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Christmas Day  
December 25, 2022

**FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE**  
Congregational 1633-1636  
United Church of Christ  
Garden and Mason Streets  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

# WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
**386 YEARS**  
ON THE WAY  
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 2

## December 25, 2022

### Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*  
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*  
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*  
Duncan Hollomon, *soloist*

### Bulletin Cover Image

Carina Nebula, photographed by the James Webb telescope  
*this image and many more may be found at: [webb.nasa.gov](http://webb.nasa.gov)*

## GATHERING

### VOLUNTARY

Noel

Claude Daquin

### \*CAROL

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

(see page 4)

### \*GREETING

Dan Smith

### \* LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

L: The light of Christ!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### \*CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION AND GREETING OF PEACE

Lexi Boudreaux

*We invite you to greet each other with a hug or handshake. If you prefer to maintain social distance, please put your hands together or fold your arms to share the peace.*

### READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

### \*CAROL

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

(see pages 5-6)

### READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Kate Layzer

*\*You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

**\*CAROL 153**

What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest

**READING**

Matthew 2:1-12

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

The Bells  
*Peter Sykes, harpsichord*

William Byrd

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

He Smiles Within His Cradle  
*Duncan Hollomon, tenor*

Austrian hymn, 1649

**\*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done,  
Creator, Christ and Spirit one. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD**

L: In peace, let us pray to God.

**C: Lord, hear our prayer!**

L: That the heart of the world might rejoice this day at the birth of a merciful savior, let us pray to God.

**C: Lord, hear our prayer!**

L: That the work of justice may capture every human heart and lead to peace, let us pray to God.

**C: Lord, hear our prayer!**

L: For an end to all war and violence, that all people may live in hope and safety, so that free of fear we build a new tomorrow, let us pray to God.

**C: Lord, hear our prayer!**

L: For the health of the earth, and the integrity of all creation, let us pray to God.

**C: Lord, hear our prayer!**

L: For the sick, the troubled, the sorrowing and the dying, that they may know the comfort of God's mercy, let us pray to God.

**C: Lord, hear our prayer!**

*(cont'd. on next page)*

L: For our enemies and all who have done us harm,  
and for all whom we have harmed, let us pray to God.

**C: Lord, hear our prayer!**

L: For the church throughout the world, that we may love God,  
God's world, and one another, welcome and serve all people  
and show forth the mercy of Christ Jesus, let us pray to God.

**C: Lord, hear our prayer!**

L: And now, in the words our Savior gave us, we make bold to pray together,

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.)*

**All: Our Creator, 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.**

## CHRISTMAS DAY HYMN SING

**\*CLOSING CAROL 134**

Joy to the World

**\*BENEDICTION**



### First Church Land Acknowledgment

*We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusett people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusett, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.*

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the left.

# OPENING CAROL

## On This Day Earth Shall Ring

"Piae Cantiones," 1582  
Tr. Jane M. Joseph, c. 1894-1929

PERSONENT HODIE 6.6.6.6.6. with Refrain  
"Piae Cantiones," 1582  
Arr. by Gustav T. Holst, 1874-1934

1 On this day earth shall ring With the song  
2 His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came  
3 God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise men three  
4 On this day an-gels sing; With their song

chil-dren sing To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to  
down to earth, Beth-le-hem saw his birth; Ox and ass be-  
to him led, Kneel-ing low by his bed, Lay their gifts be-  
earth shall ring, Prais-ing Christ, heav-en's King, Born on earth to

REFRAIN

save us; Him the Fa-ther gave us.  
side him From the cold would hide him. Id-e-o-o-o-o,  
fore him, Praise him and a-dore him.  
save us. Peace and love he gave us.

R.H.  
R.H. L.H.

BIRTH

Id-e-o-o-o-o, Id-e-o glo-ri-a in-ex-cel-sis De-o!

