

**Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2018, 4pm**



**Community Church of Durham
United Church of Christ
17 Main Street (P.O. Box 310)
Durham, NH 03824**

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Please silence all electronic devices and refrain from flash photography during the service. Should your little one need a break, you're welcome use the Mezzanine, where you can still hear the service. Use the door beside the pulpit to get to the Mezzanine or restrooms.

Prelude *The First Noel* Evelyn Ann Ashburner, Celtic harp

Introit *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* Madeleine Triff, violin

Welcome The Rev. Jill H. Small

Call to Worship (responsive) Theo Allen

Leader: It's Christmas Eve and time is standing still for a moment. We welcome you here to be present with us as we together unfold the mystery of an ancient story. A story whose narrative although told from a faraway place and time, rings of a truth familiar and close to us.

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

Leader: We welcome each other, friends and family, returning students and relatives to journey with a Holy family whose well-worn path we know, yet in this moment it appears fresh and new to us.

ALL: We welcome music and words from the voices of children; through angels we hear the news and embrace what lies ahead.

Leader: The past and the present are before us woven into our story of poverty and wealth, of risk and comfort, of refuge and sanctuary, of greed and surprising generosity, of doors closed and others opened.

ALL: We witness through the footsteps of common shepherds and noble magi the constancy of a star.

Leader: A guiding light leads us through uncertainty and darkness to clarity and unity.

ALL: God is the light. God is good! All the time!

Processing with the Christ Candle Will Chapman and Rachel Rouillard
Silent Night Madeleine Triff, violin

We light this candle as a reminder of God's eternal light, witnessed in the story of baby Jesus and in the stories of each of us.

Passing of the Peace/Ritual of Welcome

All are invited to greet those near them sharing the peace and love of God.

Invitation to Offering

Elise Wollheim and Hannah Angell

Donations from tonight's offering will support the Homeless Center for Strafford County in Rochester, NH.

Offertory

Doxology (Hymnal #780)

Prayer of Dedication

The Rev. Jill H. Small

A Christmas Pageant

We welcome the congregation to sing along with some of the Pageant's carols. Please see insert for the music lyrics.

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 East 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 Debbie Rentz-Moore with special leadership by Lorna Ellis, Cindy Limauro, and Mary Bencks. Thank you to Pat Terrill for piano accompaniment. 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. Thank you to pulpit assistant Theo Allen, and to greeters Kyra Langley, Fiona McEwan, Hannah Angell, and Elise Wolheim.

Benediction

The Rev. Jill H. Small

Postlude

Pat Terrill, pianist

Depart to Serve (* Congregation may stand.)

*Community Church of Durham, United Church of Christ
is an Open and Affirming congregation.*

*We embrace, affirm, and celebrate the diversity of the human family.
Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

Please join us at 10 a.m. for worship and Sunday School.

Nursery care is offered at the same time.

The service lasts about an hour.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the second Sunday of each month.

*After worship, we gather for light refreshments
and friendly conversation in Fellowship Hall.*



Merry Christmas from the CCD Staff

The Reverend Jill H. Small, Interim Pastor

David Ervin, Music Director

Catherine York, Organist

Kristin Forselius, Education and Faith Formation Director

Heather Curran, Office Administrator

Dianne Thompson, Business Administrator

Clark Williams, Building Manager

Sarah and Aaron Wrightsman, Sextons