



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
9525 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, Maryland

*A Just Peace Church  
An Open and Affirming Church  
Becoming an Anti-racist Church*

*At CCC, we honor and celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, abilities and sexual orientations*

**SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**  
**December 24, 2010**  
**9:00 PM**

**THE PRELUDE**

*Christmas Concerto*  
Pastorale  
The CCC Chamber Ensemble

Archangelo Corelli

**WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**  
(Remain standing for the Processional.)

Rev. Richard Thayer

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are called to worship by the light of Hope,  
**Which gathers us in the confidence that difference is to be celebrated.**  
We are called to worship by the light of Love,  
**Which gathers us in the confidence that sanctuary means safety for all.**  
We are called to worship by the light of Joy,  
**Which gathers us in the confidence that our very existence magnifies God.**  
We are called to worship by the light of Peace,  
**Which gathers us in the confidence that all of these lights ignite our spirits,**  
Nativity light illuminates our worship, and guides us to the birth of Christ.  
**Christ is the Light of the World! Come, let us worship God.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL** (Congregation standing)

arr. John Rutter

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him.*

*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

2. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear; we, too, will thither bend our joyful footsteps. *Refrain*
3. Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee with love and awe. Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain*
4. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation. O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest. *Refrain*
5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *Refrain.*

**THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Ms. Rachel Green and Mr. Richard Skinner

On this Eve of Christmas, we light the Christ candle, encircled with flames burning for hope, love, joy, and peace. We celebrate that God is with us, at our center. With hearts full of gratitude, we know that God continues to pour light into our world. Let us pray.

**You ignite this most holy night with a quality of love that cannot be extinguished, and with a caliber of love that is never quenched. Assure us of this luminous love within us, O God, and help us to discern in each and every soul this self-same light. Lit from within by the light of Christ, we are your light in the world. You shine through our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. Our lives make real the same hope, love, joy, and peace that Jesus gives to us this night. For this gift, we offer you our prayers and carols of gratitude and celebration. Alleluia! Christ is born! AMEN**

**ANTHEM**

*O Nata Lux*  
The Chancel Choir

Morten Lauridsen

*O nata lux de lumine, Jesu redemptor saeculi,  
dignare clemens supplicum laudes preces que sumere.  
Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis.  
Nos membra confer effici, tui beati coporis.*

O born light of light, Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
Mercifully deem worthy and accept the praises and prayers of your supplicants.  
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in the flesh for the sake of the lost ones,  
Grant us to be made members of your holy body.

**FIRST LESSON Genesis 1:26-2:3**

Pew Bible, page 1, Old Testament

Reader: Rev. Richard Thayer

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Concerto in D Minor*  
Adagio  
Rachel Becker, oboe

Tomaso Albinoni

**SECOND LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9**

Pew Bible, page 640, Old Testament

Reader: Ms. Michelle Esposito

**ANTHEM**

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*  
The Chancel Choir and CCC Chamber Ensemble; Sam Brush, organ

Antonio Vivaldi

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*  
Glory to God in the highest!

**THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7**

Pew Bible, page 638, Old Testament

Reader: Mr. John Gipson

**SOLO**

*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*  
Patricia O'Connor, soprano

Michael Praetorius

**FOURTH LESSON Luke 1:26-38**

Pew Bible, page 57, New Testament

Reader: Ms. Jeanne Young

**HYMN # 123** *Mary Woman of the Promise* QUEM PASTORES

**FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7** Pew Bible, page 58, New Testament  
Reader: Mr. Larry Gipson

**CAROL # 148** *What Child is This* GREENSLEEVES

**SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:8-20** Pew Bible, page 58, New Testament  
Reader: Mr. Paul Esposito

**OFFERTORY # 124** *Away in a Manger* AWAY IN A MANGER

**\*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY—*Veni Emmanuel***

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God aloud, ye heav'nly choirs,  
Incarnate Jesus, Spirit which inspires.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rev. Richard Thayer

**God With Us, may this offering bring hope, love, joy, and peace to others. Use our gifts to bring an end to envy, strife, and quarrels in our world. God With Us, we delight in tonight's worship, and in the company of loved ones gathered in this sanctuary. Use our gifts to afford sanctuary for those who are threatened, and to provide companionship for those who are alone. God With Us, we are blessed by your birth this night. Use our gifts to make life better for everyone who is served by our giving. Glory to God in the highest!  
AMEN**

**SEVENTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-15** Pew Bible, page 2, New Testament  
Reader: Ms. Elaine Kim

**MUSICAL OFFERING** *Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns die Stimme* J. S. Bach  
*Sleeper's Awake! A Voice is Calling*  
Stuart Kern, double-bell euphonium

**EIGHTH LESSON John 1:1-5** Pew Bible, page 91, New Testament  
Reader: Ms. Cyndy Wright-Johnson

**CAROL** *For Unto Us a Child is Born* G. F. Handel  
The Chancel Choir; Chamber Ensemble; Sam Brush, directing

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Rev. Richard Thayer

**CONGREGATIONAL CAROL (Congregation seated)**

*Silent Night*

*(During the singing of Silent Night, the Light of Christ is passed from candle to candle through the congregation, from the center aisle to the sides.)*

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.

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

Rev. Richard Thayer

Through the coming of a Child,  
God infuses the world with a holy presence.  
**We receive this gift of Christmas,  
And live by grace to love in Christ's name! AMEN**

**\*THE CHORAL POSTLUDE**

ANTIOCH, arr. John Rutter

*Joy to the World*

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her king. Let every heart, prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let us our songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. **(Choir)** No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.