

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC  
December 29, 2013

PRELUDE “Shepherd’s Song” Merkel  
“Prelude on the Sussex Carol” Schulz-Widmar  
“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light” Price  
“Carols of the Bells” Ritter

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Robin Bird

ACOLYTES

**\*CALL to WORSHIP** (*responsive*)

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 the 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**

**ANTHEM** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

**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*)

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**CALL to OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

**\*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**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** #167 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** “Sing It on High, the Messiah Is Born” Guilmant

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

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

Greeters: Al and Marilyn Newton

Coffee Hour: Furnishings and Memorials, Library and Memorial Garden Committees

**In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .**

**Susan Shimer;** Nancy Bailey, Margaret Klukas’ sister, diagnosed with lung cancer; Joyce Smith; Sonja (Marlene) Mayhew; Lorrie Dobson; Nell Michalik, Carol Whitney’s mother; Ben Savage, Sharon Christman’s brother, dealing with cancer; Lillian Burnett, Halene Fujimoto’s mother; Dick Myer, Andy Myer’s brother; Debbie Chase; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; E.G. and Donna Harvin; Adeline McGee; Chantelle Fuller; Sharon Dombek; Rev. Charlie Nichol’s granddaughter Devon; Gail Occhialini; Kim Burnham; Cheryl Adams; Alan and Jayne Chesterton; Betty Worden; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Jeanine Uthgenannt; Michael Turner; Claudette Weingart; Valerie Flitcroft; Jan Peacock; Candy Buswell; Steve Bright; Rachel Meneses; Lois Montlick; Donna Peacock; Arianna Saegaert; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Ruth Woodcock and her daughter Sarah; Will Livermore; Mike Swan; Pat Lazeren; Deborah Costello; Richard Brooke; Stephen Volovski; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski; Bess Howe; Melissa Morse; Charlotte Driggs.

*New additions in bold print*

**WELCOME to FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of VERNON!**

We are 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. If you are worshiping with us for the first time, please stop by our Welcome Table. There you will find a guestbook to sign and a welcome gift to take home with you. Let us know if we can be of service to you in any way, and come back again soon!

**THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES**

**Men's Club:** Tuesday, December 31, 6:30 AM at the Vernon Diner

**Please Note:** There will be no Bible Study this week. We will resume on January 7.

**Sanctuary Choir:** Thursday, January 2, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

**Support Group:** Friday, January 3, 10:30 AM, 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. A staffed **Toddler Room** located downstairs in the Kellogg wing is open for **children 12 months to 3 years old**.

**Reminder:** FCCV records its Sunday worship services. These services are available for viewing on a one-week delay on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5, Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. Check your local listings or go to [www.CVCCT.org](http://www.CVCCT.org) for the dates and times of showings of other FCCV events. Full length DVDs of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library.

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 Jan Muro (872-1757 or [jmoze@hotmail.com](mailto:jmoze@hotmail.com)) or Jon Dunlap (875-7254).

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

Please watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to [wfsb.com](http://wfsb.com).