

*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”*



Christmas Pageant

First Congregational Church of New Milford

December 21, 2025

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in preparation,

People: For good news is to be proclaimed.

Leader: We gather in expectation,

People: For joy will enter our midst.

Leader: We gather in celebration,

People: For Jesus will come soon.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

GLORIA PATRI*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen, Amen.

HYMN*

Angels from the Realms of Glory #149

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Metz Family

Today we will light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath. Before we do that, we remember God's blessings, symbolized by the candles of hope, peace and joy.

(Light two purple candles and one pink candle.)

The fourth candle helps us to remember that God is love.

(Light the fourth purple candle.)

The Bible tells us that the greatest blessing is love. It is because God loved the world so much that Jesus came to share God's love. Because God loves us, we share love and care for others.

Response

O Come, O Come, Emanuel, vs.4

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, the One who comes in your name comes again with grace and power, with forgiveness and strength, with truth and imagination, with gentleness and love. May the coming Christ child enter our hearts as we wait with expectation and joy. We pray in Jesus' name, saying...

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Choral Response

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-35

Bronwyn Metz

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory

The Friendly Beasts/arr. Clarence Dickinson

Song of Presentation*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offering Prayer*

Holy God, receive our gifts and transform them into gifts that help others know your presence in their lives today. May we welcome weary sojourners; may we provide shelter to those in need; may our lives be gifts to all your children. Amen.

HYMN*

Good Christian Friends Rejoice #164

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

A Miracle in Bethlehem

You are invited to join us in the singing of
the first verse of the following hymns:

O little town of Bethlehem #144
Hark, the Herald Angels Sing! #150
We Three Kings #172
Joy to the World #143

(see insert for lyrics)



Cherub Choir

Dance and Sing by Gifford

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN*

Go Tell It On The Mountain #167

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

POSTLUDE

**All are invited to stand in body or spirit*

THANK YOU

A special thank you to our Christmas Choir, Village Ringers and Cherub Choir for a wonderful Christmas Concert last Sunday!

Thank you to the Metz family for reading the lighting of the fourth advent candle.

Thank you Bronwyn Metz for reading Scripture today.

Thank you to the Sunday School and CE Team for putting together the Christmas Pageant.

Thank you to Katie Simmons for narrating the Christmas Pageant.

O little town of Bethlehem #144

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the ever lasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing! #150

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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

We Three Kings #172

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse a far, field and fountain, moor an mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Joy to the World #143

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Are Welcome Here: For your comfort, listening devices are available by the front doors of the church. Additionally, services are live streamed in the chapel, should you need to step out of the service for any reason. Simply turn on the TV. Please see a Deacon if you need assistance.

Please join us for Brunch following today's service downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

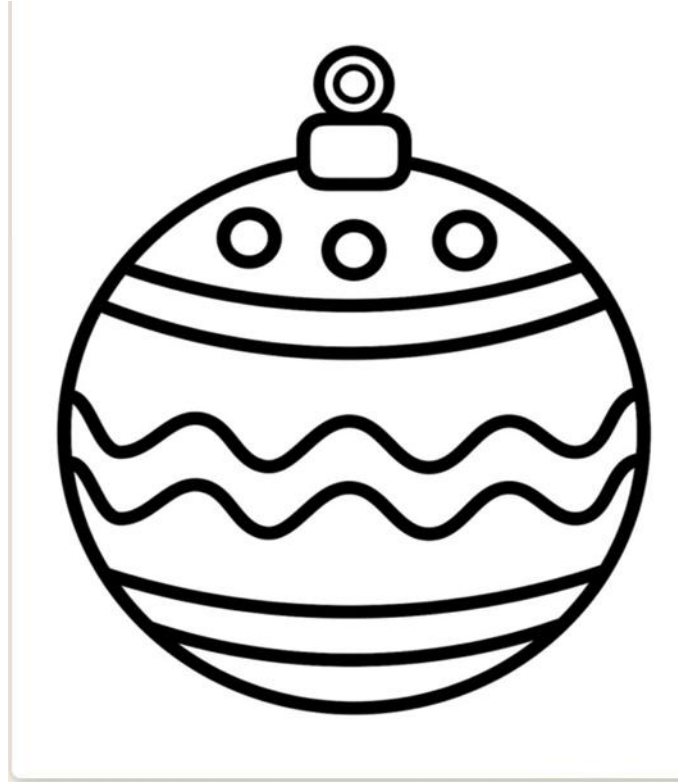
Bible Study Group will meet in the Taylor room today at 11:15.

Women of the Bible study group meet in the Chapel Monday at 1:00 PM.

Christmas Eve Family service will be held at 4:00 PM

Service of Lessons, Carols and Communion will be held at 9:00 PM

The First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 PM (860) 354-8232 Voicemail Available 24/7 www.nmchurch.org church@nmchurch.org Rev. Marie's day off is Friday.		
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Advent Devotion Week 4: Love

How can you show love this Advent? Write it in the center of the ornament. You can color the ornament in Advent colors: purple, pink, and blue or any colors you want. Then cut out the ornament and hang it on your tree to remind to share God's love this Advent.