

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 25, 2011

Christmas Day

GATHERING MUSIC

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" D. Paxton  
"Medley of Shepherd Songs" L. Smith/J. Mansfield

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Cynthia Carr  
(Please sign the Friendship Register before passing it down the pew.)

PRELUDE "Cradle Song" E. Higgins

ACOLYTES

WORDS of REFLECTION

*What surprised the shepherds was not that the Messiah would come or the angels had called them or the divine presence was a baby. What surprised them was that God had come to the very place where they had always been. The process is the same for us. Wherever we go to find Life, the fact is that Life is already within us if we will only attend to it.*  
- Joan Chittister

\*CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger bringing good news,

People: **Breaking the news that all's well, proclaiming good times, announcing salvation, telling Zion, "Your God reigns!"**

Leader: Break into song! Boom it out, ruins of Jerusalem:

People: **"God has comforted his people! God has redeemed Jerusalem."**

Leader: The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all nations; and all the ends of the Earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 52: 7, 9-10

\*OPENING HYMN #155 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

PRAYER of INVOCATION (unison)

Glorious God, we thank you for giving us the gift of Jesus. We come before you with wonder and delight, that you come to us in the One who is born this day in the city of Bethlehem and in all of our hearts. Be with us on this joyful and triumphant day. Honor us with the presence of your gracious, dancing Spirit. Fill our weary hearts with renewed hope and joy. Rekindle in our souls the light of Christ. Glory to you in the highest! Glory to you, now and forever. Amen.

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE

BLESSING of the CHRIST CANDLE (unison)

Source of all illumination, we celebrate today the coming of your Word made flesh, your Light of life to dwell among us. Bless this holy flame that in its glow we may be blessed by your grace and abiding love. May this candle remind us of your steadfast presence. May it give hope in times of darkness. Bless us, that we might reflect the Light of Christ in our daily lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

SOLO "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" J. Marks  
Serena Volovski - soloist

A TIME with the CHILDREN

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

STORY

PRAYER HYMN #162 "What Child Is This"

MORNING PRAYER and the LORD'S PRAYER (unison... "debts")

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1: 18-25

SERMON

The Rev. David Minnick

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)

\*PRAYER of DEDICATION

STORY

\*CLOSING HYMN #153 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

\*BENEDICTION

Leader: Go now and proclaim the good news. The Word of God dwells within us all.

People: **The Light of God shines in the world. Sing praises and shout for joy.**

Leader: Celebrate the hope and promise of this holy day.

People: **Let us all go forward with God's peace in our hearts.**

POSTLUDE "Postlude on 'Antioch'" G. Peterson

\*All who are able are invited to stand.

**Greeters and Coffee Hour:** Flower and Memorial Garden Committees

WELCOME TO FCCV!

If you are a first time visitor, please take a moment after the worship service and sign our Guest Book located in the Narthex on the Welcome Table.

There you will also find a special Welcome Bag just for you.

**Please Note:** The Toddler Room is closed today but will be open and staffed next Sunday, January 1.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

The **Church Office is Closed** on Monday, December 26

**Men's Club:** Tuesday, December 27, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**Yoga:** Wednesday, December 28, 5:30 PM, Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Please bring a mat. Donation: \$5 per class.

**Trustees:** Wednesday, December 28, 7 PM, Library

**Caring and Sharing Support Group:** Friday, December 30, 10:30 AM, Library

**Reminder:** Agenda items for the January 4<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting should be turned in to Moderator Tony Muro no later than Sunday, January 1.

There is **no Confirmation Class** on January 8. Classes will be held on January 22 and 29.

Non-competitive **basketball** for youth in 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade, January 7 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Drop off and pick up at Wapping Congregational Church in South Windsor.

**Giv2:** Sunday, January 8, 12:30-4 PM. Meet at FCCV. Space is limited to 15. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hall down from the Library.

A **Crib Room** is available upstairs near the balcony for **parents with infants up to 12 months of age** where the worship service can be heard via intercom.

**Cancellation of Church Services or Activities Due to Inclement Weather:**

Please listen to any of the following radio stations: WTIC AM (1080), WTIC FM (96.5), WRCH FM (100.5), watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to wfsb.com.

The **Care Network** is offered by the Deacons as a helping hand during difficult times. If you are in need of a ride to church, the doctor, hospital, grocery store, etc., in need of meals or a visit, please contact Margaret Klukas (643-0710) or Jan Muro (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com).

**Want to Meet New People? Volunteer to Serve!** Whether it's welcoming others at the door before the Worship Service or providing a baked good or snack, making coffee or setting up and cleaning up after Coffee Hour, volunteers are needed. A sign up sheet is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen. All help is welcome.

**Reminder:** Our Sunday morning worship services (on a one week delay) are available for viewing on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5 Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. Uncut DVD's (DVD's submitted for viewing on Comcast are edited to fit a 60 minute format) of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library. Check your local listings or go to CVCCCT.org for the dates and times of showings of other FCCV concerts and events.

**In Our Ongoing Prayers...** Marion Ordway Turro and family on the loss of her son, Robert Ordway; **Search Committee**; **Alexandra Fisher**, granddaughter of Pat Aldrich; **Pam Lyons** recovering from arm surgery; **Mike Swan** undergoing chemo for a reoccurrence of cancer; **Kathy Fuller**, Barbara Evensen's sister; **Caleb**, infant son of Jessica Gwara (friend of Annie Longo); **Richard Waddell**, nephew by marriage of Mary Wheeler, recovering from cancer surgery; **Debbie Morris**, Jan Peacock's niece; **Donna Peacock**; **Carol Whitney**; **Kyle**, son of Rob Czaplicki (friend of Rob Horton); **Joyce Smith**; **Dolores Tomolonis**, friend of Mary and Jim White, (cancer); baby **Ava**; **Thelma Gifford**; **Kaylin Gifford**; **Rick Gagnon**, brother-in-law of Michelle Bower (cancer); **Warren Clay**; **Gary Edwards**, friend of Serena Volovski; **Cooper Doyle**, Al and Marilyn Newton's grandson; **Paul** and **Susan Shimer**; **Candy Buswell** (heart); **Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger**; **Horst Pohlmann**, friend of the Gerakaris'; **John Mayhew**; **John Kaminski**, Susan Moreau's father; **Bess Howe**; **Jane Morse**; **Melissa Morse**; **Charlotte Driggs**; **Aaron Huneger**; **Stephen Volovski**; **Donald Chase**; **Audrey Clay** (breast cancer)