

**Monroe Congregational Church  
Children's Instant Christmas Pageant  
4 PM Christmas Eve, 2011**

*A Christmas pageant is one way we teach our children about the incarnation of God in Jesus. We believe that drama, music and costumes help them connect with the story. As you arrive, please help support your child by helping them select a costume and put it on.*

**Welcome & Call to Worship**

Leader: This night, a holy love embraces us

**People: We gather to hear the story of our Savior's birth**

Leader: This night, we unwrap hopes long held within

**People: We gather to open ourselves to the promises of God**

Leader: This night, we gather as one family drawn together by  
a baby in a manger

**All: We gather to greet the world's light, the newborn Christ!**

**Opening Prayer & 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.***

**Lighting the Advent & Christmas Candles**

**Instant Christmas Pageant**

*As the nativity story is being read, we encourage you to act out what you hear.*



***An Angel Visits Mary***

**Liturgical Dance**

Hannah Halloran & Juliette Nealon

***The Baby is Born and Shepherds Hear the News***

**Carol**

***Away in a Manger***



Away in a Manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus, protect me, I pray,  
And stay by my side until night turns to day.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

### ***Shepherds Visit the Baby***

**Carol**



#### ***The First Noel***

The first Noel, the angels did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep;  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the king of Israel.

They looked above and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the king of Israel

### ***King Herod and the Magi***

**Carol**

#### ***We Three Kings***

We three kings of orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.



### ***For God so Loved the World...***

**Carol**

#### ***Angels We Have Heard on High***

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see,  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## Sharing Our Gifts

*Our annual offering is a special opportunity to express our deep gratitude for God's greatest gift to us. Please give generously to enhance the ministries of this church as we seek to be Christ's presence in the world.*



## Story: The Tale of Three Trees

### Christmas in Candlelight

*As we sing, lights will be dimmed. Please turn on a child-safe candle.*

### Closing Carol

#### ***Silent Night, Holy Night***

Silent Night, Holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night, Holy night,  
Child of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace;  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth

*Please hum one more verse*

### Moment of Silence

### Response to the Light

Pastor: Our candles light the darkness. They remind us that God has given us the bright light of Jesus Christ.

***People: May the light of Christ fill our hearts with love and light, peace and mercy, forgiveness and joy, now and forever. Amen.***

### Christmas Blessing & Benediction



At the conclusion of the service, please hang your costume on a hanger and lay it on a table with the others. Please turn off your candle and place it in the basket by the door.

**Christmas and New Year's Day** there will be one worship service at 10:00am

Thank you so much for the many gifts, cards, and warm wishes you have given to us. May your Christmas be both merry and blessed!- *John, Jenn, Will & Melissa*

Many thanks to the people who made this service possible:

- ❖ Danielle Tusch, piano accompaniment
- ❖ Betsy Gilberti, pageant art direction
- ❖ Senior Pilgrim Fellowship, costume assistance
- ❖ Juliette Nealon, liturgical dance
- ❖ Hannah Halloran, liturgical dance



**The Christmas Flowers are given with love from the following people:**

Vaughan Askue & Arlene Remond	In Honor of William E. Askue
The Cuseo Family	In Honor of Joseph Cuseo II
John & Linda Fracassini	In Honor of Loved Ones
The Fredeen Family	In Memory of Carl Hjerpe, in Honor of Phyllis Gelineau & in Celebration of the Jr. Choir
The Griffiths Family	In Memory of Philip Manley
Debbie & Bruce Gran	In Memory of Peter Litchfield
Ken & Pam Kelly	In Memory of Joseph Kelly & In Honor of Ruth Kelly and Tom Ethel Slater
Gay Muizulis	In Celebration of Thomas & Jonathan Culp
The Parratt Family	In Memory of Donna's parents Ken & Ruth Thomas Jones
Ron & Peggy Villani	In Celebration of Family & Friends
Dave & Jacque Ward	In Memory of Billy Hanes and Chan Ward
Nils Wiberg	In Memory of Gudrun
Ann Zeiner	In Memory of Robert Zeiner
Loraine Zeiner	In Celebration of the Christmas Season

