



Christmas Eve

All-Ages Christmas Pageant

December 24, 2025

We are a progressive community of faith seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus, pursue justice and live God's love.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton
Rev. Stephen Savage

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On this holy night, we come,

ALL: dazzled and awe-struck, ready to sing alongside the angels.

One: On this holy night, we come,

ALL: eager and hopeful, ready to journey alongside the shepherds.

One: On this holy night, we come,

ALL: quietly and tenderly, ready to worship alongside Mary.

One: On this holy night, we come,

**ALL: singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming:
good news is louder than fear.**

One: Let us worship our good news, with-us God.

CAROL

Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

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

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

SUNG RESPONSE

When God Is A Child

Love is a flame that burns in our heart

Jesus has come and will never depart

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong

And none shall be afraid.

INTRODUCTION TO OUR PAGEANT

This is an all-ages Christmas pageant, everyone is invited to participate!

CAROL

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

FIRST READING

CAROL

Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood;
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

"I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm;
he wore my coat on Christmas morn."
"I," said the sheep with curly horn.

SECOND READING

CAROL

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to us on earth.

Luke 2:1-7 (paraphrase)

Jesus Our Brother Strong and Good

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"I carried his mother uphill and down;
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town."
"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

Thus every beast by some good spell,
in the stable dark was glad to tell
how they gave their gift to Emmanuel;
the gift they gave Emmanuel.

Luke 2:8-14 (paraphrase)

Angels We Have Heard On High

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
gloria in excelsis Deo.

(CONT...)

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

THIRD READING

Luke 2:15-19 (paraphrase)

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father and Mother 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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

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.**

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

HYMN

Joy to The World

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room
and heaven 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.**

(CONT...)

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World (reprise)

**Merry Christmas!
You are invited to pass the peace of Christ as you depart.
Go and share the good news of God's love!**

* * * * *

WORSHIP NOTES

A Huge THANK YOU to our Co-Director of Music, Josie DiPhilippo, for her accompaniment tonight!

Cover Art | *Good News* by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

CHRISTMAS GIVING

****FCC UCC Offering:** Your gifts this evening will support the ministries of First Congregational Church, UCC, helping us to share God's love, work for justice, welcome, nourish, comfort and bless.



****The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross:** A program of our denomination, the United Church of Christ (UCC), this fund cares for active and retired clergy and lay employees in financial crisis. To support this fund, use the blue envelopes in the pews (put envelopes in the box at the back of the sanctuary), give online at fccucc.org or via the QR code. Select "other" and enter "Christmas Fund". *Thank you for your generosity!*

COMING UP AT FCC UCC

Sunday, December 28: Worship led by members of our Spiritual Life and Worship team, with sermon by the Rev. Marvin Ellison. Sing and pray together and reflect on the turning of the year.

Sunday, January 4: Epiphany: Join us for a creative, All-Ages Epiphany Worship with communion, star words and a fresh, dramatic take on the story of the magi.

Celebrating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Songs and Courage for our Times – Sunday, January 18, 2 pm:

Join us for this third annual gathering to honor the legacy of Dr. King and reflect on the work yet to be done, with guest community chorus, the Sea Change Chorale, Deirdre McClure directing. Sponsored by the Greater Portland Multi-Faith Group. *Free admission.*



* * * * *

First Congregational Church, UCC Staff

Tom Conlon, Building Manager

Josie DiPhilippo, Co-Director of Music, organist/pianist

Deirdre McClure, Co-Director of Music, Choir Director

Alison J. Buttrick Patton, Senior Pastor

Sharon Potter, Handbell Choir Director

Kat Roderick, Community Engagement Manager

Kathy Sahrbeck, Community Crisis Ministries Director

Steve Savage, Associate Pastor

Melissa Yosua-Davis, Business Manager

Church Offices will be closed December 25, 2025 - January 1, 2026
so that staff can take time to rest and celebrate Christmas.

301 Cottage Road, South Portland, Maine 04106

207.799.3361 * FCCUCC.org





THE POINSETTIAS THAT
DECORATE THE CHANCEL ARE GIVEN

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Family members
from Peggy Murray

~

Brenda Anne Butler, Louise Bishop & Stanley Bishop,
Dorothy & Guy Butler
from Jan & Paul Butler

~

Paul E. Brooks
from Marvin Ellison & Frank Brooks

~

Patricia and Joseph Meko,
Gale and Martin Bupp, Keith Bupp
from Jennifer and Joe Meko

~

Gordon Mitchell, Ronald Mitchell
from Marilyn Mitchell

~

Martha and Delbert Patton
from Alison J. Buttrick Patton and Craig Patton

~

Our Loved Ones
from the Sahrbeck Family





IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Elliott Moorhead
from Deb and Jeff Sandler

~

Our parents, Eloise & Bill Farris and Carol Dorian
from Sue Farris & Ann Dorian

~

Sally Wesser
from Carol & Chris Zechman

~

Our Mom
from Adrienne and Allen

~

Family members
from Peggy Murray

~

My Nanie from Samantha

IN CELEBRATION OF:

The amazing and dedicated staff of FCC UCC
from the Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

~

Reverends Faye and John Buttrick
from Alison J. Buttrick Patton & Craig Patton

~

Grandchildren Lily, Ainsley, Elsa, Tommy,
Maya, and Beau
with love from Nonna & Pop Pop

