

# THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of  
The United Church of Christ*

## THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Welcome ~ Bienvenidos*

July 21, 2019

10:00 AM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTER CHURCH. During the Summer months, we worship here at the Church House in air-conditioned comfort. We will continue to worship in this space through the summer, returning to the Meeting House one Sunday (to be announced) in September.

Thank you for being here today! We are glad you have joined us for this service of worship and the fellowship of this congregation. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by the Word of God for us today. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Any of our worship leaders or ushers will be able to help with your questions. If you are already a member, be sure to extend a friendly greeting to those around you, starting with someone you don't know...yet.

*Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices  
before the service of Worship begins.*

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### COMING BEFORE GOD

#### GATHERING MUSIC (Congregational Singing of Carols)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

No. 116

Away in the Manger

No. 124

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 125

#### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bell and Maule

Leader: Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth,

People: **Might not be a plan or army, proud in purpose, proved in worth?**

Leader: In our search for sense and meaning, lest our hopes and humor fray,

People: **God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day!**

*PLEASE STAND.*

HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful

Chalice Hymnal, No. 148

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful, and tri - um - phant,  
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
3. Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,  
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our sal - va - tion,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!  
we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The first system contains four numbered verses of lyrics. The second system contains the main body of the hymn lyrics. The music is in 4/4 time and the key signature has one sharp (F#).

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

*Descant*

3. O come, O come,

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

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

ADESTE FIDELES  
 Irr. w. refrain

PLEASE BE SEATED.  
 CENTERING PRAYER

# PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

*PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.*

## INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

### GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

NRSV

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### MEDITATION

God is Still Speaking Through Christmas

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

No. 153

SCARLET RIBBONS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father\***, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*(\* = traditional wording but you may use alternative wording, such as "God," "Creator," or "Mother," as seems fitting.)*

PLEASE BE SEATED.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND PROMISES

*(We encourage you to use offering envelopes when giving.)*

SOLO

PLEASE STAND AS THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD.

Hymn of Presentation

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

ADESTE FIDELIS (ENGLISH MELODY)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Come, Let Us Adore Him". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5. A slur covers the next four notes: E5, F#5, G5, and A5. The bass line is mostly whole notes, starting with G3, F#3, E3, and D3. The lyrics "O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him," are written below the treble staff. The score ends with a double bar line.

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

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**For neighbors in this room, neighbors in this city, neighbors in all the world, we give gifts of love and hope. Please, O God, bless us as we seek to work with you to transform the world. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.*

HYMN

Joy to the World

Chalice Hymnal, No. 143

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 Re - peat the sound-ing joy, re -  
 And won-ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound-ing joy,  
 won-ders of his love,

ANTIOCH  
 CM w. repeat

BENEDICTION

*Please be seated to enjoy the postlude. Go in peace!*

POSTLUDE

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Willcocks

*Go in peace!*