

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge

WHAT *Child* IS THIS?

7:00 pm
CHRISTMAS EVE
traditional candlelight service

Lessons & Carols from First Congregational Church

"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2.10 & 11

What Child is This?

The Prelude

Harp: Roseann Canfora Cello: Dan Hild

The Christmas Introit

"Once in Royal David's City"

- arr. Helvey

Chancel Choir, Director: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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The Christmas Proclamation

L: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy, for all people. To you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

C: **There is nothing in death or life, in things present, or things to come, nothing in all creation, that can separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

L: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice!

C: **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

***Opening Carol**

"Joy to the World" #179

***The Christmas Collect**

Gracious God, your angels broke into the midnight of a sleeping world to sing the news that Christ was born in Bethlehem. Break into the midnight of our dark world and stir hearts to hear again the message of your love. O God, on this night of joyful and expectant wonder, we look forward to the coming of the child whose birth was foretold by prophets, acclaimed by angels, and greeted by shepherds; and though we and this world still ask, "what child is this" help us to respond to his love and receive his peace, for the sake of the same Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

An Offering of Music

"Little Drummer Boy" - arr. Hermany

Chancel Bells, Director: Rev. Daniel Doty

In Celebration of the Light of the World

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: Hope, peace, joy, and love....
 ... answering his call and following in his footsteps.

Let us pray together:

Prayer for Christmas Eve Candle Lighting

We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, And lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

Hymn

"Peace, Peace, Peace" by Daniel Doty (Sung to "Still, Still, Still")

***Joy, peace, love – our hope born from above!
Born this night in lowly stable,
With God's love he will enable!
Joy, peace, love – our hope born from above!***

Preparation: Who is this Child?

Introduction

First Lesson

Glory Revealed to All

Isaiah 40.1-5

Carol

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” #176

Second Lesson

A Servant with Gentle Strength

Isaiah 42.1-4

Anthem

“Dance and Sing, for the Lord Will Be With Us”

— arr. Hopson

Chancel Choir, Director: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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Third Lesson

Equal, Beloved, and United Galatians 4.4-7 & 3.27-28

Carol

“What Child Is This?” vs. 1& 2 #184

Why Lies He in Such Low Estate?

Trombone Solo

“Ave Maria” - Schubert

Lauren Rudzinskas

Dedicated to Christina and Oliver

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Introduction

Fourth Lesson

A Servant of Peace Is Born Luke 2.1-7

Duet

“Away in the Manger”

— Murray

Harp: Roseann Canfora Cello: Dan Hild

C. Murray (1841-1905)

Fifth Lesson

Adored by Outsiders

Luke 2.15-20

Anthem

“Christmas Sanctus”

— Dengler

Chancel Choir, Director: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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Sixth Lesson

Taking the Form of a Slave Philippians 2.5-11

Carol

“O Come All Ye Faithful” #182

Let Loving Hearts Enthrone Him!

An Affirmation of Faith

“The Reign of Christ”

- L:** The reign of Christ comes not by conquest,
domination, and manipulation,
but by gracious love, gladly given, and willingly received.
The reign of Christ comes near wherever people covenant
together and say,
- C:** *Christ, we are your body: live in our hearts.*
Christ, we are your people: govern our lives.
Christ, we are your witnesses: send us out in your name!

Carol

“What Child Is This” vs. 3 #184

Seventh Lesson

Royal Robes for a Rescued People Colossians 2.6 & 3.12-15

Carol

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!" #185

Eighth Lesson

A Gift for All People

Luke 2.25-32

Duet

"He Gave the Greatest Gift of All"

— Sherberg/Scholl & Clydesdale

Rev. Daniel Doty, tenor

Amy Doty, Mezzo-Soprano

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Ninth Lesson

Love's Living Word

John 1:1-13, 18

Anthem

"All is Well"

— Smith and Kirkpatrick

Chancel Choir, Director: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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The Response to Christ's Coming

The Christmas Offering

The Offertory

"O Holy Night"

— A. Adam

Daniel Doty, Tenor

C. Public Domain

Sharing the Light

Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" #180

The Christmas Charge

(in unison)

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Sharing of Light

(When the light is passed, tip your unlighted candle to receive it; likewise, hold your lighted candle straight up as the person next to you receives the light from you.)

