

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 24, 2014

Christmas Eve Nativity Service

PRELUDE "The Sounds of Christmas" Hughes
"The Lullabies of Christmas" Smith
"Carols of the Bells" Ritter

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Debi Hockenberry

Leader: Come away, come today to Bethlehem.

People: Come adore on bended knee, one whose birth the angels sing.

Leader: Come away from your noisy celebration, to a place of quietness and peace.

People: Come with wonder, come with awe. Take your place among sheep and cattle.

Leader: Sing with joy, praise God, for the time of promise has come.

People: Sing the good news of Emmanuel: God-with-us! The Christ has come!

Leader: Come away, come away...

People: Come today to Bethlehem.

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

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: Come and see!

People: The light of God has come into our world. It has overcome the darkness and brought new life.

Leader: Come and follow!

People: Christ our companion has redeemed our world. He draws us into a loving family from every tribe and family and culture.

Leader: Go and tell!

People: The Spirit has equipped us for service. To bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

Christ Candle is lit

Leader: Come and see, come and follow, go and tell! In God's love the nations of the earth will put their hope.

A MESSAGE FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Rev. Robin Bird

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY "O Holy Night"

A. C. Adam

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 Luke 2:1-4 Ryan Fujimoto

HYMN #159 "There's a Song in the Air!" (vs. 1 only)

MARY Luke 2:5-7 Christa Hockenberry

HYMN #151 "The First Noel" (vs. 1 only)

SHEPHERD I Luke 2:8-9 Emily Hampton

HYMN #150 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1 only)

ANGEL I Luke 2: 10-12 Ashley Markunas

HYMN #153 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (vs. 1 only)

ANGEL II Luke 2:13-14 Melina Toolan

HYMN #162 "What Child Is This" (vs. 1 only)

SHEPHERD II Luke 2:15-16 Hannah Mozzer

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

WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

Matthew 2:1-2

Nick Giordano

Matthew 2:8-9

Lilly Westerberg

Matthew 2:11-12

Seth Jensen

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Happy Birthday Baby Jesus"

Sunday School Choir

PROPHET

Matthew 1:22-23

Maddy Condry

CLOSING HYMN #145 "Silent Night"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Christmas Joy"

Ritter

**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.