



**December 29, 2024**                      **First Sunday of Christmastide**  
**Service of Word**

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**† Please stand in body or spirit**

Prelude

*A Mediaeval Lullaby*

XIV Century Melody

Greeting

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**† Call to Worship**

Christ is born!  
**Alleluia!**

Jesus is among us!  
**Alleluia!**

The Word has become flesh!  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Let us worship God!

† Opening Carols

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA



1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains, and the moun-tains  
 2. **Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long? What the glad-some**  
 3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing; come, a - dore on  
 4. **See him in a man-gerlaid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise; Ma - ry, Jo - seph,**



in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains. Glo - - - ri - a  
**tid - ings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?**  
 bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.  
**lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.**



in ex-cel-sis De - o, Glo - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

REGENT SQUARE



1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2. **Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,**  
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4. **Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear;**



ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
**God with us is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light:**  
 seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:  
**sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:**

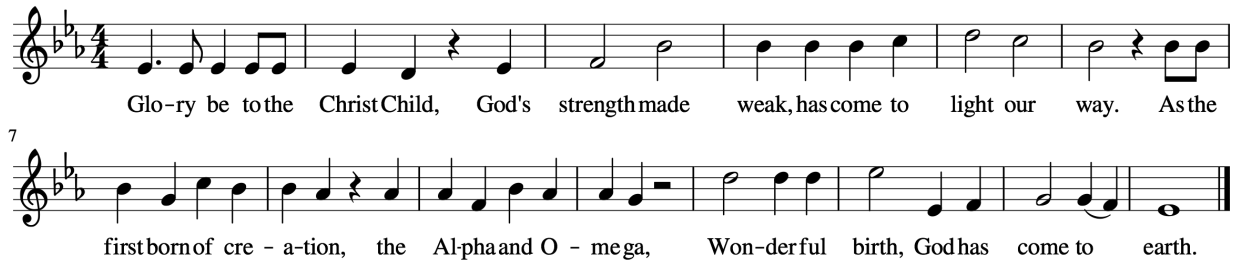


Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

† Invocation

O God, into a realm of clerics and kings you sent your child to teach the wise and show the world what power there is in love. Keep us vigilant to hear the voices of those who speak your truth. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Let us sing praise to God.  
**We will continually praise God's holy name.**



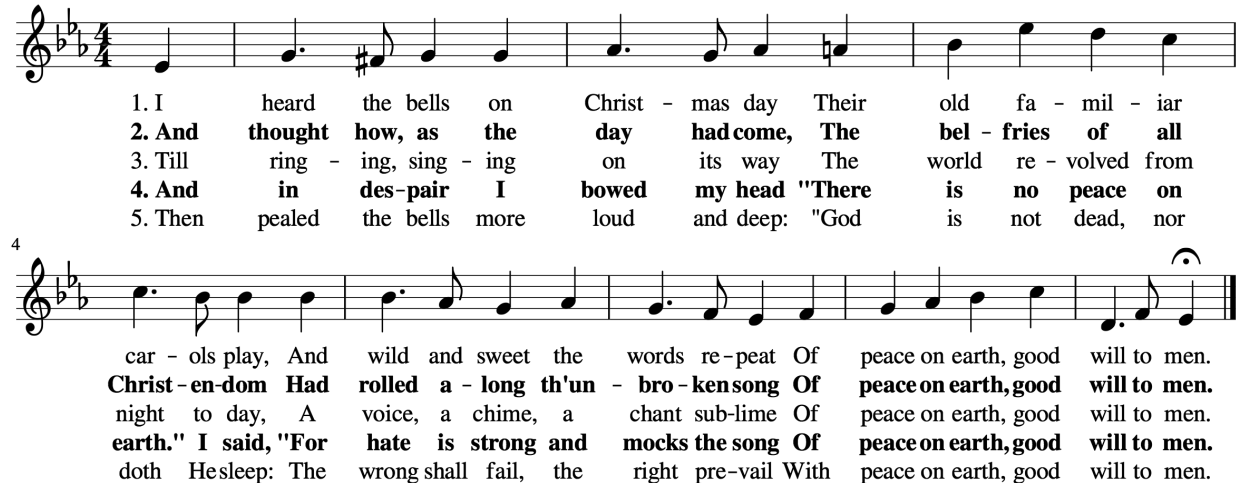
Glo-ry be to the Christ Child, God's strength made weak, has come to light our way. As the  
 7  
 first born of cre - a - tion, the Alpha and O - mega, Won - derful birth, God has come to earth.

