



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BRANFORD

Third Sunday of Advent

Christmas Cantata

December 12, 2021 10:00 AM

Gathering...in God's Presence

Prelude *Freu Dich Sehr*, Pachelbel - Phil Rinehart

Introit FCCB Choir

Lighting The Candle of The Candle of Joy - Bill & Sharon Reynolds

Advent Response *Light up the Darkness* - FCCB Choir

Welcome Rev. Joseph Perdue

Call to Celebration Margot Hardenbergh

A voice calls out in the wilderness.

It sings of a home for all.

It speaks of justice and peace.

We could choose to ignore it.

We could drown out that song.

We could choose not to listen.

Instead, we come into this space.

We let the world grow quiet.

We listen.

A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

We hear it. In listening, we worship.

Let us draw near to God.

Gathering Prayer Margot Hardenbergh

Hymn of Praise *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Prayer of Confession Margot Hardenbergh

Expansive God,

We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone.

Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, Amen.

Words of Forgiveness Rev. Joseph Perdue

So, rest in this good news:

We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Morning Prayers & Silence Margot Hardenbergh

The Lord's Prayer Margot Hardenbergh

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 that 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.

Receiving...God's Word for us

Scripture Reading Bill Reynolds

Luke 3:10-18 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=505994958>

Anthem *What Sweeter Music*, Mark Hayes - FCCB Choir

A Festival of Carols

Congregation should join all songs marked with an Asterix ()*

Opening Medley

What Sweeter Music Can We Bring? / Angels We have Heard on High / I Saw Three Ships / Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Promise of Peace

Watchman Tell us of the Night

Song of Mary - Jade Bocciarelli, Soloist

Cradle Medley

*Still, Still Still / Away in a Manger / What Sweeter Music Can We Bring / Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne / Silent 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, wondrous star, lend thy light,
With the angels let us sing, alleluia to our king,
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Song of the Angels

*Angels We have Heard on High / Hark! The Herald Angels Sing / The First Nowell **

The First Nowell, the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that
was so deep,
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

O Holy Night - Victoria Blake, Soloist

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Closing Medley

What Sweeter Music Can We Bring? / Good Christians All, Rejoice / Joy to the World / O Come All Ye Faithful

Joy to the world! The Lord is come, let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and
heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing!
He rules the world with truth and grace, and marks the nation prove.
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, and
wonders of His love.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
O 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.
— Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
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

Responding...to God's Love

Life Among the Believers Rev. Joseph Perdue

Mission Moment

Call to Offering Margot Hardenbergh

Doxology

We offer incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant king, to offer gifts, The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, whom we await and hope to come; Joy, joy, for Christ is come, the babe, the son of Mary.

Dedication Rev. Joseph Perdue

***Hymn of Dedication** *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

Benediction Rev. Joseph Perdue

Benediction Response FCCB Choir

Commissioning Margot Hardenbergh
And All God's People said **Come Emmanuel!**

Postlude *Nunc Dimittis*, Sweelinck - Phil Rinehart

Worship Leaders: Rev. Joseph Perdue, Kerry Stewart, Margot Hardenbergh, Philip Rinehart, Katie Jones, FCCB Choir, Bill & Sharon Reynolds

Time of Offering: We are so very grateful for your generosity. It makes a real difference. Every little bit of your generosity counts and we thank you so much. FCCB, 1009 Main St., Branford, CT 06405 Thank you for being the Church!