



## Multigenerational Christmas Eve Service December 24, 2017, 4pm

**Prelude** *Silent Night*, traditional Evelyn Ann Ashburner, Celtic harp

**Introit** *Only A Baby Came*, by Natalie Sleeth Alleluia Choir

**Welcome** The Rev. Jill H. Small

**Call to Worship** Hayden Marshall

**LEADER:** It's Christmas Eve and time is standing still for a moment. It is the time, maybe the only time of the year, when here and now drift away and we fall under the spell of story-time.

**ALL:** **Tonight we are both here, AND on a lonely hillside outside of Bethlehem.**

**LEADER:** Tonight, we are with each other, friends and family, returning students and relatives from far away, AND we are also with the Magi, on a journey and such a hard time for journey.

**ALL:** **Tonight we sit quiet and listen through the music and words of children, through angels we hear the news, familiar and for the first time.**

**LEADER:** Tonight, like every night, is new, a never before moment in onrushing time, AND yet, we have been here before, done this before, told this story before, and heard it before.

In a way the story we tell tonight is always happening: birth and death and taxes, weary outsiders with no place to stay, babies born, sudden signs of grace and glory and surprising generosity.

**ALL:** **The past and the present are woven tonight, and we sense the presence of our own eternal selves, our souls perhaps, with our everyday selves tonight.**

**LEADER:** When we pass a visible sign of grace, a passing of peace, from hand to hand, we will see the radiance and beauty of one another, as seen through the eyes of a timeless love.

**ALL:** **Come, it is Christmas Eve, let us worship together.**

*adapted from the Rev. Tom Schade*

**Processing with the Christ Candle** Marcey, Asa, and Eli Buchakjian-Tweedy

*Greensleeves*, English folk song Ailla Crossman and Madeleine Triff, violin

**Invitation to Offering** Ian Hricz and Gibson Moore

**Offertory** *O Come All Ye Faithful & Angels We Have Heard on High*, traditional Ailla Crossman and Madeleine Triff, violin

Doxology (Hymnal #780)

Prayer of Dedication Ian Hricz and Gibson Moore

**Passing of the Peace/Ritual of Welcome** All are invited to greet those near them sharing the peace and love of God.

### A Christmas Pageant

With every year that passes, this story is retold. Each generation adds a new way of understanding and learning from a theme that tells of beginnings, as well as future promises. In today's Christmas Pageant our children remind us that a message of hope, peace, joy, and love is one for ALL people, from as far as west Africa, Polynesia, and Cuba to as close as New Hampshire.

When we choose to answer that difficult knock on the door, whether it be from friends, neighbors, or foreign strangers, as were Mary and Joseph, potential unfolds to a world that is not all black and white, but abound in a rainbow of possibilities. Joy to a world of generous welcome and all the riches it can bring!

Our Pageant narrative is based on the "Tobias' Story," written by Carolyn Peters and on Rev. Theresa Cho's "No Stress, No Fuss Christmas Pageant," adapted by Coleman Moore and Kristin Forselius. Music direction by Danielle Moreau with special thanks to Danielle VanTuinen, Mary Bencks, John Mince, Debby Rentz-Moore, and Catherine York. Gratitude to Waysmeet for their generous loan of drums, and, of course, to the many parents who continue to rise to the occasion with open minds and open hearts.

### Benediction

**Postlude** Catherine York, pianist

### Depart to Serve

Greeters: Craig and Ian Hricz, John and Gibson Moore

Our nursery/childcare room is open during worship, but unstaffed today. You and your little one are welcome there any time.

## Here's What's Happening at Community Church of Durham, UCC

### Advent/Christmas at Community Church:

**December 24:** 4:00 pm Christmas Pageant – presented by the Sunday School and friends

*Offering for the Homeless Center for Strafford County*

9:00 pm The Festival of the Nativity Service of Lessons and Carols

*Offering for Heifer Project International*

**December 31:** 10:00 am The First Sunday of Christmas – In the Fullness of Time

**Church Office Closure:** The Church Office will be closed during the Christmas week, December 22nd-January 1st, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd. Blessings to all from your church staff!