## Old Testament Lesson

**1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

## Carol

*I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day*


1. I heard the bells on Christ - mas day Their old fa - mil - iar  
 2. And thought how, as the day had come, The bel - fries of all  
 3. Till ring - ing, sing - ing on its way The world re - volved from  
 4. And in des - pair I bowed my head "There is no peace on  
 5. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor  
 4  
 car - ols play, And wild and sweet the words re - peat Of peace on earth, good will to men.  
 Christ - en - dom Had rolled a - long th'un - bro - ken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.  
 night to day, A voice, a chime, a chant sub - lime Of peace on earth, good will to men.  
 earth." I said, "For hate is strong and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men.  
 doth He sleep: The wrong shall fail, the right pre - vail With peace on earth, good will to men.

## Epistle Lesson

**Colossians 3:12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you

were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

† Carol

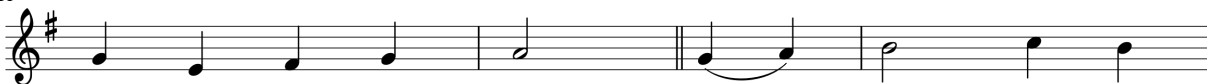
*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*



1. God rest ye mer-ry, gen-tle-men; let noth-ing you dis - may. Re - mem-ber, Christ our  
 2. In Beth-le-hem, in Is-ra-el, this bless-ed Babe was born, And laid with - in a  
 3. From God our heav'n-ly Fa - ther, a bless-en an - gel came; And un - to cer - tain



6 Sav - ior was born of Christmas Day To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when  
 man - ger up - on this bless-ed morn; The which His Moth - er Mar - y did  
 shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same; How that in Beth - le - hem was born the



11 we were gone a - stray.  
 noth - ing take in scorn. O tid - ings of  
 Son of God by name.



15 com - fort and joy, comfort and joy! O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

† Gospel Lesson

**Luke 2:41-52**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The word of God for the people of God.  
Thanks be to God.

Carol Medley

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice.  
2. **Good Chris - tian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice.**  
3. Good Chri - tian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice,

5  
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Je - sus Christ is born to-day.  
Now ye hear of end - less bliss: **Joy! Joy! Je - sus Christ was born for this.**  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Je - sus Christ was born to save.

10  
Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, And He is in the man - ger now,  
**He hath open'd the heav'n - ly door, And man is bless - ed ev - er - more.**  
Calls you one and call you all To gain His ev - er - last - ing hall.

14  
Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
**Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.**  
Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save.

*I Saw Three Ships*

1. I saw threeships come sail - ing in On Christ - mas Day, on Christ - mas Day. I  
2. **And what was in those ships all three On Christ - mas Day, on Christ - mas Day? And**  
3. The Vir - gin Mar - y and Christ were there On Christ - mas Day, on Christ - mas Day; The

5  
saw three ships come sail - ing in On Christ - mas Day in the morn - ing.  
**what was in those ships all three On Christ - mas Day in the morn - ing.**  
Vir - gin Mar - y and Christ were there On Christ - mas Day in the morn - ing.

## 12 Days of Christmas

6 1. On the First day of Christ-mas my true love sent to me a Partridge in a Pear Tree. 2. On the

11 Second day of Christ-mas my true love sent to me Two Turtle Doves and a Partridge in a Pear Tree.

15 3. On the Third day of Christ - mas my true love sent to me Three French Hens,  
4. **Fourth** **Four** **Call - ing birds**

20 Two Tur-tle Doves and a Par-tridge in a Pear Tree. 5. On the Fifth day of Christ-mas my

25 true love sent to me, Five Gold Rings, Four Call-ing birds, Three French Hens,  
Two Turtle Doves and a Partridge in a Pear Tree. 6. On the Sixth day of Christ-mas my

7. **Seventh**  
8. **Eighth**  
9. **Ninth**  
10. **Tenth**  
11. **E'le - venth**  
12. **Twelfth**

30 true love sent to me Six Geese a lay - ing, Five Gold Rings, Four Call ing birds,  
**Seven Swans a - swim ming,**  
Eight Maids a - milk - ing,  
**Nine La - dies danc - ing,**  
Ten Lords a - leap - ing,  
**Ele - ven Pi - pers pi - ping,**  
Twelve Drum-mers drum-ming,

35 Three French Hens, Two Tur-tle Doves and a Par - tridge in a Pear Tree.

### † Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you.**

Response to the Peace

*Dona Nobis Pacem*

DONA NOBIS PACEM

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pacem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis  
 12  
 pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem.

