

Candle



CHRIS

**First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ**

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 24, 2023
CHRISTMAS EVE
8PM

**All who are able please stand.*

PRELUDE Three Carol Settings: Arr., Gordon Young (1919-1998)
 "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"
 "ALL MY HEART THIS NIGHT REJOICES"
 "SILENT NIGHT"

THE INVITATION *(responsive)*
 God's grace, mercy, and peace be with you.
And also with you.

WELCOME Rev. Eric Dupee

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsive)* Isaiah 9:2,6 Rev. Dan Hollis

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in the land of deep darkness; a light has dawned.

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given.

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

***OPENING HYMN** "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL" No. 182

Thank you for worshiping with us this Christmas Eve!
We hope this service enables you to enter into the heart of Christmas, which is a joyous celebration of God’s love and God’s gift to us in Jesus Christ.

Deacons for Tonight’s Worship

Per Jonas
Jan Jonas
Jonn Schrimper
Rick Mason

Welcome to First Parish Church. We’re so happy you chose to worship here on Christmas Eve. If you are a visitor tonight, we extend you a special welcome. Join us for worship each Sunday at 10:00am either in person or via our livestream www.firstparishyork.net. We also invite you to contact us with any prayer requests you might have. This time of year is difficult for many people. There are so many troubling things taking place in our world right now. We want to be in prayer for you. Feel free to contact one of us if there is anything we can keep in prayer for you. You can email at eric@firstparishyork.net or dan@firstparishyork.net or call the church to leave a message.

Blessings and peace,
Rev. Eric and Rev. Dan

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT C
Leader: Tonight we celeb
People: Glory to God in
Leader: Hope gives way t
People: Glory to God in
Leader: Our candles illu
has come.
People: Glory to God in
Leader: And this Light is
shines in the darkness w
with the presence of God
always.
All: Glory to God in the

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST C
Our time of waiting is ne
completed. We hear the g
word of hope. We light th
the light of the world.

CAROL “JOY T

THE ANGEL AND MARY

CAROL “IT CAME UPON

CHRIST’S BIRTH IN BETHLEHEM	Gospel of Luke 2:1-14	Sue Wierzba
JOSEPH’S DREAM	Gospel of Matthew 1:18-24	Phil Woodman
CHRISTMAS REFLECTION	“In the Hands of a Vulnerable God”	Rev. Eric Dupee

SPECIAL MUSIC

“THE DARKNESS IS FALLING” Arr., Joseph Roff (1910-1993)
*The darkness is falling, the day is nigh gone.
I come to adore thee, the heavenly Son.
I sing by thy cradle a sweet lullaby.
Thou art not yet sleeping. I hear thy soft cry.
Now close thy sweet eyelids, thy crying now cease.
And give me in parting thy blessing of peace.
My sleep shall be dreamless, my slumber the best,
as tranquil and quiet I take me to rest.
Bye, bye, sleep sweetly, dear Child.*

First Parish Vocal Ensemble

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Please share generously to support the ministries of First Parish Church and the work we do in the wider world.

OFFERTORY “O HOLY NIGHT” Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)
Gina Connolly, soprano



Once e

LITANY FOR THE CANDLES
The light of hope shines
We light candles of hope
The light of peace shines
We light candles of peace
The light of joy shines
We light candles of joy
The light of love shines
We light candles of love
The light of God shines
We light candles so that

*CAROL “SILENT NIGHT”
(please raise your candles)
Silent night, holy night
Round yon virgin mother
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night
heaven afar, heavenly
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night
Radiant beams from Thy
Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus

*CHRISTMAS BLESSING

POSTLUDE