*** 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.*

***The Benediction**

***The Postlude**

Harp: Roseann Canfora Cello: Dan Hild

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TODAY

Tech Team: Anne Pertick, Vince Scovern, Megan Farnsworth

Ushers: Larry Robinson, Bob and Sandy Haydu, Marcus Huffman, Lauren and Nathan Scovern

Readers: Tapanga Ross, Jim West, Rev. Daniel Doty



GUEST MUSICIANS

***Roseann Canfora** has performed for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at the First Congregational Church of Tallmadge for 12 years. She is the principal player of Celestial Strings, a popular music ensemble known for its unique blending of harp with flute, violin and cello in classical, traditional and popular arrangements. Her Celestial Strings Duo, Trio and Quartet perform at weddings, parties and special events throughout north-east Ohio. In addition to her busy performance schedule, Dr. Canfora works full-time at Kent State University where she is a Professional in Residence in the College of Communication and Information and an Assistant Professor of Media and Journalism.*

***Dan Hild** is principal cellist in the Celestial Strings Ensemble. After graduating from the Baldwin Wallace College Conservatory of Music, Dan earned a Master's degree in performance from Miami University's School of Fine Arts. He performs annually with the Symphony Concert Series at Lakeside's Summer Chautauqua Orchestra. Beyond his work as one of Cleveland's finest cellists, Dan is professional roller skater and teacher and an accomplished vocalist who has performed with Cleveland Opera. For more than 25 years, Dan has performed in numerous musical theater productions at the Beck Center.*

Thanks to everyone who so generously gave to the Special Music Fund in December. I appreciate your generosity in helping to support our guest musicians for Christmas Eve and Easter.

- Nancy Lynn Robinson

**Our church office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's,
Dec. 25th-Jan. 4th. Merry Christmas everyone!**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Wishing you every blessing this festive season!

Love— Dan, Wendy, Nancy Lynn, Teresa, Cathy, Anne, Gary, and Bill

Poinsettia Donations 2025



Becky and Brian Allman	In memory of my parents, Gene and Betty Stalnaker. In memory of our infant granddaughter, Millie Ann Allman. In honor of our newest granddaughter Aubrey Rebecca Gaul.
Wendy Brown	May Christmas Joy bring out the child in us all
Ken and Diana Caldwell	Christmas Blessings to All!
Jacqui Calvarese	In memory of Dominica and Caser Calvarese. In memory of Cleo Cummins and Joan Moreno
The Cammel Family	
James Chapman	In memory of my two loving companions; my wife, Ellie (1965-2003) and Noma Spencer (2005-2019). These two ladies made my life complete.
The Doty Family	In loving memory of our Grandparents, Howard and Grace Dean; Kenneth and Ruth Kinsler; George and Mary Holmes; Henry Doty and Lois Van Brunt
The Drummond Family	In Celebration of Jesus
Bonnie Fordham	
Lindsay Halm	In memory of Lydia Christopher
Sandi Hughes	In honor of my deceased husband, Steve Hughes, and the Hughes family.
Karen and Mike Huth	In Honor of our families
Fred and Gale Kerscher	Merry Christmas!
Rebecca Kulmala	In memory of my loved ones who passed
Yvonne Larson	
Carolyn Atwood Mackey	Merry Christmas to all!
Donna Marlow	
Linda Mayfield	In Loving Memory of Bob Mayfield
Becky Michael	The joy of my grandchildren Kate and Luke.
Nan Nagel	In loving memory of Jack from the Nagel Family
Anne and Dan Pertick	Merry Christmas! In loving memory of our fathers, Jim and Mike.
Becky Rapini	
Rosemary Richards	In loving memory of husband, George. In loving memory of son-in-law, Biff Baker
Lisa Scovern	Merry Christmas wishes to all!
Wanda Strott	In loving memory of husband, John, and son-in-law, John Zreny
Jim and Dee West	
Don and Judy Woerz	In memory of our parents
Cliff and Sue Yeager	Merry Christmas

Special Music Donations 2025

Ken and Diana Caldwell

Joy and Peace from our Lord's birth!

The Cammel Family

Merry Christmas and Blessings in the New Year

James Chapman

Excellent music is a blessed event

Suzanne Creswell

Larry and Barb Dolensky

Enjoy the wonders of the Christmas Season

The Drummonds

Merry Christmas to all!

