



**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**

*\* Congregation is invited to stand*

**PRELUDE**

*Ding Dong! Merrily on High*  
The Chancel Choir

arr. Charles Wood

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Pastor Matt Braddock

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastors Matt Braddock & Amy Lewis

God spoke in the beginning;  
out of darkness came night and day,  
out of emptiness came creation,  
out of loneliness came humankind.

**And God said, "This is very good."**

God spoke when the world was troubled;  
giving voice to prophets from the earliest days,  
moving through Mary as she gave birth to her child,  
crying as a vulnerable baby lying in a manger.

**Still God said, "This is very good."**

God speaks today; breathing energy into our weary lives,  
challenging our celebrations and sharing our pain,  
dancing with songs of justice and peace.

**Now we know that, "This is very good."**

**\*PROCESSIONAL CAROL**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr.

John Rutter

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.*

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*

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*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation.  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest. *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Godhead, now in flesh appearing. *Refrain.*

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Youth of CCC

This, tonight, is the meeting place of heaven and earth. For this, tonight, is the stable in which God keeps an appointment to meet the world.

Not many high and mighty are here, not many holy, not all familiar faces or frequent visitors. But, if tonight only strangers met, that would be enough.

For Bethlehem was not the hub of the universe, nor was the stable a platform for famous people. In an out-of-the-way place which people never sought to visit – there God kept a promise; there God sent us a Savior.

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*Once in Royal David's City*  
Oscar Osborne, solo

H. J. Gauntlett

## FIRST READING ≧HOPE FORETOLD≦

Reader: Phil Fox

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this (Isaiah 9, selected verses).

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*The Huron Carol*  
Theresa Cullen Hill, alto

Jean de Brébeuf

## SECOND READING ≧THE STORY BEGINS≦

Reader: Jeanne Young

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son,

and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7).

CAROL

*Away in a Manger*  
The Chancel Choir

arr. David Willcocks

**THIRD READING ≡ THE STORY CONTINUES≡**

Reader: Jordan Johnson

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them (Luke 2:8-20).

CAROL

*Star Carol*  
The Chancel Choir and Orchestra

John Rutter

**FOURTH READING ≡ Presence≡**

Reader: Alex Fitzpatrick

I am the one whose praise echoes on high. I am the breeze that nurtures all things green. I encourage blossoms to flourish with ripening fruits. I am led by the spirit to feed the purest streams. I am the rain coming from the dew that causes grass to laugh with the joy of life. I call forth tears, the aroma of holy work. I am the yearning for the good.

(Hildegard of Bingen, *Cries of the Spirit*)

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Ave Maria*  
Stuart Kern, Euphonium

Bach-Gounod

**FIFTH READING ≡ Shining≡**

Reader: Linda Phelps

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, *Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?* Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It

is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others (Marianne Williamson).

No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light.  
(Luke 8:16)

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

*What Child is This?*  
Laura Weber, viola

GREENSLEEVES

**SIXTH READING    ðA Christmas Prayer**

Reader: Pastor Amy Lewis

Loving God, in the stillness of this hour, touch our understanding so that we may sense the wonder of your love in Jesus Christ. Though there was no room for him in Bethlehem's inn, help us to make more room for Christ in our lives. Come, Jesus.

**Where there is hatred, give love.**

Where there is sadness, give joy.

**Where there is discord, give peace.**

Come, Jesus, be light for our darkness, for the hour of your birth is near. Come, Jesus, be born in our hearts.

**With hearts full of faith, we pray, saying:**

**Holy God, who art in heaven**

**Hallowed be Your name.**

**Your kingdom come, Your will be done**

**On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**But deliver us from evil,**

**For Yours is the kingdom and the power,**

**And the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

Pastor Matt Braddock

**OFFERTORY**

*Phänomen*  
Michelle Esposito, clarinet; and Jim Brown, violin

Johannes Brahms

**\*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**

Pastor Matt Braddock

**God With Us, may this offering bring hope, love, joy, and peace to others. Use our gifts to give sanctuary for those who are threatened, and to provide companionship for those who are alone. Use our gifts to make life better for everyone who is served by our giving. Glory to God in the highest! AMEN**

**SEVENTH READING ≧Stillness≦**

Reader: Lynn White

Our sure defense, our shelter and help in trouble,  
God never stands far off.  
So we stand unshaken when solid earth cracks  
and volcanoes slide into the sea,  
when nations rage and empires fall.  
Come! See the wonders God does across the earth:  
Everywhere stopping wars, smashing all weapons of cruelty.  
God says: "Be Still! Know that I am God" (Psalm 46, selected verses)

"If we are to have peace on earth . . . our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective. No individual can live alone; no nation can live alone, and as long as we try, the more we are going to have war in this world . . . We must either learn to live together as brothers and sisters or we are all going to perish together as fools."

