

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
Christmas Eve 2021

**A Service of Sacred Stories & Singing - 5pm**

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder;  
and his name will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of  
Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end."*

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

Gathering Music

Various Christmas Carols

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey  
you are welcome in this place.*

Call to Worship

Leader: Tonight, we celebrate Jesus' birthday. Thank-you God for sending the Messiah  
our way.

**People: Happy Birthday, Jesus!**

Leader: When Jesus was born, kings and wise men, angels and stars proclaimed the glory  
of our God.

**People: Happy Birthday, Jesus!**

Leader: When Jesus was born, the piercing light of Christ's love diminished the darkness.

**People: Happy Birthday, Jesus!**

Leader: The light continues to grow and has made its way across centuries and continents  
to make its home in our hearts right here in Essex Junction Vermont.

**People: Happy Birthday, Jesus!**

Leader: Christ still brings light and love into our lives and reminds us to spread it around  
to everyone we meet. Thanks for the birthday party, Jesus!

Opening Carol

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**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.**

**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.**

**O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.**

**Glory to God, all glory in the highest.**

**O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,**

**O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**O Little Town Of Bethlehem**

**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 street shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all years are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;**

**Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;**

**O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

Christmas Prayer and Unison Lord's Prayer

**Loving God, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.**

**Away in a Manger**

**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 baby awakes,  
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.**

### Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"**

**Joyful, all ye saints arise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun 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 us from the earth, born to give us second birth.**

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Spreading the Light of Christ

*From the Christ Candle, Saint Nicholas, the Innkeeper's Wife and the Angel Gabriel will pass Christ's light to each person in the crowd. We ask each person to be careful with your candle and especially ask parents to watch their children. On the way out, please extinguish your candles and place them in the receptacles provided. Thank you.*

### Silent Night, Holy Night

**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, shepherd quake at the sight**

**Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia.**

**Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

Pastoral Benediction

*\* Special Thanks to Doug Olufsen for setting up the sound system and taping all the hymns.*

*\*\* Everyone is invited to help themselves to hot cocoa. And if you so choose, there will be an offering basket available to support the work of First Church in the community.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL**

**AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!**

# Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

- Betty Busciglio* ..... *In Memory of loved ones*
- Cathie Goodheart & Tim Carney* ..... *In Memory of our loved ones*
- Sanctuary Choir* ..... *In Honor of Denise Keating and Marie Johnson*
- Brenda Dawson* ..... *In Memory of my parents*
- Riley Elliott* ..... *In Honor of the ministries of First Congregation Church of Essex Junction*
- Howard & Janne Giles* ..... *In Memory of David & Anne Cozzens,  
Howard & Lois Giles and Lois Rossman*
- Martha Hopkins* ..... *In Memory of my parents, Arthur & Lois Anderson*
- Joanne Irwin* ..... *In Memory of Edwin & Dorteia Hilbert and Alan Irwin*
- Andrea J. Goedken & Linda B. Jackson* ..... *In Memory of George Arthur Jackson*
- Alex, Monica, Liam & Ethan John* ..... *In Memory of N.V. & Mary John and  
John & Alice Murphy*
- Marie & Dave Johnson* ..... *In Memory of our parents*
- Genevieve & Henry King* ..... *In Memory of Grandma & Grandpa Gibson*
- Connie Marshall* ..... *In Honor of my Barden family and my Marshall family*
- Judy & Kevin McCullen* ..... *In Memory of Peg & Ed Hurst and Donna McCullen  
and In Honor of Shannon, Sean, and Kevin*
- Maureen McKenzie* ..... *In Memory of Mom, Dad, Jim and Mark*
- Mark Mendes* ..... *In Memory of Margaret & George Mendes*
- Betty Moody* ..... *In Memory of Karl K. Moody, Jr.*
- Jessica & Jonah Moos* ..... *In Honor of family  
and In Memory of Leora & Annette*
- Lindalou Parker* ..... *In Memory of Erica Eastham & Krianna & Kelsey Couture*
- Judy Pomainville* ..... *In Memory of Wesley & Virginia Larrabee*
- Carolyn Rushford* ..... *In Honor of Nick & Jamie Rushford*
- Paula & Rusty Sargent* ..... *In Honor of Paula's mom, Charlotte Lapidow  
and In Memory of Rusty's mom, Helen Sargent*
- Jane Schneider* ..... *In Memory of Russ and In Honor of my parents*
- Andrea & Steve Sharp* ..... *In Memory of our parents*
- The Shearer Family* ..... *In Memory of Patricia & Steve Shearer and Malcolm Forbes*
- Gorden & Lauren Starkey* ..... *In Memory of our parents,  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Starkey Sr., and Richard Busciglio*
- Carolyn Toof* ..... *In Memory of Dick Toof*
- Carl & Alison Wermer* ..... *In Memory of our parents*
- John & Phyllis Willey* ..... *In Memory & In Honor of our parents, both living and deceased*