

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 24, 2013

Christmas Eve Nativity Service

PRELUDE "The Lullabies of Christmas" Smith
"I Saw Three Ships" Wood
"Cantique de Noel" Adam
(*O Holy Night*)

GREETING Rev. Meg Watson

CALL TO WORSHIP Linda Shivers

Leader: Joy to the world,

People: The Lord is come!

Leader: Sing it! Shout it! Spread the news.

People: Go tell it on the mountain.

Leader: Jesus Christ is born!

People: O come, let us adore him!

Leader: O come, let us adore him!

People: O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

***HYMN** #148 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: Those who dwelled in a land of deep darkness, on them the light has shined.

Leader: A child is born! A son is given. He shall be called wonderful Counselor, almighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Christ Candle is lit

Leader: Wondrous God, take us to Bethlehem, to a quiet place and a humble birth. Let us, too, fall on our knees in adoration.

People: Show us again the miracle of your saving love this Christmas.

A MESSAGE FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US Rev. Robin Bird

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY "Bring a Torch Jeannette Isabella" French Carol
Youth Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BLESSING

***HYMN** #143 "Joy to the World"

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

HYMN #144 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (*vs. 1 only*)
JOSEPH - Ryan Moreau Luke 2:1-4

HYMN #159 "There's a Song in the Air!" (*vs. 1 only*)
MARY - Sarah Cutting Luke 2:5-7

HYMN #151 "The First Noel" (*vs. 1 only*)
SHEPHERD I - Nick Bartos Luke 2:8-9

HYMN #150 "Hark! The Herald Angles Sing" (*vs. 1 only*)
ANGEL I - Cara Clay Luke 2: 10-12

HYMN #153 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (*vs. 1 only*)
ANGEL II - Emily Hampton Luke 2:13-14

HYMN #162 "What Child Is This" (*vs. 1 only*)
SHEPHERD II - Chad Moreau Luke 2:15-16

HYMN #172 "We Three Kings" (*vs. 1 only*)

WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

Sophie Becker Matthew 2:1-2
Hannah Ramsdell Matthew 2:8-9
Megan Hasty Matthew 2:11-12

SPECIAL MUSIC "Mary Had a Baby" Spiritual
Transformers

PROPHET - Nathan Giordano Matthew 1:22-23

CLOSING HYMN #145 "Silent Night"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Joyous Christmas Bells" Broughton

**All who are able are invited to stand.*

The poinsettias are given by the church family and arranged by the Flower Committee.

Merry Christmas!!!

There will be a **Candlelight Service** tonight at **11 PM**.

A Crib Room is available upstairs near the balcony for parents with infants up to 12 months of age.

The **Christmas Fund** enables the United Church of Christ to provide financial aid to low income, retired clergy and their widowed spouses; emergency assistance to clergy in financial need and funding for pension and health supplementation plans for low income retired clergy and lay employees. Christmas Fund envelopes are available on the table at the back of the Sanctuary (If all envelopes have been taken, make your check payable to FCCV with "Christmas Fund Offering" in memo). All donations may be placed with the regular offering.