

*CAROL “ SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!” No. 186

*CHRISTMAS BLESSING Rev. Dan Hollis

*CAROL “ JOY TO THE WORLD!” No. 179

POSTLUDE Recessional on “JOY TO THE WORLD” (*Antioch*)
 Arr., Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Deacons for the Family Worship

Susan Mancinelli
Ray Mancinelli
Joyce Willette
Rick Mason

Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation

Rev. Dan Hollis

Rev. Eric Dupee

Staff

Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries

Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate

First Parish Church Lay Leaders

John Covino, Moderator

Kristin Schrimper, Vice Moderator

Ray Hamlin, Treasurer

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk



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



CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 2023

5:30 PM

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 24, 2023
CHRISTMAS EVE
5:30 PM**

**Indicates a time when you are invited to stand if you choose.*

WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

**Jim White, Kathy Mason, Nate Cox,
and Karen Lynge**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dan Hollis

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rev. Eric Dupee

***CAROL “O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”**

No. 182

READING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY Luke 2:1-14

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Dan Hollis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Please come forward with any offering you wish to bring before God this night. You are encouraged to hang any mittens, scarves, or hats you may have brought to donate on the Christmas trees up front. These presents will be shared with children and families in need throughout York to warm the winter season. Any financial contributions placed in the offering plates or given to a Deacon will be used to further the work and outreach of First Parish Church as we serve God together.

CAROL “AWAY IN A MANGER”

No. 203

CAROL “ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

No. 188

CAROL “IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR”

No. 191

CAROL “HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING”

No. 185

CAROL “GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”

No. 218

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Rev. Eric Dupee

***CAROL “O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”**

No. 180

***AN INVITATION TO THE LIGHT**

Rev. Dan Hollis

At this time you will be invited to light your glowsticks as we share the light of God's love with the world. The lights of the church will then be dimmed until the closing carol begins.

Welcome Guests! We're glad you're here. You can learn more about us via the brochure in the back of the seat in front of you, or at www.firstparishyork.net.

Restrooms: Restrooms are located on the lower level of this building, which is accessed by stairs in the foyer. Wheelchair accessible restrooms can be found across the drive in Fellowship Hall. For access during the worship service, please see a Deacon.

Nursery Care: *Our downstairs nursery is not currently staffed*, but you are welcome to accompany your child to the nursery at any point during the worship and spend time there as a family if you feel that you need to.

Video and Streaming: We stream our worship services live and archive them on www.youtube.com/@firstparishyork. If for privacy reasons you do not wish to have you or your children's faces appear on video, you can sit in pews that are marked on the ends with blue tape. Feel free to ask a deacon to show you what those markings look like.

Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

Sunday School: During the school year, anyone age 4 through 8th grade is welcome to attend Sunday School. We ask that parents/guardians fill out a registration form on the first visit; our Deacons will be happy to connect you with someone from Sunday School before the children make their way outside. Partway through Sunday services, children are invited to meet with their teachers in the church foyer. Together, students and teachers will make their way to the Fellowship Hall to take part in fun and faith-based activities centered around a theme from the Bible. (Family members are always welcome to attend Sunday School if you wish!) After worship is over, families can go across the drive to sign out their children with the teachers. Sunday School is free of charge.

**No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are On Life's Journey,
You Are Welcome Here!**

We covenant with God and with one another as members of First Parish Church to be an Open and Affirming Church. We affirm the dignity and worth of every person created in the image of God. We are one body with many members: people of every age, marital status, family structure, faith background, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, racial and cultural identity, and socio-economic status. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we invite all into the full life, ministry, and sacraments of the church. We honor the guiding principle that discrimination is incompatible with Christ's message of unconditional love.

**Please join us for worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.
Sunday School is currently on holiday break,
and will return January 7.**

Mission

Following the way of Jesus, we aspire to *authentically invite, courageously include*, and *generously serve* all with compassion and grace.

Vision

Following the way of Jesus, we celebrate *inspirational worship*; create *life-changing experiences* for children, youth, families, and individuals; and practice *meaningful congregational care*.

While *respecting our diversity*, we *courageously advocate* for *justice and mercy*, and *intentionally respond to the needs* of our *community and the world*.

What we believe as part of the United Church of Christ

"God is still speaking" is our way of saying that God is still active in the world today and always has something new to tell us! As a congregation of the United Church of Christ, we affirm that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We are an Open & Affirming church, where we strive to be as all-loving and inclusive as God is. Here we follow the way of Jesus Christ, who welcomes and accepts everyone as they are. We hope that here you find rest for your body, and nourishment for your mind and soul.

Welcome Guests! We're glad you're here. You can learn more about us via the brochure in the back of the seat in front of you, or at www.firstparishyork.net.

Restrooms: Restrooms are located on the lower level of this building, which is accessed by stairs in the foyer. Wheelchair accessible restrooms can be found across the drive in Fellowship Hall. For access during the worship service, please see a Deacon.

Nursery Care: *Our downstairs nursery is not currently staffed*, but you are welcome to accompany your child to the nursery at any point during the worship and spend time there as a family if you feel that you need to.

Video and Streaming: We stream our worship services live and archive them on www.youtube.com/@firstparishyork. If for privacy reasons you do not wish to have you or your children's faces appear on video, you can sit in pews that are marked on the ends with blue tape. Feel free to ask a deacon to show you what those markings look like.

Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

Sunday School: During the school year, anyone age 4 through 8th grade is welcome to attend Sunday School. We ask that parents/guardians fill out a registration form on the first visit; our Deacons will be happy to connect you with someone from Sunday School before the children make their way outside. Partway through Sunday services, children are invited to meet with their teachers in the church foyer. Together, students and teachers will make their way to the Fellowship Hall to take part in fun and faith-based activities centered around a theme from the Bible. (Family members are always welcome to attend Sunday School if you wish!) After worship is over, families can go across the drive to sign out their children with the teachers. Sunday School is free of charge.

No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here!

We covenant with God and with one another as members of First Parish Church to be an Open and Affirming Church. We affirm the dignity and worth of every person created in the image of God. We are one body with many members: people of every age, marital status, family structure, faith background, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, racial and cultural identity, and socio-economic status. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we invite all into the full life, ministry, and sacraments of the church. We honor the guiding principle that discrimination is incompatible with Christ's message of unconditional love.

**Please join us for worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.
Sunday School is currently on holiday break,
and will return January 7.**

Mission

Following the way of Jesus, we aspire to *authentically invite, courageously include*, and *generously serve* all with compassion and grace.

Vision

Following the way of Jesus, we celebrate *inspirational worship*; create *life-changing experiences* for children, youth, families, and individuals; and practice *meaningful congregational care*.

While *respecting our diversity*, we *courageously advocate* for justice and mercy, and *intentionally respond to the needs* of our community and the world.

What we believe as part of the United Church of Christ

"God is still speaking" is our way of saying that God is still active in the world today and always has something new to tell us! As a congregation of the United Church of Christ, we affirm that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We are an Open & Affirming church, where we strive to be as all-loving and inclusive as God is. Here we follow the way of Jesus Christ, who welcomes and accepts everyone as they are. We hope that here you find rest for your body, and nourishment for your mind and soul.