



Christmas Eve

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
December 24, 2016
CHRISTMAS EVE

VOLUNTARY

In Dulci Jubilo

Dietrich Buxtehude

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL 132 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*GREETING

Dan Smith

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings all, grace and peace to you from God,
whose love is everlasting,

C: who visits us in poor and simple things and gives us joy,

L: who is never far from the broken-hearted,

C: who releases captives, and breaks chains of oppression!

L: Hear this good news: This is the time! Christ is born!

C: This is the time! Our healing is at hand.

L: Then, come, let us adore him!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Kate Layzer

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM

Ding Dong, Merrily on High

Trad. arr. P. Sykes

READING

Luke 1:26-38

Liam Simons

*CAROL 137

Hark, The Herald Angels Sing

READING

Luke 2:1-20

Maggie LaMaster

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

L: The Light of Christ

C: Thanks be to God!

CAROL 150

Away in the Manger

(Please remain seated.)

**You are invited to stand.*

READING

Matthew 2:1-5, 9-15

HOMILY

Karin Case

*CAROL 153

What Child is This, Who, Laid to Rest?

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dan Smith

(Please pray this prayer and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)

**All: 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.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

Beth Spaulding, Soprano

THE PROCLAMATION

John 1:1-5, 12, 14

Emma Weller and Kate Weller

L: In the beginning was the Word,
and the word was with God, and the word was God.
The Word was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through the Word,
and without the Word, not one thing came into being.
In him is life, the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
L: All who receive the light are given power to become children of God.
The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen this glory, Glory as of God's own Child,
full of grace and truth.

CAROL 142

Silent Night, Holy Night

(Please remain seated.)

BLESSING

*GREETING OF PEACE

*Members of the First Church youth group are reading tonight,
and are sharing candle light with the congregation.*

*Donations are being collected this evening for the First Church Deacons
Fund, which is used for parish relief. Donations may be placed in the
baskets located at the front and back entrances to the sanctuary.*

*The picture book read during “A Time with Children” is Refuge by Anne
Booth & Sam Usher (2016, Little, Brown & Co.) The publisher will
donate \$1 from each copy of this edition through September 2017 to USA
for UNHCR: the UN Refugee Agency, a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization
that helps and protects refugees and people displaced by violence,
conflict, and persecution. Around the world they help refugees survive,
recover, and build a better future.*



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United Church of Christ

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