**ECHO Thrift Shop:** will also be closed starting Dec. 23rd and reopens Jan. 2nd.

**Fellowship Hour Hosts Invited:** Please sign up to host Fellowship Hour one Sunday. It's fun and easy, and is a gift to other members and friends. All encouraged to take a turn! Simple instructions can be found in the kitchen, or by contacting the church office. A sign-up board can be found in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

**Men's Fellowship Group:** The group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at 8am in the church library. All men of the community are welcome to come and discuss spiritual and other topics of interest. The next meeting is Thurs., Jan. 4th.

**Families First:** Monday, Jan. 8th (second Monday for the month of January) is our next opportunity to provide a meal for Family Fun Night at Families First in Portsmouth. The menu: spaghetti and meatballs, rolls or garlic bread, garden salad, milk, fruit and cookies or bars for dessert. Contributions to serve ten in all categories are needed. The sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall. Please drop off food in the Fellowship Hall kitchen by 3pm on January 8th.

**You can go green** by donating through your checking account or by using the GivePlus app on your smartphone. Automated giving makes it easy for you to support CCD's mission and ministries even when you're away for a Sunday. Dianne Thompson can help you set up these efficient and effective ways to support our church. Thank you for your generosity.

**New Adult Bible Study!** Starts Sunday, January 7, 11:45am. Ever want to learn more about these ancient stories and their many famous characters? What is their historical context? Who wrote them? When? What purpose do they serve in the scriptures? Join us with your questions in an adult Bible Study with Pastor Jill. This will be an additional study created in order to offer an alternative meeting time for those who cannot make our 9am Sunday morning meeting. If interested, please contact Kristin at [kristinf@ccdurham.org](mailto:kristinf@ccdurham.org). Thank you!

**Children's Choirs:** Thursday afternoons in the Chapel. Rejoice Choir: Children from age 3-grade 2 are welcome to join. We will meet in the Chapel from 4:45-5:00. Alleluia Choir: Children in grades 3-8 are welcome. Rehearsals are in the Chapel from 4:15-4:45. Taking the bus from the elementary schools is an option. Middle Schoolers often walk. For info/sign up, please contact Kristin Forselius: [KristinF@CCDurham.org](mailto:KristinF@CCDurham.org) & Lorna Ellis: [Lorna.Ellis@comcast.net](mailto:Lorna.Ellis@comcast.net).

**Get to know CCD—an invitation to membership!** What brings you to Community Church? What keeps you here? What might you still want to know about the church, its program, beliefs, practices? How might you find deeper more meaningful involvement in this faith community? On Sunday, January 21st and February 4th, Pastor Jill invites those who are new to the church and those who'd like a "refresher," to learn more about church membership or deeper involvement. Sunday, February 4th will include a light lunch hosted by the Spiritual Nurture Ministry. Come learn more about the United Church of Christ and our particular congregation. Childcare provided. Those who wish to covenant in membership will be welcomed during our 10:00 am worship service on February 11th. In order to help with planning, please RSVP to the church office, or fill out and drop off/mail the form on page 11 of the December Chronicle.

**January's Film of the Month:** Jan. 11, 9:30am, Parlor. Harry & Snowman - If you love horses you will love this true-life story. Released in 2016, the movie tells the story of a Dutch immigrant, Harry deLeyer, who comes to the US after World War II. He finds a broken-down Amish plow horse destined for the meat factory at a horse auction and buys him for a mere \$80.00. Harry names the horse "Snowman," and a close relationship soon follows that leads within less than a couple of years to the Snowman's winning the triple crown of horse jumping. So come to this heart-warming tale of redemption of horse and man and learn about this tale of friendship that lasted a lifetime.