

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, December 30, 2018

Prelude

Welcome

Introit

Call to Worship T. Shuman

Leader: Wonder of wonders, God has come to us!

**People: Not as a judge, but a Savior;
not in power, but as a servant.**

Leader: Wonder of wonders, God comes to us!

**People: Not in silence, but in the Word made flesh;
not in the shadows, but bringing Light.**

Leader: Wonder of wonders!

People: God is with us!

Hymn 136 REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

**Angles from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er
all the earth; as you sang creation's story, now pro-
claim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and
worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your
flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder
shines the infant light: Come and worship, come and
worship, worship Christ the newborn King.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions
beam afar; seek the great desire of nations; you have
seen Christ's natal star: Come and worship, come and
worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Saints before the alter bending, watching long in
hope and fear, suddenly the Lord, descending, here**

**among us shall appear: Come and worship, come and
worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Prayer of Confession T. Shuman

**You came in weakness, Mighty God: forgive our
grasping for power. You came in humility, Prince of
Peace: forgive us for wanting more than others. You
came in gentleness, Wonderful Counselor: forgive
us for the anger we speak and the pain we cause.**

**Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today: forgive us,
heal us, make us new, we pray...**

(moments for silent reflections)

Words of Assurance

Anthem J. R. Brown

Christmas Lullaby
from Songs for a New World

Children's Message and Lord's Prayer

Dee Buchanan

**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. Lead us not in-
to temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn 147 ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen
lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is born for all.
Swiftly winging angels singing, bells are ringing, tid-
ings bringing: Christ the babe is born for all; Christ
the babe is born for all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the
morning new, saw the glory, heard the story tidings of**

**a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, prais-
es voicing greet the morrow: Christ the babe was
born for you; Christ the babe was born for you!**

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Tim Whipple

God, Make Us Your Family

Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:41-52

Colossians 3:12-17

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Steve Hockstra

Hymn 134 ANTIOCH

Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive
her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heav-
en and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and
heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let earth her
songs employ; let fields and floods, rocks, hills and
plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding
joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and
makes the nations prove the glories of his righteous-
ness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his
love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude