



Drawn by NCC 5th grader Calvin Cushing, marker on dry erase board

Niantic Community Church
Christmas Eve Family Service
December 24th, 2011 • 5:00pm

A Family Christmas Eve: The Lord Is Come!

PRELUDE Ringing Greeting Lynne Floyd/Youth Bells

CHRISTMAS WELCOME Pastor John A. Nelson

✦ HYMN 234 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES
Verses 1 and 3

CALL TO WORSHIP: ADVENT BECOMES CHRISTMAS The Burkhardt Family

Candle Lighters: Now we re-light the candles of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love. To their light, we add the candle that the whole world has been waiting for.

All: Tonight we light the Christ candle on our Advent wreath. All over the world people long for a Savior. All over the world people gaze at the night sky in hope and listen for the angels' song. And all over the world, Christians like us celebrate the birth of the child who is our hope: God-with-us!

Emmanuel!

May this new-born babe take all darkness out of our hearts, now and forever. Come, let us walk together in peace, hope, joy and love, filled with the light of God that shines in Jesus Christ.

All: (Sung response)

AWAY IN A MANGER

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION Bradley King

Loving God, as we remember Christ's birth, may we share in the song of the angels, the joy of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise travelers. Let kindness and love be our gifts to all. On this holy night, be born in our hearts and bring us to new life in you.

We continue our prayer in the words that Jesus taught us: Quinn McGregor
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 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.

✦ HYMN #239

“Silent Night”
Verses 1 and 2

STILLE NACHT

The Living Nativity

As the story of Jesus is told, we offer gifts in his name
as signs of our joy and thankfulness to God.

READING

Luke 2: 1-7

Elizabeth Heaney

✦ HYMN #230

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
Verses 1 and 3

ST. LOUIS

**All animals come forward
Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus come forward.**

READING

Luke 2: 8-14

Rose Datum

✦ HYMN #238

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Verses 1 and 3

GLORIA

All angels are invited to come forward

READING

Luke 2: 15-20

J.T. Spranklin

✦ HYMN #245

“The First Noel”
Verses 1 and 2

THE FIRST NOEL

All shepherds are invited to come forward

READING

Matthew 2: 7-12

Clayton Cushing

✦ HYMN #254

“We Three Kings”
Verses 1 and 5

KINGS OF ORIENT

All kings, queens, and wise seekers come forward

All children are invited to gather at the manger

ANTHEM

“O Holy Night”

Denise Walstra

Children will return to sit with their families after anthem.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

Victoria Mastrolillo

Thank you, God, for all the promises of this season. You have given us peace, hope, joy, and love. You have given us yourself in the baby Jesus. We thank you for these, the best of all Christmas gifts. Now we offer gifts to you, and pray that you will guide us in using them to bring peace, hope, joy, and love to others. In Jesus’ name; Amen.

✦ HYMN #246

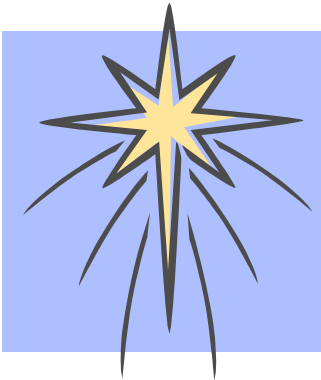
“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

BENEDICTION

Pastor Nelson

POSTLUDE



Merry Christmas to All!



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An Open, Affirming, Reconciling Congregation

“Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome!”