

# Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2016 4:00pm

**Please note:** Children may stand on the pews after removing their shoes. Fire codes prohibit giving candles to children. Please remain seated for hymns except for “O Come, All Ye Faithful.” and “Go Tell it on the Mountain”.

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Jim Mitulski

BUILDING BETHLEHEM

THE PROCLAMATION

Narrators

Today, the human and the holy meet in Bethlehem! Today, the earth rings with the song of children.  
A song of peace and love. A song of salvation. Today, Christ is born.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Congregation

**On this day earth shall ring, with the song children sing  
To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us.  
Peace and love he gave us. Id-e-o-o-o, Id-e-o-o-o,  
Id-e-o, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

THE ANNUNCIATION

Gabriel and Mary

*Gabriel's Message*

Kids Choir

THE DECREE

Narrators

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Congregation

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee to-night.**

THE STREETS OF BETHLEHEM

Vendors and Innkeepers

*“Is There Room?”*

Written by Cici Hunt  
*Kirby Salerno, Soloist*

NO ROOM IN THE INN

Innkeepers

THE ANIMALS WELCOME THE CHRIST CHILD

Narrators and Animals

*The Friendly Beasts*

Kids Choir

THE MAGI MEET IN JERUSALEM

Narrators and Magi

*The First Noel*

Congregation

**The first Noel, the angels 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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.  
They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.  
This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels Solo and then Congregation

**Solo**

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Congregation**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, Which inspire your heavenly song.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

THE SHEPHERDS ARRIVE

THE OFFERING

*Tonight's offering helps us to continue Christ's work in the world.  
Thank you for supporting The Congregational Church of Needham's work and its mission.*

*Away in a Manger*

Congregation

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid  
down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord  
Jesus, asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus,  
no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the  
sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.  
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and  
love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

**What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?**

***Refrain:* This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard  
and angels sing. Haste, Haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.  
Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.**

*Refrain*

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king to own  
him; The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.**

*Refrain*

THE ROYAL PROCESSION

THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAGI

Magi and Attendants

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Magi

(Congregation on refrain only)

**O-o, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

THE PROMISE

Narrators

*During the singing of the next hymns, adults and children who would like to come closer to the nativity are invited to come to the front of the Sanctuary.*

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Congregation

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;**

***Refrain:* O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him;  
Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

*Refrain*

**Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;  
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?**

*Refrain*

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;**

*Refrain*

***Refrain:* Go Tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born**

**While shepherds kept their watching, Over silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light**

*Refrain*

**The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.**

*Refrain*

**Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn**

*Refrain*

MARY PONDERED ALL THESE THINGS IN HER HEART

Narrators

THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

All are invited to share the candlelight. Please observe the following safety notes:

- ◆ *Fire codes prohibit giving candles to children.*
- ◆ *When passing the light, the person whose candle is already lit should keep their candle upright while the other person turns theirs diagonally to light it (this keeps wax from dripping.)*
- ◆ *When all candles are lit, we will raise them for the final verse of "Silent Night," then extinguish them by "snuffing" them out after the benediction.*
- ◆ *Please deposit candles in the container provided as you exit.*

*Silent Night*

Congregation

**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.**

BENEDICTION

*Please raise your candle for the last verse of Silent Night and the benediction, and extinguish them at the end.*

RECESSIONAL CAROL

*Joy to the World*

Congregation

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her king; Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And  
heaven, and heaven and nature sing.  
Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let all their songs employ;**

**While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat,  
Repeat the sounding joy.  
He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love, And wonders,  
Wonders of his love.  
Amen.**

*The Ministers and Staff wish you and your family  
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*Parents of Performers!  
After the Pageant, please pick up your children in Fellowship Hall.*

**Rev. Jim Mitulski's Office Hours**

Please contact the church office to schedule an appointment  
during his office hours of Tuesday & Wednesday 2-6pm; Thursday 2-5pm  
\*If these times do not work for you please contact  
the office for alternate availability.

