



Christmas Day

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
December 25, 2016
Christmas Day

VOLUNTARY

*CAROL (*facing page*) *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

*GREETING

*LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

L: Lift up your heads; the day of peace is here!

C: God has visited us with healing!

L: All the ends of the earth behold it,

C: and the distant coastlands rejoice!

The Advent and Christmas candles are lit.

L: The light of Christ!

C: Thanks be to God!

L: Let us praise our God!

**All: Glory to God in the highest,
 and peace to God's people on earth!
 We worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory!
 Lord Jesus Christ, only-begotten Child,
 you take away the world's sin!
 Have mercy on us!
 Receive our prayer!
 For you are the Healer and the Holy One,
 the world's hope and the heart's desire.
 You preside in love forever,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Sovereign. Amen.**

READING Isaiah 52:7-10

CAROL (*next page*) *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

(Please remain seated.)

READING Luke 2:1-20

MUSICAL MEDITATION *The Bells* William Byrd

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

**You are invited to stand.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(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.**

*CAROL *(next page)* *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

CHRISTMAS HOLY COMMUNION IN THE ROUND

*INVITATION

(People are invited to gather in the chancel. Please bring your bulletins with you.)

L: Lift up your heads; the day of peace is here!
C: God has visited us with healing!
L: All the ends of the earth behold it,
C: And the distant coastlands rejoice!
L: The newborn Child be with you!
C: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts!
C: We lift them to God.
L: Let us give thanks to God, our God!
C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

*REMEMBERING GOD'S MIGHTY DEEDS

L: Now we remember the Garden,
we remember Adam and Eve and God's footsteps.
We remember that long ago we sinned
and were left without a home.
**C: We remember Abraham, and Sarah.
We remember Moses, the sea, the desert,
the manna, milk and honey.
We remember the prophets,
the longing, the promise.**
L: We remember the angel interrupting a young woman's day.
And we remember Joseph's dream.
We remember a hard journey,
inns with no room.
**C: We remember poor things –
a manger, a child, some straw.
We remember the cold, the sheep,
the shepherds, the night.**

- L: We remember midnight glory,
God in human face outshining.
We remember Jesus.
- C: He came to us then.
He is with us still – we are not alone.**
- L: And when he was all grown up,
on the night they came to put out his light,
God's Child shone all the brighter
with love for his friends.
- C: He ate with them, taking bread, giving thanks to God for it,
and shared it all around. Take this, eat it, he said.
This is my body, for you.**
- L: He drank with them, too; taking a cup and blessing it,
he passed it around, saying: Drink this all of you.
It is the cup of my life-blood
poured out for you--a new covenant
for the forgiveness of sins.
- C: He told us: Do this in memory of me.**

INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- L: Let us pray for the Spirit's blessing.
- All: Send your Spirit upon these gifts, O God –
fruit of the earth and work of human hands!
By grace and faith, let them be for us
life-giving food and drink.
As we share in their goodness,
strengthen us for witness in the world you love. Amen.**

*SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*THANKSGIVING

- L: Let us give thanks.
- All: We thank you, gracious God,
for making yourself known to us
in the human life of Jesus.
Keep us always in the joy of Christmas Day,
like Mary and Joseph, like angels and shepherds –
servants of your love and bearers of your grace.
Glory be to you in the church and in all creation,
now and forever. Amen. Alleluia!**

*CAROL (*next page*)

Joy to the World!

*BENEDICTION

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST