



# FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW & ACTON

*Unitarian Universalist*



Tuesday, December 24, 2024  
*Christmas Eve Family Service*

**The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L.  
Landrum**  
Minister

**Meg Rivers-Wright**  
Administration, Publicity,  
Membership

**Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson**  
Director of Religious  
Education

**Chris Hossfeld**  
Music Director

**Trevor Berens**  
Accompanist

**Justin Marble**  
Nursery Care Coordinator

**Felix Freeman**  
Tech Assistant

**Mike Silkonis**  
Sexton

**Brendon Chetwynd**  
President

**Trisha Guditz**  
Vice President

**Bill Froberg**  
Treasurer

**Johanna Pyle**  
Clerk

*First Parish is a Unitarian Universalist Association Welcoming Congregation.  
We warmly welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people into our community.*

Large print orders of service and hymnals are available from an usher.  
Assisted Listening Devices are available when worship is in the Sanctuary.

FPC currently has a masks-optional policy throughout the church.  
In the Sanctuary, several back rows with accessible seating are “mask-required.”

FPC is on the web at [fpc-stow-acton.org](http://fpc-stow-acton.org) and on Facebook.

December 24, 2024,  
4:00 PM

Gathering

**Prelude Carols**

“Silver Bells”

1. City sidewalks, busy sidewalks  
Dressed in holiday style  
In the air there's a feeling  
of Christmas  
Children laughing, people passing  
Meeting smile after smile  
And on every street corner you'll hear
2. Strings of streetlights, even stoplights  
Blink a bright red and green  
As the shoppers rush home  
with their treasures  
Hear the snow crunch, see the kids rush  
This is Santa's big scene  
And above all this bustle you'll hear

*Refrain:* Silver bells, silver bells, it's Christmas time in the city  
Ring-a-ling, hear them ring, soon it will be Christmas day

“Frosty the Snowman”

1. Frosty the Snowman,  
was a jolly happy soul,  
With a corn cob pipe  
and a button nose,  
and two eyes made of coal.  
Frosty the Snowman,  
is a fairytale, they say.  
He was made of snow,  
but the children know  
how he came to life one day.  
There must have been some magic in  
that old silk hat they found,  
For when they placed it on his head,  
he began to dance around!  
Oh, Frosty, the Snowman,  
was alive as he could be;  
and the children say  
he could laugh and play,  
just the same as you and me.
2. Frosty the Snowman,  
knew the sun was hot that day,  
so he said, “Let's run,  
and we'll have some fun  
now, before I melt away.”  
Down to the village,  
with a broomstick in his hand,  
Running here and there,  
all around the square,  
sayin', “Catch me if you can.”  
He led them down the streets of town,  
right to the traffic cop;  
and only paused a moment, when  
he heard him holler, “Stop!”  
For Frosty, the Snowman,  
had to hurry on his way,  
But he waved goodbye,  
sayin' “Don't you cry,  
I'll be back again someday.”

Thumpety thump, thump, thumpety thump, thump, look at Frosty go.  
Thumpety thump, thump, thumpety thump, thump, over the hills of snow.

## “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer”

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen  
Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen  
But do you recall the most famous reindeer of all?

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer  
Had a very shiny nose  
And if you ever saw it  
You would even say it glows  
All of the other reindeer  
Used to laugh and call him names  
They never let poor Rudolph  
Join in any reindeer games

Then one foggy Christmas Eve  
Santa came to say  
“Rudolph, with your nose so bright  
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?”  
Then how the reindeer loved him  
As they shouted out with glee  
“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer  
You'll go down in history!”

