

**Christmas Eve Worship, 2011**

**11:00 p.m.**

Monroe Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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**A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**

**Gathering Music**

*Musette/Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
Allison Nicotera, bassoon, with Bert Hill  
*Past Three O'Clock*  
*Mary Had a Baby*  
*Gesu, Bambino*  
*Carol Medley*

The Adult Choir  
Julie McClenathan, soloist  
Suzanne Powers, soprano  
Christoph Whitbeck & Friends

**Welcome and Christmas Meditation**

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

**\*Carol**

***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)

**Lighting the Advent and Christmas Candles** John, Trees, Christoph Whitbeck & Sarah Anderson

**Silent Prayer**

**\*Carol**

***Angels from the Realms of Glory***

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant light (Refrain)

Sages leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions bear afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen his natal star (Refrain)



**Sixth Lesson**

Matthew 1

Michele Mount

**Anthem**

*Go Tell It On The Mountain*  
The Adult Choir, Suzanne Vick, soloist

**Seventh Lesson**

Luke 2

Sue Smelzer

**\*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.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

**Eighth Lesson**

Matthew 2

Rev. John Collins

**Carol**

***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold.  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from Heaven's all gracious King."  
The World in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing.  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:  
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

**Ninth Lesson**

John 1

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

**Offering  
Offertory**

*Christmas Trio*  
Maggie Fraser, Jay O'Rourke & Rebecca Williams

## **Christmas in Candlelight**

*As we sing, the ushers will move down the aisles to light our candles. Please pass the light to the person seated next to you. Always tip the unlit candle.*

### **Carol**

#### ***Silent 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, 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, Son 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**

***ALL: Welcome, Holy Child! Your Presence transforms us.  
May your love and light be reflected in our lives!***

*(Please extinguish your candle before the final carol.)*

### **\*Carol**

#### ***Joy to the World***

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hill, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

### **\*Christmas Blessing**

### **Parting Music**

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

The Adult Choir

*\* = please stand, all who are able*

## Announcements

**Welcome to all those visiting with us this evening**, especially returning students, young adults, old friends, and travelers. Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, we welcome you in Christ's name.

**Year-End Christmas Offering** - This 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.

**Thank you to our choirs, musicians, readers and ushers** for your gifts of music and leadership this evening.

**To All Members and Friends of Monroe Congregational Church:** Your staff thanks you for the many gifts, cards and warm wishes we have received from you. A merry and blessed Christmas to all! John, Jenn, Will & Melissa.

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

**Candles** – Please leave your candle and holder in the box provided as you leave.



**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
Lorraine Zeiner	In Celebration of the Christmas Season

## Advent Music Notes

**In this Christmas season, the MCC Choir repertoire features an eclectic mix of musical styles,** but many of these works share a traditional theme associating the nativity with the winter solstice. Nowhere do the gospels say that Jesus was born in winter. But the coming of Christ, Light of the World, and ancient festivals of the longest night and the returning sun, is an obvious connection as old as the church itself. More recently, our European forbears associated the solstice with winter weather, as well; so perhaps it is not surprising that we so often envision the angels and shepherds in the snow.

– David Walker

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### **Alleluia, Ye Heavens Sing Praises** – Camille Saint-Saëns

This charming quartet is from a Christmas Oratorio premiered on Christmas Day 1858 at the Church of the Madeleine in Paris. The text, originally in Latin, is from Isaiah (49.13), whose poetic prophecies provide so much of our advent lectionary.

### **Every Valley** – John Ness Beck

Beck (1930 – 1987) was an American composer and arranger, popular for his accessible settings of sacred music in contemporary styles. This prophecy from Isaiah (40.4-5), also quoted in the gospel of Luke (3.5-6), may be one of our most familiar and beloved advent readings. Many of us are more familiar with the more grandiose setting in Handel's Messiah, but the simple melody and fluid piano accompaniment of this choral ballad arrangement, vaguely reminiscent of movie westerns, give the reading a reassuring gentleness.

### **Gloria In Excelsis** – W.A. Mozart (attributed)

*Gloria In Excelsis* or "Glory to God in the highest" is what the angels sang when they appeared to the shepherds in Luke 2.14. Scholars can't even agree whether Mozart wrote this version. It's a short piece to begin with and our choir sings only the final benediction: *Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris* (Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father).

### **Go Tell It On The Mountain** – Traditional (arr Jasperse)

Performer and recording artist Greg Jasperse laid this funky gospel groove on one of the most familiar and beloved nativity anthems, a traditional African-American spiritual first documented in 1865.

### **London Waits** – arr William Llewellyn

Llewellyn is a contemporary Welsh composer and educator known for traditional secular and sacred works. His "London Waits" is a *quodlibet*, an old-school term for what we would call today a "mashup" of different songs woven together. In this case, popular English carols are arranged against the main theme of a traditional song called "Past three o'clock," a drinking song echoing the call of the night watchman. Imagine coming out of the tavern past midnight, realizing that the revel of Christmas Eve has become the noel of Christmas morning, and celebrating with a spontaneous burst of carols for which nobody remembers more than the first verse.

### **Long, Long Ago** – Carlisle Floyd

Born in 1926, Carlisle Floyd earned acclaim as an American composer of opera. In this short song, the ambiguous tonality and restless meter cast an atmosphere of suspenseful anticipation over sleepy little Bethlehem. In this narrative it is not winter, but the sheep are "whiter than snow." The angels appear, on cue, in a brief passage in a brighter key.

### **Troc-A-Tron** – Czech tune arranged by Petr Eben



