

7:00 pm Worship
December 24, 2023 – Christmas Eve

MUSIC FOR GATHERING Selections from “*Algues*” 7 Pieces for Oboe
and Harp by Bernard Andrès
Kathryn Harms, harp; Zerek Dodson, oboe

WELCOME Mike Mather and Lynnette Li

SPECIAL MUSIC “Sing We Now of Christmas” arr. Fred Prentice;
harp arr. Carol Barnett
The Chancel Choir; Kathryn Harms, harp

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

OPENING HYMN #234 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs 1, 3, & 6) arr. Ray Pool

HYMN #230 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs 1)

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7

HYMN #217 “Away in a Manger” arr. Ray Pool

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-9

HYMN #245 “The First Noel” (vs 1 & 2)

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:10-13 – Read by Darren DeReuck

HYMN #238 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (vs 1-3)

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:14-15 – Read by Darren DeReuck

HYMN #218 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (vs 1 & 3)

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:16-20

SPECIAL MUSIC “I Wonder As I Wander” arr. Hamilton
The Chancel Choir; Kathryn Harms, harp; Zerek Dodson, piano

SERMON *Why Me? Why Us?* – Rev. Michael Mather

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC “The Sussex Carol” arr. Matthew Culloton
The Chancel Choir; Kathryn Harms, harp; Zerek Dodson, oboe

PRAYER FOR PEACE ON CHRISTMAS EVE – Perla Delgado

CLOSING HYMN #239 “Silent Night, Holy Night” (vs 1-3)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We will light candles this Christmas.
Candles of joy, despite all the sadness.
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage where fear is ever present.
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of love to inspire all of my living.
Candles that will burn all the year long.

BENEDICTION

MUSIC INTO LIFE “Clair De Noel” arr. David Ice
Kathryn Harms, harp

*THANK YOU to the Chancel Choir, Kathryn Harms, Zerek Dodson,
and Charlotte Sass, Director of Music.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thank you for joining us tonight! Your generous donation today supports the ministries at First Church. Scan either code to give online, or leave your offering in the narthex with an usher.

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