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To make a gift to First Church



**At the First Congregational Church, UCC of Wallingford, CT, we have discerned the following vision and mission for our faith lives together:**

### **Vision**

***Our faith – rooted in the compassion and teachings of Jesus Christ – is the foundation of our love for one another and service to the world around us.***

We offer a home for those seeking deeper meaning or purpose in their lives through the exploration of Jesus Christ's teachings. The love and compassion found in those teachings commit us to up lift each individual and celebrate our shared humanity.

### **Mission**

***We will foster spiritual growth, loving communication, and mutual care, thereby empowering us to confront issues that impact our community and the world, including poverty, isolation, and exclusion.***

We commit to developing a nurturing environment where all are loved, valued, and inspired to meaningful participation in the life of the church. Through our Christian faith, compassion, and service, we will dedicate ourselves to making a positive impact on the lives of people in our community and beyond.

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# **First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT**



## **Christmas Eve**

### **December 24, 2025**

## **B is for Bethlehem**

# Family Christmas Eve Service

## December 24, 2025

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Noel* Claude Balbastre

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Once in Royal David's City*  
H.J. Gauntlett/harm. A.H. Mann

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this holy night, we gather to hear the good news.  
**Jesus is born! We come to worship!**  
Long ago, angels sang of peace and joy.  
**We listen and rejoice!**  
God's love came down to earth as a baby.  
**Thanks be to God for Jesus!**  
Let us open our hearts to God's love.  
**We are ready to worship! Amen!**

+HYMN O Come All Ye Faithful (vss. 1,4) PH #132

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN All Earth is Waiting

**All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
And open furrows await the seed of God.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.**

**In lowly stable the Promised One appeared;  
yet feel his presence throughout the earth today,  
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;  
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.**

CALL TO REFLECTION

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

**Dear God, On this holy night, we remember that Jesus was born because you love us so much. Sometimes we forget to be kind. Sometimes we don't listen, or we**

choose our own way instead of yours. We are sorry, God. Thank you for forgiving us and loving us every day. Help us to share your love, to be kind and gentle, and to welcome Jesus into our hearts. Thank you for the gift of Christmas. We love you. Amen.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY                      *Gesu Bambino*  
Pietro Yon/arr. Karen Smith & David Synder

+DOXOLOGY    (melody Angels from the Realms of Glory)

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son.  
Evermore your voice is raising to the eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE    Luke 2:1-7

REFRAIN

“O Come, Let us Adore Him, O Come, Let us Adore Him  
O Come Let Us Adore Him Christ the Lord!”

**B is for Bethlehem**  
By Isabel Werner

A-D                      O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs.1)                      PH # 134

E-H	The First Nowell (vs. 1)	PH # 141
I-J	What Child Is This? (vs. 1)	PH #140
K-M	While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night (vs. 1)	PH #146
N-O	Away in a Manger	Kyla Hollingsworth, Agnes Lohrenz, Liam Neves, Elise Rodriguez
P	O Come Let us Adore Him “O Come, Let us Adore Him, O Come, Let us Adore Him O Come Let Us Adore Him Christ the Lord!”	
Q-S	We Three Kings (vs. 1)	PH #143
T	Hark, Hear the Bells!	
U-X	Angels We Have Heard on High (vs.1)	PH #116
Y-Z	+ Silent Night (all verses)	PH #138
As you feel led, light your candle in celebration of love and light coming into our world. As you sing, watch the light build until we are bathed in the beautiful light of His birth.		
COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION		
+HYMN	Joy to the World (all verses)	PH #130
POSTLUDE	<i>In dulci jubilo</i>	JS Bach
Announcements		
Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Wallingford! If you are visiting with us this morning, we extend a special welcome and greeting to you. First Church is a part of the United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!		
The flowers on the altar are given in memory of my sister-in-law Barbara Rusbarsky by Marilyn Colandrea.		
Our late <b>Christmas Eve</b> experience will begin with an extended <b>Prelude of Christmas Music</b> beginning at 10:40. <b>A Service of Carols, Communion and Candlelight</b> will begin at 11:00 PM. <b>Come and worship with us!</b> (and bring your family and friends)		
Pastor Jeff Birch - Sunday, January 4, 2026, will be our new settled pastor’s first worship service here at our beloved First Congregational Church of Wallingford. Please join for the service and a time of celebration following the service.		