
2022
2021

LOADING...

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
IN CELEBRATION OF CHRIST AMONG US

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY

Sunday, December 26, 2021 10:00 AM

*We are delighted to have you here with us this morning!
In the joy of Christmas, the First Congregational Church of River Edge
welcomes all to the warmth of our community.*

✠ *The congregation may stand, if comfortable doing so. **Bold Text** is spoken in unison by the congregation*

CHRIST THE WORD

*As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, we are clothed in the love and grace of God
that love and grace may be our way in the world.*

PRELUDE

Piano Carol Medley

CALL TO WORSHIP

With gratitude and joy, come sing to the Lord.

With songs of praise, we come.

With thankfulness and cheer, lift hymns to God on high.

With songs of praise, we come.

With hope and love, sing to Christ our King.

With songs of praise, we come

✠ OPENING CAROL 129 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* In Dulci Jubilo

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, asleep within the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today.**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now you know of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
God has opened heaven's door, and you are blessed for ever more.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!**

OPENING PRAYER

**Ever-present God, clothe us with your compassion.
Instill in us your kindness and mercy.
Bind us together in humble patience and gentle love.
Rule in our hearts,
that we may be Christ-like,
displaying your glory in every word,
and in every deed.
In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8—15.

(OT pg. 3)

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

ANTHEM

Coventry Carol

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, lully lullay.

His men of might in his own sight,
All young children to slay.

O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day.
This poor youngling, for whom we do sing,
Bye bye lully lullay?

That woe is me, poor child for thee!
And ever mourn and day,
For that parting neither say nor sing
Bye bye, lully lullay!

Herod, the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, lully lullay.

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15—18.

(OT pg. 18)

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

✠ CAROL

Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth

**Come, though Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virginbirth;
Let ev'ry age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.**

**Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, though art still
The word of God in flesh arrayed,
The promised fruit to man displayed.**

**The cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
And twilight never intervene.**

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2,6–7.

(OT pg.638)

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

✠ CAROL

I Saw Three Ships

**I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas day in the morning.**

**And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas day in the morning.**

**And who was in those ships all three?
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas day in the morning.**

**And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas day in the morning.**

**The Virgin Mary and Christ were there,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
The Virgin Mary and Christ were there,
On Christmas day in the morning.**

**And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas day in the morning.**

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1–9

(OT pg.640)

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

✠ CAROL 128

In the Bleak Winter

CRANHAM

(Stanzas 1, 4)

**In the bleak midwinter, frost wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but
What can I offer: All my heart.**

FIFTH LESSON

Micah 5:2–4.

(OT pg.865)

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

✠CAROL 133

O Little Town of Bethlehem
(Stanzas 1, 3)

ST. LOUIS

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in your dard streets shines forth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.
No one discerns God's coming, but in this world of sin,
Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.**

SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

(NT pg.1)

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph

✠CAROL

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Stanzas 1, 3

**God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ Our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in min,
And left their flocks a -feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessed babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8–16

(NT pg.58)

The shepherds go to the manger.

✠CAROL

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.**

**‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.’**

**To you and David’s town this day
Is born of David’s line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign.**

**All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.**

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1–11

(NT pg.2)

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

 **CAROL 126**

*Angels, from the Realm of Glory
(Stanzas 1, 2, 4)*

REGENT SQUARE

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
As you sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth: *(Refrain)***

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light: *(Refrain)***

**Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly, your prayers attending, Christ beside you shall appear. *(Refrain)***

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

 **THE SHARING OF GOD’S PEACE**

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace.
May the healing peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

The people share a sign of peace with one another.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God,
Receive Our Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ding Dong Merilly on High

D. Willcocks

✠RESPONSE

MENDELSSOHN

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the son of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise the lost on earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

✠PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God, receive the gifts we now bring
to you and to your church.
Clothe these gifts with your love,
even as you clothe us with compassion,
that our lives and these gifts
may be transformed into your presence
in our world. Amen.**

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1–14

(NT pg.91)

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

✠CAROL 139

*First Nowell
(Stanzas 1, 2 4)*

THE FIRST NOWELL

**The first Nowell, the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep ,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep. *(Refrain)***

**They looked above and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both da and night. *(Refrain)***

**This star shone bright in the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it seemed to rest,
And there it did both strop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. (*Refrain*)**

Refrain

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born in a manger, Emmanuel.

REFLECTION

For the Time Being
A Christmas Oratorio by W.H. Auden

Rev. Dave Pomeroy

✠ CLOSING CAROL

Deck the Halls!

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

'Tis the season to be jolly,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Fill the meadcup, drain the barrel,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Troul the ancient Christmas carol,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

See the flowing bowl before us,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Strike the harp and join the chorus.

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Follow me in merry measure,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

While I sing of beauty's treasure,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Fast away the old year passes,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses!

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Laughing, quaffing all together,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Heedless of the wind and weather,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Antioch

Emma Lou Diemer

Assisting God's people in worship this morning are the Rev. Bernd Weishaupt, worship leader; David Pomeroy, guest preacher, Don Huggett, liturgist; Gene Hammerle and Vic Babington, technicians; Slavina Zhelezova, director of music. Claudia Drummond greeter; Bill Hamilton, Don Huggett, Diane Lento, ushers.

The Rev. Dave Pomeroy, a retired UCC minister, is Pastor Emeritus at the Las Vegas United Church of Christ. Most of his career was in communications' ministries with the Communication Commission of the National Council of Churches and Faith & Values Media. He lives most of the year in Las Vegas with his wife, Ann, and two dogs. He was pastor of First Congregational Church, UCC, in Las Vegas for ten years. While in New Jersey, though, they very much enjoy worshipping at FCC River Edge.

The Life of Our Church This Week

Sunday, December 26, 2021

10:00 am	Worship Service Rev. Bernd Weishaupt
12:30 pm	The Well Church

Monday, December 27, 2021

Church Office Closed

12:00 pm	Al Anon
7:00 pm	Step by Step – NA

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

7:00 pm	Mission Team
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Wednesday, December 29, 2021

7:00 pm	AA
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Saturday, January 1, 2022

7:00 pm	AA
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Sunday, January 2, 2022

10:00 am	Worship Service Rev. Bernd Weishaupt
12:30 pm	The Well Church

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE

Prayer Concerns – December 26, 2021

Prayers for Those with Health Needs

Rev. Chuck Holm, Rick Skae, Beverly Cannizzaro, Rylie Kearns, Sue Becker, Judi Schmitt, Dona Berg, Joe Corona, Alec Cameron, Jr., Adamarie Kendall, Arlene Rudd, Richard Smith, June Seilheimer, Judy Macht, Rev. Muriel (Mimi) Hachfeld, Edwina Arena, Barbara Carr, Peter Armstrong, Nelly Novarro, Anthony Mirabile, Carol, and Sue, Janet and Nicolas Post, Phil Ceppaglia.

Those Homebound, in Assisted Living Residences or in Nursing Homes

Jean & Victor Babington Sr., Doris & Chet Price, Chris Egner, Hilma Albrecht, Phyllis Malley, William Spencer, Joan Sullivan, Bill Finch.

Serving in the Military

Michael Shuler, Bob Bailey, Andrew Pohl

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

109 Continental Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661 / (201) 261-1712

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Office is **closed**. Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm.

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