



**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
December 24, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS PRELUDE:** “*Greensleeves*”  
*Richard Purvis (1913-1994)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

The journey began in Nazareth.

**Mary will have a son.**

The journey continued to Bethlehem.

**There is no room at the Inn.**

The journey continues to a field of shepherds.

**We are bringing good news of great joy  
for people everywhere.**

The journey continues to a manger.

**He shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,  
Almighty God, the Everlasting Father,  
the Prince of Peace.**

This journey is a journey of Light.

**Now the Light is here!**

**It is the Light of the World!**

**\*HYMN** “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*”

*PH 132*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:**

**The Round Family**

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*trespasses*)

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **\*GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Psalm 98

**\*HYMN:** “*What Child is This, Who, Laid to Rest*”

*PH 140*

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Isaiah 9:2-7

**ANTHEM:** “*All bells in paradise*”

*Words and music by John Rutter (b.1945)*

Deep in the cold of winter,  
Darkness and silence were everywhere;  
Softly and clearly, there came through the stillness  
a wonderful sound to hear:  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring,  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.  
*All bells in paradise I heard them ring:  
'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sing.*  
Lost in awe and wonder,  
Doubting I asked what this sign might be:  
Christ our Messiah revealed in a stable,  
A marvellous sight to see.  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.  
He comes down in peace, a child in humility,  
The keys to his kingdom belong to the poor;  
Before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures,  
gold incense and myrrh.  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Sounding in majesty the news that they bring;  
All bells in paradise I heard them ring,  
Welcoming our Saviour, born on earth a heavenly King.  
*All bells in paradise I heard them ring:  
'Glory to God on high' the angel voices sweetly sing.*

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Micah 5:2-5a

**\*HYMN:** *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

*PH 120*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *“The Bell Carol”*

*Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)*

*Music: Philip Ledger (1937-2012)*

I heard the Bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Till, ringing singing, on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head:  
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,  
“For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
“God is not dead, not doth he sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.”

**\*DOXOLOGY:**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 2:1-14

**\*HYMN:** *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

*PH 134*

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:** *“Beyond Words”*

**THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**HYMN:** *“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

*PH 138*

**THE POSTLUDE:** *“Swiss Noël, with Variations”*

*Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)*

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Lighting the Advent Candles tonight are; The Round Family.  
Greeting and reading this evening is Fran Bachman.

The flowers on the altar are given in Celebration of the birth of the Christ Child and in loving memory of Dr. Wilson E. Hughes, Ernest W. and Gladys Mander, and Barbara Jean Robinson, by the Rev. John and Marilyn Hughes and their family.

The Poinsettia plant been donated by Doris Milne to grace our sanctuary through the Christmas holiday.

The Christmas poinsettias will beautify our sanctuary through tonight's service, if you donated a plant you may take your plant after this evening's worship service.

Welcome to all who are new to our worship. To join our mailing list -fill out a "Welcome Card" to place in the collection plate or contact [office.fpchurch@verizon.net](mailto:office.fpchurch@verizon.net) , 978-526-7661 ext 1.



*Thank you to all who donated poinsettias to our Church for the Christmas season. Donations to the Diaconate Fund were \$75.*

***In Celebration of:***

*Our Wonderful Children; Mara, Laney & Naomi*

Cynthia & Barry Franklin

***In Loving Memory of:***

*Margit Breakiron, George & Margit Turner, Claire Breakiron Snyder,*

*Paul & Edith Gudonis*

Lauren & Paul Gudonis

*Antone and Florence DeMoura*

Dave DeMoura

*Pauline & Ted Bzdula*

Paula Bzdula

*Wallace E. Doe, Milton J. Rogers Jr.*

Stephen & Cathy Doe

*Family & Friends*

Jan & Al Ireton

*Arlene and Tom Taylor,*

*Eva Schanley*

The Darwin Schanley Family

*Paul H. Lord*

The Marcaurrelle Klebart

*Family*

*Larry Larsen (husband & father), Kenneth Pfannkuche (brother-in-law & uncle)*

Jolene & Kate Larsen

*Iva Rohr, Mel Cole*

Betty Cole

*Our Loved Ones*

The Lumsden Family

*Glenn J. Loucks*

His son Glenn

*Guy & Doris Willmonton, George Willmonton, Harriet Ernst, Richard & Emily Greenleaf*

Richard & Ann Greenleaf & Family

*Frederick Peterson, Henrietta Burnett, Robert, Gloria & Marion Driscoll*

The Peterson Driscoll Family

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Sundays at 10:00 a.m. In the Chapel.

*"Engaging the whole child: heart, mind, hands, senses, intuition."* Godly Play is a Montessori-related approach to learning which enables children to experience the presence of a loving God and discover how to "speak the language" of their biblical faith. The Godly Play curriculum is focused on both the Old Testament and New Testament scriptures. It is a discovery method of learning using storytelling and props which enables young children to encounter God. Its intent is to invite children to experience God's presence as real and loving. Godly Play is offered at First Parish for children ages prek. through grade 5, in three rooms designed for Godly Play.

**NURSERY** Sundays 9:45 am. to 11:30 a.m. In the Chapel. Our professional nursery staff welcomes and cares for children from infancy through age 3 in our designated Nursery during the worship service.

## **YOUTH**

**Solace Youth Group Grades 6-8** Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and other times for fun events.

**Summer Youth Series** Runs throughout the months of June-August.

**High School Youth** Throughout the year programs are offered for our High School youth. High School youth also play an active role in our Sunday School as teachers and volunteers. Service projects and mission trips are offered yearly.

## **Faith Formation at First Parish**

**Growing Together**, Topical discussion of books, ideas, and controversies for building trust in the real world. Thursday 7:30-9pm

**Friday Bible Study** 4-5:30 pm, **Bibles & Bagels** Sundays 9:00 am

Informative, thoughtful, and supportive discussion of the Bible passages on which the Sunday sermon will be based.

**Soup and Conversation** lunch presentation and discussion forum of such topics as the history of St. Nicolas, the value of Santa for children & the role of women in early Christianity.

**Other Offerings:** Women's Fellowship, Thanksgiving Retreat & Lenten programs

