

Unto us
★ a ★
child is
born.

Prelude

Welcome

Blessing of the Christ Candle

Introit "Bring a Torch Je-

nette Isabella" Charpentier

Leanne Connolly and Joanne Myer, duet

Call to Worship *(written by Cheryl Lawrie)*

Leader: We are here because we have heard a promise of peace.

People: And we have faith its day will come.

Leader: We have heard a rumor of justice.

People: And we have faith its day will come.

Leader: We have heard a whisper of hope.

People: And we have faith its day will come.

Leader: We have heard a hint of love.

People: And we have faith its day will come.

Leader: We have heard of the birth of the Christ-child.

People: And we have faith His day is here!

All: Welcome to Christmas! Welcome to worship!

Leader: Let us pray...

God of light, we thank you for giving us the gift of Jesus Christ. We come before you with wonder and delight that you come to us in the child born in a manger. Be with us on this day of birth and rebirth. Come, honor us with the presence of your gracious, joyful Spirit. Fill our weary hearts with renewed hope and joy. Rekindle in our souls the light of Christ. Glory to you in the highest, O God, glory in the highest! Amen.

***Opening Hymn** #170 "How Great Our Joy!"

Christmas Reflection

Rev. Robin Bird

Christmas Hymns *(congregation choice)*

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** #169 "O Thou Joyful"

***Benediction**

And now may the glory and love of God surround us.

May the peace and grace of Christ dwell deep within us.

May the power and presence of the Holy Spirit uphold us.

Amen.

Postlude

"He Is Born"

Dupré

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

Please join us downstairs after the service
for coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

In Our Ongoing Prayers

Steve Carr, Sr., father of Steve and Angel Carr, recovering from surgery complications; Shirley Bryant; Elizabeth Fry; Janina Majkowski; James Purnell; Linda Dayton; Sara Levy; Julie, friend of the Turner family; Geraldine Strong; Tim Madigan; Lorraine Grork; Pat Lazeren; Shirley McElroy; Helen Dyar; Helen Dahling; Dave Hollister; Joyce Smith; John Arthur; Brian, 11 years old, fighting cancer; Daniel Burnett-Pollack; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer; Margaret Klukas; Paul Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness, and their families; the people of Syria; Heidi Howie; Mason Bower; Michael Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Cooper Doyle

*New additions in **bold print***

Today's Preludes

James Burr, Organist

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Leavitt

"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

Price

"Rise Up, Shepherd"

Osterland

"Come All Ye Shepherds"

arr. Smith

This Week's Activities

Please Note: The Haven and Support Group will **not** meet on Monday, December 26.

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, December 27, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Ladies Lunch: Tuesday, December 27, noon at Mitchell's Restaurant

Stewardship & Evangelism: Wednesday, December 28, 6:30 PM, Kellogg Hall

Grief Support Group: Friday, December 30, 10:30 AM, Kellogg Hall

New Year's Day: 10 AM Worship with Communion by Intinction

Pajama Day! If you want to be comfy and support a great cause you can wear your pajamas to church on January 8!! The Sunday School kids will be collecting \$1 per person for this honor. All proceeds will go to the Hematology Department of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

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, contact Cheryl Purnell, 860-712-8124 or Sue Pilkons, 860-875-4122.

Teddy Bear Ministry: Teddy Bears are sitting in the pews for you to take and give or send to someone in need of a bit of caring love. In order to keep this ministry going, we are asking for monetary donations to the Women's Fellowship Teddy Bear Ministry Fund or you may buy a bear (10"-12") and leave it in the Church Office. Contact Joanne Myer at 860-872-9222 or jmyer0146@yahoo.com if you have questions.

Child Care is available for church activities when notice is given 3 days prior to the event. Call Child Care Coordinator, Jen Jensen, 860-836-5824.

To request a visit with the pastor, please call the Church Office, 860-875-7580.

Church Office	860-875-7580
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