



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

Order of Worship

*\*All who are able please stand*

December 25, 2011

Family Sunday

10:30 a.m.

**Meditation**

*"God has made him to be both Lord and Christ."*

*~The Apostle Peter~*

**PRELUDE**

*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

Keane Southard

*by Johannes*

*Brahms*

*"Carol Of The Bells" ~ Leontovich, Arr. Groth*

HANDBELL QUARTET

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS\*\*\***

Pastor Frank

*\*\*\*If you have an announcement to share, please come to the front of the church.*

**\*INVOCATION** *(responsively)*

Pastor Frank

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us worship God.

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #120 (red) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Karen Lenthall

Leader: Sing a new song to God,  
who has done marvelous things.

**People: God has spoken to us through a Child;  
let us all worship at the manger.**

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

**People: God has given us a song to sing;  
let our voices soar with good tidings.**

Leader: With trumpet and lyre and joyous clapping,  
greet the One who judges the earth with equity.

**People: God upholds the universe with love  
and meets us here with unending faithfulness.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Pastor Frank

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Leader: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God, trusting in the ocean of mercy which flows from the crucified, risen, sacred heart of Jesus.

**All: Reigning God, whose rule extends to the farthest stars, come to rule within us on this glorious day when the Word becomes flesh once more to dwell among us. We open ourselves to the light and long to offer our lives as a dwelling place for your truth. Speak to us again through the Child of Bethlehem. Reach out to the child in all of us, and hold us in the warmth of love's embrace. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**SOLO**

*"Let There Be Peace On Earth"*

Tim Daley

**SCRIPTURES** Marjorie Whittemore

*Old Testament: Hebrews 1:1-12*

**ANTHEM**

*"How Far is it to Bethlehem?"*

Choir

*by Tom Fettke and*

*Thomas Grassi*

*Gospel: Luke 2:8-20*

*Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**\*GLORIA PATRI #734 (blue)**

**SERMON**

*"A Sign unto You."*

Pastor Frank

**\*HYMN #134 (red) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

HANDBELL QUARTET *"Angels We Have Heard On High"*

*~French Carol*

**Offertory**

**FLUTE AND CLARINET DUET**

Pat and Phil Darby

*A Medley - I Wonder as I Wander, Away In A Manger,  
Joy To The World*

**\*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, God of might.**

**Heaven and earth are full, of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #130 (red) "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE "Improvisation on 'Joy to the World'"**

**Keane Southard**

*by Keane*

*Southard*

A special thanks to  
Keane Southard on organ.



**GO** *and Make Disciples*



**The First Congregational  
Church**

**978-632-2142**

**Email:** [office@fccgardner.org](mailto:office@fccgardner.org)

**Pastor:** Frank McKenzie

**Christian Education Director:** Sue Rader

**Organist:** Linda Tooley

**Administrative Assistant:** Denise Smith

**Custodian:** Dale Rader

**Deacon:** Faith Glover

**Trustee:** Peter Scott

**Acolyte:** Michael Smith

**Ushers:** Joan Mellanson

**Nursery:**