



**SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 2:1, 3-20

Tim Patterson

**REFLECTION**

Rev. Whitman

**CAROL** *Joy to the World*

**IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

**CLOSING RESPONSE**

**Leader:** On this night of carols and candlelight, let us sing new songs of joy.

**All:** **Let us celebrate Christmas!**

**Leader:** On this night of remembering the birth in Bethlehem, let us walk in the love of Christ --

**All:** **The love that changes everything!**

**SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

*If you can light a candle safely, please do so, joining together in a spirit of hope for the new year.*

**CAROL** *Silent Night*

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Whitman

*Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2021 to all!*

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Portions of this evening's liturgy are adapted from the writings of Rev. Thom Shuman and from *Touch Holiness*, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C Tirabassi. The angel story is related in the book *Where Angels Walk: True Stories of Heavenly Visitors* by Joan Wester Anderson.

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**Fishers Island Union Chapel warmly welcomes you** to this Christmas Eve service. We are grateful to be able to celebrate the birth of our Lord with you.

**We are indebted to Mr. Chris Dollar** of the Fishers Island School for coordinating and conducting our virtual choir this evening! Thank you, Chris! We also thank all our wonderful carolers as well as **Diane Dexter and John Klimczak** for sharing their musical gifts with us.

**Union Chapel extends our deep thanks to our friends and community** for their support in 2020. We are grateful to have you as our partners as we seek to fulfill our mission to share God's love in this Island and beyond.

**We would be delighted to add your email** to our weekly church updates and Zoom invites to Sunday 10 am worship. Just contact the church with your information to be included.

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## Christmas Flower Dedications

In Memory of Frank and Marie Burr,  
Margaret and Walter Thompson and  
Frank Burr  
Given by Peter and Jan Burr

In Memory of Peter and Janet Rogan  
Given by David Rogan

In Loving Memory of  
Nancy Gerry and Harris Parsons  
Given by the Brinckerhoffs

In Memory of Gunther Fritze  
and Mary and Grayson Murphy  
Given by Anita Fritze

In Memory of Maxwell and  
Rachel Porter,  
Eliot, Marilyn and Christopher Porter  
and Charlie Arnold  
Given by the Porter, Soper and Arnold  
Family

In Memory of Lisa Reed  
and Meredith Moody  
Given by the Sarah Porter Family

In Memory of David J. Mullen  
Given by Sarah Porter,  
Marilyn Mullen-Pierce  
and Sarah Mullen

In Honor of Dr. Christopher Ingram  
and the Island Health Project team  
Given by  
John and Melie Spofford

In Loving Memory of  
Rachel Dohanian and Doris Markarian  
Given by Rev. Candace Whitman

In Honor of my Wonderful Family  
and Dear Friends  
Given by Diane Dawson Dexter

## O Come O Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels.

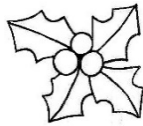
Refrain

O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!

True God of true God,  
Light from light eternal,  
Lo, He shuns not the virgin's womb.  
Son of the Father  
Begotten not created. [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
"Glory to God,  
All glory in the highest!" [Refrain]

## THANK YOU TO OUR VIRTUAL CHOIR MEMBERS



C. J. Alexander  
Sasha Berdan  
Elizabeth Bloethe  
Claire Butler  
Chris Dollar  
Kathy Dollar  
Lydia Doucette  
Susan Ferguson  
Chloe Johnson  
Maddie Lusker |  
Annie Packard  
Louise Packard  
Sam Roethgen  
Tim Roethgen  
Constance Toldo  
Candace Whitman

## Silent Night

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

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## About our gathering music, "No Obvious Angels"...

This unusual title for a Christmas song makes sense when one knows the words. Here is the first verse of Shirley Erena Murray's eloquent lyrics:

*No obvious angels sing through the  
night skies,*

*No thunderstruck shepherds tell out their  
surprise,*

*For Christmas comes into the here and the  
now -*

*Through star-sighted people, the watchful  
and hopeful, who wake us to see a new  
world.*