Invitation to the Offering

With grateful hearts, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God, in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Offertory

*Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*

RISE UP, SHEPHERD

1. There's a star in the East on Christ-mas morn; rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low; it will  
 2. If you take good heed to the an-gel's words; rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low; you'll for-  
 5  
 lead to the place where the Sav-ior's born; rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low. Fol - low, fol - low,  
 get your flocks, you'll for - get your herds; rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.  
 11  
 rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low, fol-low the star of Beth le hem. Rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.

† Doxology

*Christmas Doxology*

OLD 100<sup>th</sup>

O Glo-rious God, to you we bring Praise, trea-sures, lives as of - fer - ing; Come,  
 5  
 Ho - ly Spirit, with - in us dwell; Born is the Christ, Em - man - u - el! A - men.

† Prayer of Dedication

Loving God: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

† Closing Carol Medley *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where; Go, tell it on the moun - tain That

7 Fine  
Je-sus Christ is born! 1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by  
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a - bove the  
3. Down in a low - ly man-ger The hum-ble Christ was

13 D.C.  
night, Be - hold through-out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
earth Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
born, And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

1. We wish you a Mer-ry Christ-mas; We wish you a Mer-ry Christ-mas; We  
bring us a fig-gy pud-ding; Oh, bring us a fig-gy pud-ding; Oh,  
won't go un-til we've got some; We won't go un-til we've got some; We

5  
wish you a Mer-ry Christ-mas and a Hap-py New Year. Good tidings to you wher - ev-er you  
bring us a fig-gy pud-ding and a cup of good cheer.  
won't go un-til we've got some, so bring some out here.

12  
are; Good tid-ings for Christ-mas and a Hap-py New Year. 2. Oh, wish you a Merry Christmas; We  
3. We  
4. We

19  
wish you a Mer-ry Christ-mas; We wish you a Mer-ry Christ-mas and a Hap-py New Year.



† Benediction

Postlude

*In Dulci Jubilo*

JS Bach

## **WISE FOR MENTAL HEALTH COVENANT**

We, Enfield UCC, commit ourselves to providing and promoting education, activities, and resources for individuals and families, as well as advocating for legislative action and collaborating with other mental health organizations. To that end, we joyously extend our church's compassionate welcome and love to members and non-members alike who experience mental illnesses or are touched by them.

## **WELCOME STATEMENT**

We covenant with God and each other to live as Jesus has taught. Following God's example, we strive to be a Christian Community welcoming you no matter who you are. No matter your physical or mental ability, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, or economic status, you are truly welcome. We acknowledge past hurts individuals may have experienced and look to offer a safe, non-judgmental space for all who want to know God in Christ. This covenant includes the right to participate equally and fully in all aspects of the life and ministry of this congregation. In a spirit of understanding, we strive for collaboration as we seek to become the fully inclusive community of faith that God calls us to be.

## **ENFIELD UCC GUN POLICY**

Gun violence continues to exist in the United States as a public health issue, one that requires reform in policy and culture. Enfield UCC is a gun-free zone, and no one may bring a firearm on the premises unless explicitly authorized by the pastor and/or moderator.

The United Church of Christ is a proponent of gun safety and gun control and supports policies including:

- strengthen the licensing and registration of handgun transfers
- restrict firearm possession by persons convicted of violent crimes and by juveniles
- limit handgun purchases to one per month
- strengthen regulation of gun dealers
- increase civil and criminal liability for misuse of firearms
- prohibit semiautomatic assault weapons, Saturday night specials, explosive ammunition and large capacity magazines
- require gun safety devices
- require training in the safe use of firearms as a condition of licensing

We encourage everyone to be in touch with legislators, urging them to pass legislation that restricts the sale of firearms.