## SECOND CAROL

Break forth, O beau-teous heaven-ly light, And ush - er in the

morn - ing; Ye shep - herds, shrink not with af - fright, But

hear the an-gel's warn - ing. This child, now weak in in - fan - cy, Our

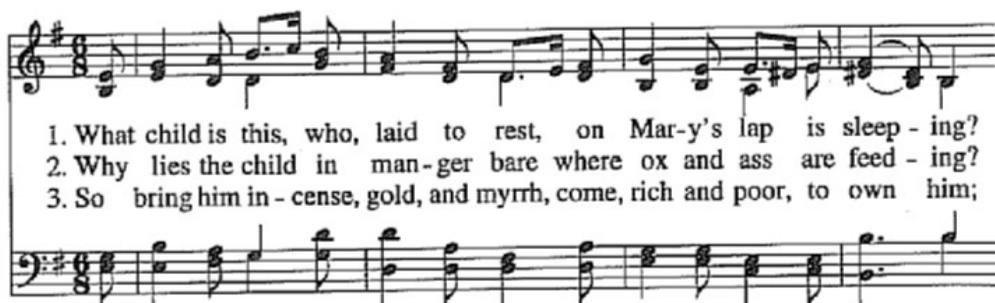
con - fi - dence and joy shall be, The power of Sa - tan

SECOND CAROL, cont'd.

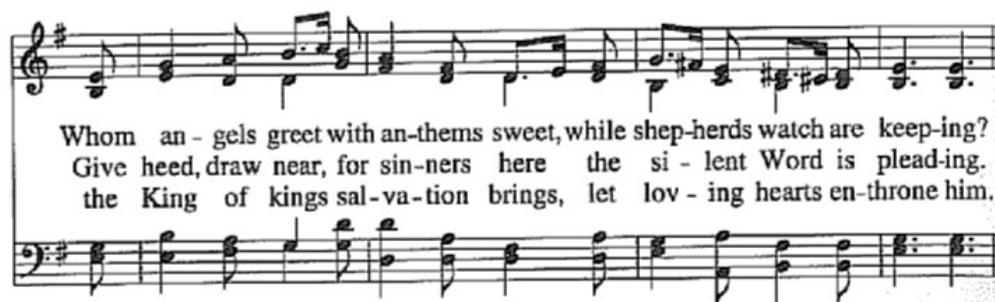
break - ing, Our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line is written on a treble clef staff, and the piano accompaniment is written on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "break - ing, Our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing." The music consists of two staves of music, each ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

153 What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest

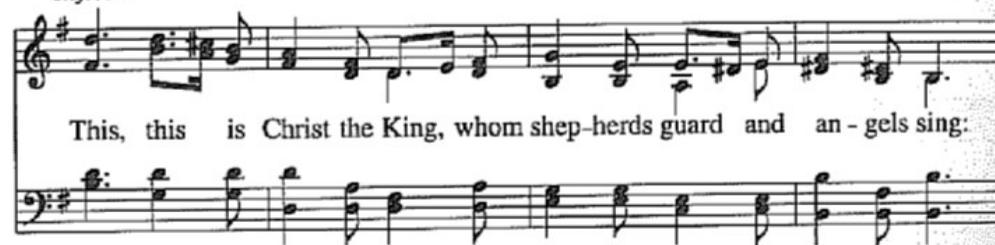


1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?  
 2. Why lies the child in man-ger bare where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him;

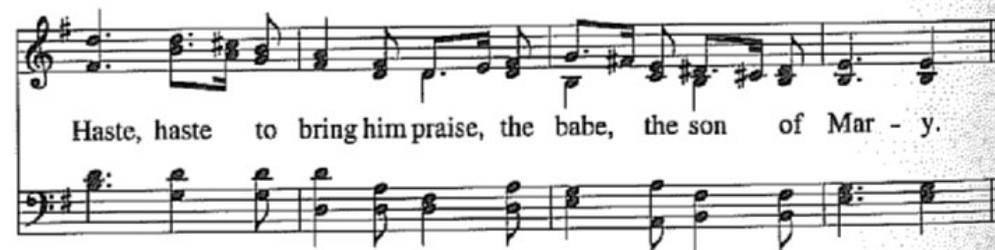


Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Give heed, draw near, for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
 the King of kings sal-va-tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

*Refrain*



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing:



Haste, haste to bring him praise, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

CLOSING CAROL

Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come 134

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: let earth her  
 3. Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 songs em - ploy; let 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,

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC  
 11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

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