (1 st & 2 nd stanzas)	
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:6- HYMN 124	-7 "Away in a Manger" (all st	anzas)	
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:8- HYMN 125		"Angels We Have Heard on High" (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd stanzas)	
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:15 ENSEMBLE FEATURE	"A Hallelujah Christmas"	Leonard Cohen, Lance Stafford Additional lyrics by Alice Rutherford)	

7:00 PM

LITANY OF LIGHT



This holy night we open ourselves to You, O Holy One, and give you thanks. We rejoice in the beauty of this sacred night and the ways in which you bless us with your love. We give thanks for those gathered here even as we long for loved ones far away or already with you in eternity's embrace. **R**

We remember all those whom we love who struggle with illness, depression, loneliness, and despair, that they may know the peace and comfort of your presence. \mathbf{R} We pray for all who suffer from oppression, exploitation, and war, that they may find liberation, freedom, and peace. \mathbf{R}

We pray for all who are exiles, prisoners, hostages, and refugees, searching for shelter, liberation, healing, and safety. **R**

We pray for those who steward your Creation, that they may be wise and caring for all of your creatures and the Earth. We pray for all who work to protect the wellbeing of the

planet and for an end to the greed that destroys the Earth. $\,\,\textbf{R}$

We pray for your holy light to enter and guide our lives, that we may experience hope and meaning, joy and peace in our own spiritual pilgrimages of transformation. For all whom in Christ's love is born a new creation this night, may we treasure and ponder in our hearts what we have learned today, and may we glorify and praise God forever. Amen. **R**

SPECIAL MUSIC	"Some Children See Him"	Wihla Hutson, Alfred Burt
OFFERING OF GIFTS AND L	IVES	
PRAYERS AND PRAYER OF	OUR SAVIOR	
SPECIAL MUSIC	"The Best Gift"	Sean Baker, Peter Oprisko
REFLECTION IN IMAGES	"What Child Is This"	arr. Sean Baker (Images by Alice Rutherford)

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

"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, Child of God, love's pure light, Radiant beams from your holy face, bring the dawn of redeeming grace; Jesus Christ at your birth, Jesus Christ at your birth.

BENEDICTION

MUSIC TO CARRY US INTO THE NIGHT

Mayflower Singers

Mayflower Singers Piano: Sean Baker Bass: Jesse Wittman Drums: Mike Kessler Soloists: Sean Baker, Scott Semester Arrangements: Sean Baker Reader: Rev. Elizabeth Price

