

NIANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

An Open, Affirming, Reconciling congregation
of the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church

A Heritage of Faith since 1719 • Each Member a Minister



LESSONS & CAROLS

*“Whoever you are; wherever you are on life’s journey:
you are welcome here.”*

December 24, 2011

Christmas Eve

8:00PM

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

PRELUDE

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

Linker

RECEIVING GOD’S WORD AND CHRIST’S LIGHT IN OUR WORSHIP

WORDS OF WELCOME & RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Those in each pew closest to the center aisle will please begin passing the Friendship Pads so that everyone has an opportunity to indicate their presence here tonight and make a note of any messages.



PROCESSIONAL CAROL

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

Verse 1

Choir

✦ Verses 2 - 4

Congregation

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, Thou Root of Jesse’s tree,
An ensign of Thy people be;
Before Thee rulers silent fall;
All peoples on Thy mercy call. *Refrain***

**O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain***

THE ADVENT WREATH

Candle lighters: The long Advent journey to Bethlehem is ended.

Congregation: Jesus is born! The light of peace;

✦ *All who are able may stand at these times*

THE SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Luane Lange, *reader*

THE SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

Ron Johnson, *reader*

CHORALE

“If You Would Hear the Angels Sing”
Adult Choir

Butler

THE EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

The star leads the Magi to Jesus.

Carole Glenn, *reader*

✘ CAROL #238

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

One: We are not shepherds, bringing sheep; we are not magi, bringing precious treasures; nor yet a host of angels. But like all of them, we are amazed at the wonder of God-with-us: Emmanuel! Like them, we offer tokens of our adoration to our God, come to earth.

All: Let us gather our gifts gratefully, and offer them, through the Christ Child, to God’s loving purposes.

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

“Silent Night”

Linker

✘ CHRISTMAS BLESSING

GREENSLEEVES

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

**Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

✘ PASTORAL PRAYER

THE NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

✘ CAROL #234

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES



SENDING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

The Light of the Advent Candles has illumined our worship with its glow and its promise of hope, peace, love, and joy. Now as we prepare to carry light into the world beyond these doors, we gather the light of the Advent promise. As we sing “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” please form a circle around the sanctuary. As we sing “Silent Night,” we will share the light of our candles with one another.

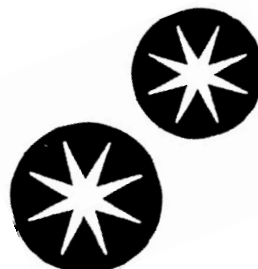
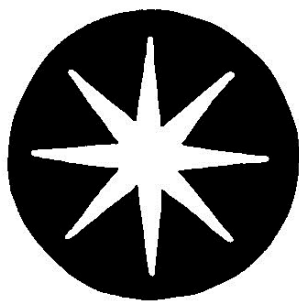
✠ CAROL “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS

✠ CAROL “Silent Night, Holy Night” STILLE NACHT

✠ BENEDICTION



*Go with our prayers
for a wondrous,
blessed,
Merry Christmas!*



“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- 1. 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.**
- 2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of
wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!**
- 3. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**



“Silent Night, Holy Night”

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.



S i l e n t N i g h t , H o l y N i g h t

WELCOME TO NIAN TIC COMMUNITY CHURCH!

A Heritage of Faith since 1719, and an Open, Affirming, Reconciling congregation, Niantic Community Church is affiliated with the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. It is also a welcoming home to people from a great variety of church backgrounds and life experiences. Your presence here today is a gift to us! We hope you will feel God's Spirit here today through our worship and fellowship.

**Please set cell phones and pagers to silent mode
(unless you're expecting a call from Jesus)**

**Hearing Devices, Large Print Bulletins, and Hymnals are available.
Please ask an usher for assistance!**

Tonight's Worship Leaders:

Ushers: **Marion McKenzie, Judy DeVey, Dennis & Sonya Hoisington**

Advent Candlelighter: **Jane Milardo**

Pastor and Teacher: **The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson**

Music Director: **Dr. Paul Althouse**

with special thanks to Sue Basham and friends, for decorating our sanctuary

Niantic Community Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-5:00 p.m.; Friday 8:30-Noon