Sandy Farabee

Celebrating the Joy of Christmas!

Sharon Harms

Karen and Mike Huth

Merry Christmas to all!

Fred and Gayle Kerscher

Christmas love and blessings to all.

June Kolb

Chris and Carol Law

May the music of the season warm your heart and lift your spirits.

Mike and Cherrie LeBarre

Peace on Earth

Carolyn Atwood Mackey

Music tells a beautiful story

Dave and Sandy Marconi

Becky Michael

Glory to God in the Highest

Carol Penn

Christmas greetings to you all. And special thanks to Nancy Lynn choir members and instrumentalists.

Becky Rapini

Larry and Nancy Lynn Robinson

In memory of our parents

Connie Stone

In honor of my family

Dave and Reanetta Taylor

Sylvia Taylor

May the hope of Christ bring comfort this Christmas

Don and Judy Woerz

In memory of our parents

Cliff and Sue Yeager

In honor of Richard and JoAnn Wood's love of music

Ken Zach

Joy to the World!

D Em G D A A7 D D F# G A

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let all their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

D G D D G D D

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

D A

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
(1) and heaven and na - ture sing,

A7 D G D D Em G D A A7 D

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
heaven and na - ture sing,

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

MUSIC: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

ANTIOCH
C.M.Repeats

ADVENT

176 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

Chords: C, G7/D, C/E, C, F, G7/D, C, G/B, Am, G/B

1 Lift up your heads, O might - y gates: be - hold, the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart: make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to
 4 So come, my Sov - ereign, en - ter in! Let new and

Chords: Csus, C, Dm/F, C/E, Dm, C, G, G/B, D, G, G/B

King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
 tem - ple set a - part from earth - ly use for
 you: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me your in - ner
 no - bler life be - gin! Your Ho - ly Spir - it

Chords: C, G/D, D7, G, G/F, C/E, C, Dm, C/E, Dm/F, C/G, G7, C

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel: your grace and love in me re - veal.
 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

WORDS: George Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878); para. Psalm 24:7-10
 MUSIC: Thomas Williams' *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO
L.M.

What Child Is This

184

Em $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G D Em $\frac{Am}{C}$ B

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come peas-ant, king, to own him;

Em $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G D Em Am B B7 Esus Em

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear: for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

Refrain
 Bm G D Em $\frac{Am}{C}$ B

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the Vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Bm G D Em Am B B7 Esus Em

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!

WORDS: William C. Dix (1837-1898)
 MUSIC: English melody, 16th c.; arr. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871

GREENSLEEVES
 8.7.8.7.Ref.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

182

G Am G D F# G D F# G C G D Em

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

A7 D A D G D G D A7 D
 E B F# A

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove;
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

G Am D7 G D G Em Am D
 B A A F# C

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain
 G D G D7 G D G D7 G D

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

G D7 G D A7 D G C G D G
 A F# E B D

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

WORDS: Attr. John F. Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)
 MUSIC: John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

ADESTE FIDELES
 Irregular

185 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

F $\frac{F}{C}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ Am B \flat 2 $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C F

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King:
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

F $\frac{F}{C}$ C Dm $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{G9}{B}$ $\frac{G7}{B}$ Am $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{C}{E}$ Fmaj7 G7 C

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

N.C. $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C N.C. $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

B \flat B \flat maj9 $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ D7 Gm $\frac{C}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C F

with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

B \flat B \flat maj9 $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ D Gm $\frac{Gm}{F}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{C}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

O Little Town of Bethlehem 180

F Fdim7 F $\frac{F\#dim7}{Bb}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

F $\frac{F}{Eb}$ D D7 Gsus Gm $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love,
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

F $\frac{Edim}{G}$ $\frac{G\#dim7}{G}$ A N.C. $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ A

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

F Fdim7 F $\frac{Bb+}{Bb}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

Silent Night! Holy Night!

186

B \flat F7 B \flat

1 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,

E \flat B \flat E \flat B \flat

'round yon vir - gin moth-er and child; ho - ly in-fant, so ten-der and
 glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu -
 ra - dant beams from thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing

F7 B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ F F7 B \flat

mild, sleep in heav-en - ly peace, sleep in heav-en - ly peace.
 ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

WORDS: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John F. Young (1820-1885)
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

STILLE NACHT
 Irregular