



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Christmas Eve Candlelight
The Nativity of
Our Lord Jesus Christ
Order of Worship



December 24, 2011

6:00 p.m.

**All who are able please stand*

PRELUDE *Good Christian men Rejoice - Luebeck*

David Hagberg

Chorale & Variations on "Comfort Ye my People" - Walther

"We Three Kings" Hopkins, Arr. Ramsdell

HANDBELL QUARTET

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #132 (red) *"O, Come, All Ye Faithful"*

OPENING WORDS

Pastor Frank

INVOCATION:

Almighty God in your Son Jesus Christ, born this night, you have shared in our humanity. In great humility and vulnerability did you come to dwell with us. May we receive this child as Lord and be made partakers of your divine nature. We pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now, ever and forever, ages unto the ages. Amen.

A TIME FOR THE CHILDREN IN ALL OF US

Pastor Frank

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH 9:2-7

Rachel Taylor

HANDBELL QUARTET *"Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"*
F. Mendelssohn

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11 Thomas Taylor

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF LUKE 2:8-20 Mark & Reese Taylor

*HYMN #187 (blue) *"O Holy Night"*

MESSAGE

"Home for Christmas?"

Pastor Frank

*HYMN #229 (blue) *"The First Noel"* (versus 1, 4, & 6)

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL PRAYER and the Lords Prayer Pastor Frank

OFFERTORY

"Silent Night Brings New Light"

Choir

*DOXOLOGY #34 (blue)

*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Note: Red is wine and white is grape juice.

INVITATION: (responsively)

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE PRAYER

RESPONSE OF PRAISE: (sung together)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING

*HYMN *"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, Shepherds quake at the sight.

Glories stream from heaven a-far,

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

POSTLUDE "Fantasia in G Major" -Bach
David Hagberg

A special thanks to
David Hagberg on organ.



As the First Congregational Church of Gardner, our Mission together through Jesus Christ is to nurture, inspire and support ourselves and each other in our daily lives through worship, fellowship, education and service so that we may reflect God's love and grace in our homes, our community and the world.

A warm thank you to all of our candle lighters.



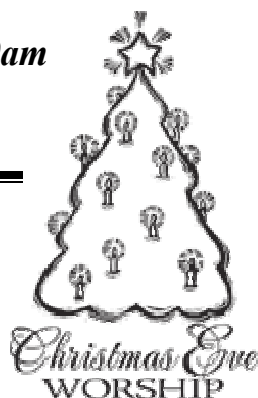
Christmas Day Service @ 10:30am

The First Congregational Church
978-632-2142

Email: office@fccgardner.org

Pastor: Frank McKenzie

Christian Education Director: Sue Rader



Organist: Linda Tooley
Administrative Assistant: Denise Smith
Custodian: Dale Rader
Deacon: Sue Menard and Dale Larocque
Trustee: Dale Rader
Acolyte: Katie Smith
Ushers: Carol & Billy Bailey