### **Land Acknowledgement**

**Welcome**

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

**Call to Worship**

“What Are You Here For?”

by Quinn G. Caldwell    Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson  
& Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum

**Lighting of the Christmas Candle**

**Chalice Lighting**

\* Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O  
2 — Lo, hum - ble shep - herds, hast - ing to his cra - dle, — leav - ing their  
3 — Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, — sing, all ye

come ye, to Beth - le - hem. Come and be - hold him,  
flocks in the fields, draw near. We, too, with glad - ness,  
ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove; glo - ry to God, all

*Refrain*  
born the King of an - gels;  
thith - er bend our foot - steps; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
glo - ry in the high - est;

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

\* Please rise in body or in spirit

## The Timeless Tale

### Reading

“For So the Children Come”

by Sophia Lyon Fahs     Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson  
Director of Religious Education

For so the children come  
And so they have been coming.

*Always in the same way they come –  
Born of the union of humankind.*

No angels herald their beginnings  
No prophets predict their future courses

*No wise magi see a star to show  
where to find the babe that will save humankind*

Yet each night a child is born is a holy night.

*Parents – sitting beside their children's cribs –  
feel glory in the sight of a new life beginning.*

They ask, "Where and how will this new life end?  
Or will it ever end?"

*Each night a child is born is a holy night –  
A time for singing,  
A time for wondering,  
A time for worshipping.*

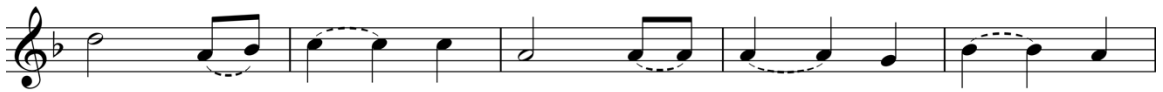
### The Timeless Tale

\* Carol

"Jesus Our Brother"



1 Je - sus, our broth - er, strong\_ and good, was\_ hum - bly  
2 'I,' said the don - key, shag - gy and brown, 'I\_\_\_ car - ried his  
3 'I,' said the cow,\_\_\_ all white\_ and red, 'I\_\_\_ gave him my  
4 'I,' said the sheep\_ with curl - y horn, 'I\_\_\_ gave him my  
5 'I,' said the cam - el, all yel - low and black, — 'o - ver the  
6 And all the beasts, by some\_ good spell, in the sta - ble



1 bord in a sta - ble rude, and the friend - ly beasts\_ a -  
2 moth - er\_\_\_ up - hill and down, I\_\_\_ car - ried his moth - er to  
3 man - ger\_\_\_ for\_\_\_ his bed; I\_\_\_ gave him my hay\_\_\_ to  
4 wool for his blan - ket warm; he\_\_\_ wore\_\_\_ my coat\_\_\_ on  
5 des - ert up - on\_\_\_ my back I\_\_\_ brought him a gift in the  
6 dark were\_ glad\_\_\_ to tell of the gifts\_\_\_ they gave\_\_\_ Em -



1 round\_ him stood, Je - sus, our broth - er, strong and good.  
2 Beth - le - hem town. I,' said the don - key, shag - gy and brown.  
3 pil - low his head. I,' said the cow,\_\_\_ all white\_ and red.  
4 Christ - mas morn. I,' said the sheep\_ with curl - y horn.  
5 wise\_\_\_ men's pack. I,' said the cam - el all yel - low and black.  
6 man - u - el, the gifts they gave\_\_\_ E - man - u - el.

Story

"The Stolen Infant"  
by Carl Scovel

Spencer Morfit

\* Please rise in body or in spirit

\* Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - der is made known,

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 when God im - parts to hu - man hearts the gift that is our own.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth.  
 No ear may hear that com - ing, but in this world - ly din,

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 Let prais - es ring: from God they bring good - will to all on earth.  
 where souls are tru - ly hum - ble, then the dear babe rests with - in.

