



CHRISTMAS
EVE

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE Christmas Eve December 24, 2017

VOLUNTARY

In Dulci Jubilo

Dietrich Buxtehude

***PROCESSIONAL CAROL 132**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

***GREETING**

Kate Layzer

L: Friends, grace, mercy and peace to you from God,
who draws near this night,

C: who abides in poor and simple things and gives us joy,

L: who is never far from the broken-hearted,

C: who releases captives, and breaks the bonds of oppression!

L: Hear this good news: God is with us, even now!

C: Christ is born! O come, let us adore him!

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Traditional Carol

Susan Neubauer, soprano

READING

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Taj Smith

***CAROL 137**

Hark, The Herald Angels Sing

READING

Luke 1:26-38

Moana Bentin

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

L: The Light of Christ

C: Thanks be to God!

CAROL 147

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

(Please remain seated.)

READING

Luke 2:1-20

Emma Blanc

**You are invited to stand.*

HOMILY

Dan Smith

*CAROL 153

What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest?

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Karin Case

(Please pray this prayer and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)

**All: Our Creator, 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 who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

Beth Spaulding, Soprano

THE PROCLAMATION

John 1:1-5, 12, 14

L: In the beginning was the Word,
And the word was with God, and the word was God.
The Word was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through the Word,
And without the Word, not one thing came into being.
In him is life, the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

L: All who receive the light are given power
To become children of God.
The Word became flesh and lived among us,
And we have seen this glory,
Glory as of God's own Child,
Full of grace and truth.

CAROL 142

Silent Night, Holy Night

(Please remain seated.)

BLESSING

*GREETING OF PEACE

Leading tonight's service are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Karin Case, Minister, Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach, and Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts.

Reading tonight are Moana Bentin and Taj Smith, First Church members and Emma Blanc, First Church youth group member.

Music Director Peter Sykes is playing the organ and directing the choir.

The Christmas Eve illustration was drawn by First Church member Perry Neubauer.