

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 27, 2015

~Lessons and Carols ~

WELCOME!

We're glad you are here. It is our hope that you will encounter God here, experience the love God showed the world in Jesus, and be inspired to share that love with the world.

PRELUDE	"Yuletide Echoes"	Hodson
	"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"	Johnson
	"Carol Fantasia"	Young

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAY IT FORWARD

WELCOMING the LIGHT of CHRIST

***CALL to WORSHIP**

Leader: Hear the good news of the psalmist's proclamation:

People: If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night."

Leader: Even the darkness is not dark to God, and the night is as bright as the day.

People: The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us has come to us in Jesus Christ who binds up the broken-hearted, heals all our infirmities, and relieves our burden of sin.

Leader: So arise, shine; for your light has come,

All: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Let the whole world rejoice!

***OPENING HYMN #153 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"**

LIGHTING the CHRIST CANDLE

After counting the weeks of Advent, we have come to Christmas. It is still Christmas. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. The true light, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Lighting the Christ Candle (in silence)

PRAYER

We thank you, God, for your gift of Jesus Christ. We thank you that Christ's coming makes hope, peace, love, and joy possible for all of us. Encourage us to do our part to bring goodwill and peace to our families, our churches, our neighborhoods, and the world. Amen.

ANTHEM/CONG. HYMN

"Mary Had a Baby" (*insert*)
Traditional African-American Christmas song
(used by permission, CCLI #CSPL098073)
(*Youth may leave for Sunday School*)

LESSONS and CAROLS

Luke 2:1-5

#161 "I Wonder as I Wander" (*vs. 1 and 2*)

Luke 2:6-9

#151 "The First Noel" (*vs. 1 and 2*)

Luke 2:10-14

#155 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (*vs. 1 and 3*)

Luke 2:15-20

#154 "While Shepherds Watched Their flocks" (*vs. 1, 2 and 6*)

READING "I Will Light Candles This Christmas" Howard Thurman

***HYMN #469 "I Am the Light of the World"**

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Infant Holy"

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER of DEDICATION (*unison*)**

God, you call us to give as we have received. On this Sunday following Christmas, when our blessings are great, when you have shared your Child with us, take these offerings of money and turn them into the vision you need for our church, our community, and our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** #167 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
BENEDICTION "A New Year with the Lord" ~ Michelle Lounds
POSTLUDE "In Dulci Jubilo" Bach

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, because he has anointed us to bring **good news** to the poor.
He has sent us to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. ~ based on Luke 4:18-19*

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

Join us for coffee and conversation after the service in Fellowship Hall.

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Edgar Jackson, Vernon Firefighter and friend of the Morse family; **Linda Rentler**, Debi Hockenbery's mother-in-law; **Rita Cima**, grandmother of Dan Cima, who lost her husband on December 19; Kathy Oliphant, sister-in-law of Millie and Bill Oliphant, recovering from breast cancer surgery; Deb Hampton's friend, Juan, passed away leaving a wife and two teenagers; Judie Peterson, Cheryl Purnell's cousin, on the loss of her son; stricter gun laws; tolerance of religious diversity/skin color/sexual orientation; Bertha Sullivan; Terri Carr; David Hollister; Daniel Burnett-Pollock; Emmalee Watkins; Bess Howe; Dave Toolan; Lillian Morse; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer, Margaret Klukas; Candy, Lynette Melanson's sister; Dave Boucher; Joyce Smith; Gilmay Markunas and family; Pat Lazeren; Bobby Dwire; Warren Little; Tom Fitzgerald; Melinda Singh; Paul Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness; Ed Rockland; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Heidi Howie; Wendy Parker; Rachel Andrews; Carol Shea; Bobby Kelley; Nancy Bailey; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Michael Turner; Richard Brooke; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski

*New additions in **bold print***

Greeters: Dennis and Sally Sullivan

Coffee Hour: Furnishings & Memorials and Library Committees

~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Bible Study: Monday, December 28, 11 a.m., Library

Mind and Spirit Support Group: Monday, December 28, 7 PM, Library

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, December 29, 6:30 a.m., Vernon Diner

Baskets desperately needed by Women's Fellowship. Donations may be left in the Women's Fellowship closet.

Transition Team Informational Meeting: Sunday, January 10, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Child care will be provided.

Please Note: To request a visit with one of the pastors, please contact the Church Office at 860-875-7580.

Mary Had A Baby (abbrev.)

Mary had a baby (My Lord)
Mary had a baby (Oh My Lord)
Mary had a baby (My Lord)

The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone.

Laid him in a manger (My Lord)
Laid him in a manger (Oh My Lord)
Laid him in a manger (My Lord)

The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone.

Named him King Jesus (My Lord)
Named him King Jesus (Oh My Lord)
Named him King Jesus (My Lord)

The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone.

Traveled on a donkey (My Lord)
Traveled on a donkey (Oh My Lord)
Traveled on a donkey (My Lord)

The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone.

Angels went around him (My Lord)

Angels went around him (Oh My Lord)

Angels went around him (My Lord)

The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone.

(Repeat verse 1 at the end)