Words: Phillips Brooks, alt.; Music: Lewis H. Redner



**Story** "Winter Candle" Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson  
by Jeron Ashford & Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum

**Anthem** "Go Tell It on the Mountain" FPC Children's Choir  
African American Spiritual Chris Hossfeld, Director

*You may donate by check made out to First Parish Church,  
online at <https://fpc-stow-acton.org/donate>, or by text to 978-310-3309.*

*Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1 While shepherds kept<br>their watching<br>O'er silent flocks by<br>night,<br>Behold throuhought<br>the heavens<br>There shone a holy<br>light. | 2 The shepherds feared<br>and trembled<br>When lo! above the<br>earth<br>Rang out the angel<br>chorus<br>That hailed the baby's<br>birth. | 3 Down in a lowly<br>manger<br>The humble babe was<br>born,<br>And God sent us<br>salvation<br>That blessed Christmas<br>morn. |
|--|---|--|

### The Meaning of Christmas

**Reading** "On the Night You Were Born" (abridged)  
by Nancy Tillman Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum

\* Carol

“Do You Hear What I Hear”



1 Said the night - wind to the lit - tle lamb, Do you see what I see?  
 2 Said the lit - tle lamb to the shep-herd boy, Do you hear what I hear?  
 3 Said the shep-herd boy to the might - y king, Do you know what I know?  
 4 Said the king to the peo-ple ev - ery-where, Lis - ten to what I say!



Do you see what I see? Way up in the sky, lit - tle  
 Do you hear what I hear? Ring - ing thru the sky, shep - herd  
 Do you know what I know? In your pal - ace warm, might - y  
 Lis - ten to what I say! Pray for peace, peo - ple, ev - ery -



lamb, Do you see what I see? Do you see what I see? A  
 boy, Do you hear what I hear? Do you hear what I hear? A  
 king, Do you know what I know? Do you know what I know? A  
 where, Lis - ten to what I say! Lis - ten to what I say! The



star, a star, Danc - ing in the night, with a tail as big as a  
 song, a song, High a - bove the tree, with a voice as big as the  
 Child, a Child shiv - ers in the cold; Let us bring him sil - ver and  
 Child, the Child sleep - ing in the night, He will bring us good - ness and



1.2.3.  
 kite, With a tail as big as a kite.  
 sea, With a voice as big as the sea.  
 gold, Let us bring him sil - ver and gold.



4.  
 light, he will bring us good-ness and light!

Lyrics: Noël Regney; Music: Gloria Shayne

## Candle Lighting

Reading

"I Will Light Candles This Christmas"  
by Howard Thurman

\* **Passing of the Light & Carol** "Silent Night"

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;  
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

sleep in hea - ven - ly peace, sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sa - vior, is born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr

Music: *Stille Nacht*, Franz Xavier Grüber

\* **Benediction**

"The Work of Christmas" Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum  
by Howard Thurman

Postlude

Toccata in G-major, BWV 916  
Johann Sebastian Bach

Trevor Berens, organ

**Thank you to:**  
Felix Freeman, Zoom Host  
Lisa Rydin and others, Ushers;  
and to our participants, staff and leadership

**Our poinsettias today are given by:**

- ☼☼☼ **Kate Cremens Basbas**, in memory of Jack & Agnes Cremens,  
Mary Rogers Sullivan, and Audrey & Monte Basbas  
☼ **Martha Morrison**, dedicated to Carol B.
- ☼ **Ingrid Holcomb**, Til Mor - God Jul - Din kärleksfulla dotter (Inga)  
To Mother - Merry Christmas - Your loving daughter (Inga)  
☼☼ **Ruth & Jeff Lull**, in memory of Jay
- ☼☼☼☼ **Sharon Brownfield & Rick Lent**, in memory of Richard & Lillian Lent,  
Col. Rollin & Mary Lee Smith, Gary Rollin Smith,  
and for the sanctuary of this Community
- ☼ **Rebecca Stadlnik**, dedicated to family and friends  
☼ **Pat Sorn**, with hope for Peace this year  
☼☼☼☼ **Skip Warren**  
☼ **Marcia & Richard Allison**

☼ *number of plants*



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