(Martin Luther King, Jr., "A Christmas Sermon on Peace", Dec. 24 1967)

**CAROL**

*Coventry Carol*  
The Chancel Choir

Traditional

**EIGHTH LESSON ≧God With Us≦**

Reader: Pastor Matt Braddock

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness. Will the darkness understand? (from John 1:1-5)

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe.*  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.  
The Chancel Choir

Antonio Vivaldi

**SPREADING THE LIGHT**

*(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.)*

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.

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!

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.

**\* BENEDICTION**

Pastors Matt Braddock & Amy Lewis

On the Eve of Christmas, hatred will vanish. On the Eve of Christmas, the earth will flourish. On the Eve of Christmas, war will be gone. On the Eve of Christmas, love will be born. When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person,

**It is Christmas.**

When we clothe a naked person with a gown of love,

**It is Christmas.**

When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes,

**It is Christmas.**

When the spirit of revenge dies in us,

**It is Christmas.**

When in our hearts we no longer want to stay apart,

**It is Christmas.**

When we are immersed in the being of God,

**It is Christmas.**

"Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it," proclaims the ancient word. Light stands firm against the dark landscape of reality, warmth prances in drafty rooms.

**Each of us holds a flickering candle, seemingly insignificant one by one yet magnificent when held together. Each of us makes a choice to stand in the light, proclaiming the indisputable presence of unquenchable light. Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it!**

**\* CHORAL POSTLUDE**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

*Refrain*

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!*

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored;  
Christ the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time, behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as Man with us to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel. *Refrain*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die.  
Born to raise the ones of earth,  
Born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

## CCC Calendar for the Week

### **Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> / Christmas Eve**

**10:00 PM** Reception Following Candlelight Service (Entry Lobby)

**10:00 PM** Young Adult Post-Service Gathering Church Lobby

### **Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> / Christmas Day**

**10:30 AM** Christmas Day Service of Worship (Sanctuary)

### **Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> / Church Closed**

**Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>** (No events scheduled.)

**Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>** (No events scheduled.)

**Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>** Church closes at 12:00 Noon

**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>** Church closes at 12:00 Noon

### **Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> / New Year's Day**

**10:30 AM** Communion Service

**Christ Congregational Church  
A United Church of Christ**

**9525 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901**

Office: 301.585.8010 FAX: 301.585.3868

<http://www.cccsilverspring.org>

E-mail: [cccoffice@cccsilverspring.org](mailto:cccoffice@cccsilverspring.org)

Pastor Matt's Blog: [www.drybonesarise.blogspot.com](http://www.drybonesarise.blogspot.com)

The Church Office is open 9:00-3:30 Monday through Friday.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Braddock, Senior Minister, Ext 223, [matt@cccsilverspring.org](mailto:matt@cccsilverspring.org)

The Rev. Amy L. Lewis, Minister for Adults, Ext 226, [amy@cccsilverspring.org](mailto:amy@cccsilverspring.org)

Dr. Nae Pearson, Minister of Music, Ext 224, [nae@cccsilverspring.org](mailto:nae@cccsilverspring.org)

Dr. Sue Wilson, Children's C.E. Coordinator, Ext 227, [sue@cccsilverspring.org](mailto:sue@cccsilverspring.org)

Veronica Bailey, Executive Assistant, Ext. 228, [cccoffice@cccsilverspring.org](mailto:cccoffice@cccsilverspring.org)

Dianne Abraham, Church Administrator, Ext 222, [PropertyAdmin@cccsilverspring.org](mailto:PropertyAdmin@cccsilverspring.org)

Kristen Brown, Administrator for Youth Ministry, [brown.jk@verizon.net](mailto:brown.jk@verizon.net)

Stephanie Helsing, Coordinator for Camping Ministry, [nizwa328@rcn.com](mailto:nizwa328@rcn.com)

The Rev. James A. Todhunter, Minister Emeritus