**Staff**

Interim Senior Minister  
The Rev. Jim Mitulski  
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The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

Congregational Church of Needham, United Church of Christ

Christmas Eve Family Service  
Featuring the Christmas Pageant

Cast and Crew 2016

<b>Shepherds</b>	Catherine Davis, Harrison Davis, Isaac Gershovsay, Getchell Gibbons, Hadley Gibbons, Wesley Gibbons, Emilia Massey, Alex Morrison, Abby Orr, Natalie Orr <i><b>Adult Shepherds:</b> Andrew Gershovsay</i>		
<b>Angels</b>	Mia Allen, Caroline Allgood, Tess Busby, Margot Dies, Lucie Salerno, Ella Tometsko, Charlotte Memory, Katie Memory <i><b>Adult Angels:</b> Nancy Carrillo, Cathy Memory, Heather Salerno</i>		
<b>Dove</b>	Eliza Williams	<b>Rooster</b>	Emery Lauck
<b>Cow</b>	Jameson Lauck	<b>Sheep</b>	Bella George
<b>Donkey</b>	Robert Mahar	<b>Large Camel</b>	Caroline Mahar, Taylor Williams
<b>Vendors</b>	Leyna Blume, Rory Collins, Josie George		
<b>King's Entourage</b>	Connor Hurley, Owen Noone, Cole Tomestko		
<b>Innkeeper Family 1</b>	Patty Morrison, Lina Hurley, Ellie Noone		
<b>Innkeeper Family 2</b>	Jake George, Jenny George, Kate Allgood, Maya Massey, Liam Salerno		
<b>Innkeeper Family 3</b>	Ken Allen, Kiersten Blume, Miles Salerno		
<b>King 1</b>	Claudia Sesso	<b>Angel Gabriel</b>	Madelyn Downer
<b>King 2</b>	Claire Dirks	<b>Scary Angel</b>	Rev. Jim Mitulski
<b>King 3</b>	Isabelle Dirks		
<b>Narrators</b>	Carol Oberle, Kira Oberle		
<b>Joseph</b>	Kirby Salerno	<b>Midwife</b>	Rona Gershovsay
<b>Mary</b>	Gretchen Lanka-Allen	<b>Baby Jesus</b>	Anna Gershovsay
<b>Banner Bearers</b>	The Oberle Family: Mark, Carol, Devon, Kira, and Elena		
<b>Stage Crew</b>	Olivia Allen, Elizabeth Kuhlman		
<b>Costume Crew</b>	Amanda Allgood, Amy Massey, Angeline Maughan		
<b>Children's Choir Director</b>	Cici Hunt	<b>Theatrical Director</b>	Teresa Blume
<b>Organist</b>	Sangyoung Kim	<b>Stage Coordinator</b>	Heather Salerno

Thank you to all the families, church members,  
and friends who supported our pageant in many  
different ways!

**Thank you for joining us for our Christmas Eve Family Service!**

### **Highlights of our Spring Programming**

#### **The Celebration of Epiphany**

**January 6 6:00 PM** Join us for an Epiphany Party including crafts, games, and a big dinner; this fellowship opportunity is open to all ages . RSVP to [youth@needhamucc.org](mailto:youth@needhamucc.org).

**January 8 10:00 AM** Join us to worship and celebrate the twelfth day of Christmas, when the Magi kneel in wonder before the Christ child. Rev. Dr. Cody J. Sanders, guest preacher, Old Cambridge Baptist Church

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday** observed Sunday, January 15; 10:00 AM

**Black History Month** observed Sundays in February; 10:00 AM

**Bible Village Winter Open House** Sunday, February 12; after worship

#### **Join us as we journey through Lent:**

**Ash Wednesday** Wednesday, March 1 Services at 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM

**Wednesday night services** will be offered throughout Lent at 7:00 pm in the chapel.

#### **Holy Week Services:**

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Sunday, April 9	Service at 10:00 AM
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Thursday, April 13	Service at 7:00 PM
<b>Good Friday</b>	Friday, April 14	Service at 7:00 PM
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	Sunday, April 16	Service at 10:00 AM, Easter Egg Hunt to follow

**Community Building Retreat** Friday, March 24 - Sunday, March 26

Join us on Friday evening for a potluck dinner, on Saturday for workshops (including children's programming), and on Sunday for worship as we lift up the journey our community has taken and imagine who we might become.

**April VBS: God's Kingdom** Tuesday, April 18 - Friday, April 21; 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Our Spring VBS offering will explore the story of God and God's people.... a story which we play a part in! Registration for students Pre-K through grade 5 will open in February. Scholarships are available.

**We hope to see you again soon!**

**Our Website:** [www.NeedhamUCC.org](http://www.NeedhamUCC.org)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/NeedhamUCC](http://www.facebook.com/NeedhamUCC)

**Instagram:** @NeedhamUCC  
**Twitter:** @NeedhamUCC