

# **Hadwen Park Congregational Church, UCC**

www.hadwenparkchurch.org

**Candlelight Christmas Eve 2020**

**December 24, 2020 11 pm**



PRELUDE

*Silent Night, Brett Maguire on harmonica, brettwmaguire@gmail.com*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*Pastor Judy, please join*

**God of the simple and the common, when we look upon the beautiful image of the Christ child we are struck by contrast; our schemes are not visible, our thoughts are not clear, and our motives are often mixed. We have mistaken skepticism for wisdom, mistaken excuses for discretion, and mistaken indulgence for wealth. By the remembrance of your nativity, this night, may we see once more the native goodness of each human life! In the company of the Child, may we shed every encumbrance and attain the freshness, the intimacy, and the joy of living! It is your desire that we now bear the image of Christ and live as your children. So be it! Let us go to Bethlehem to remember.**

\*GATHERING HYMN

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
Brett Maguire and choir*

**O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring with peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.**

CANDLELIGHTING

*Jud and Trish Symmes and their sons; Jacob, Jared, Jonah*

## HEBREW LESSON

*Pamela Threlfall, Pamt2009@live.com*

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.  
For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*“For Unto Us” Brett Maguire, [brettwmaguire@gmail.com](mailto:brettwmaguire@gmail.com)  
Many of you have sung this song by Handel. Please feel free to sing along.*

## GOSPEL LESSON

*From Luke Chapter 2, Allen Dillaire, [allend@sllp.com](mailto:allend@sllp.com)*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## ANTHEM

*“Make Room” Billye and Roger Auclair, [auclair27@gmail.com](mailto:auclair27@gmail.com)*

## GOSPEL LESSON

*Allen Dillaire*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>18</sup> the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,<sup>19</sup> praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

*“Go Tell it on the Mountain” Randy Roy, [rroy22@yahoo.com](mailto:rroy22@yahoo.com)*

***Please sing with Randy!***

*Refrain:*

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. [Refrain]**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS STORY

Pastor Judy

ANTHEM

*"Christmas Lullaby"* Wings of Song

*Wings of Song is a community chorus of 60 voices from central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. Under the direction of Nym Cooke, they present seasonal concerts featuring a variety of music genres. HPC members who sing in this choir are Cindy Young, Nancy Smith and Linda Lambrecht*

READING

*"The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us"*

*Excerpts from a Christmas Eve sermon by Reverend Craig T. Kocher, Dean of the Chapel and Director of Religious Life at Duke University  
Read by Linda Lambrecht, lamfam151@gmail.com*

ANTHEM

*"O Holy Night"* Wings of Song

BENEDICTION

*by Howard Thurman, read by Al Green, acgreen@outlook.com*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with the flocks,  
Then the work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal those broken in spirit,  
To feed the hungry,  
To free the oppressed,  
To rebuild the nation  
To bring peace among all peoples,  
To make a little music for the heart.  
And to radiate the Light of Christ  
    In every way, in every day  
    In all that we do, and all that we say  
Then the work of Christmas begins.

**PEOPLE! May the work of Christmas begin.**

**Please light a candle as we promise to continue the work of Christmas  
and share the Light of the world.**

CLOSING HYMN

*"Silent Night"*

Silent night, holy night, all is clam, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly piece.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night, Child of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from your holy face bring the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Christ at your birth, Jesus Christ at your birth.

*Continue to sing, hum, pray and rejoice or....  
Go wrap presents when you wish.*

***Christ the Savior is born!***

***Merry Christmas  
And Peace on earth, please!***

