

# Christmas Eve Service, Saturday, December 24, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Designated Term Pastor  
Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist

**Prelude**      “*Ave Maria*”      J.S. Bach

## Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God’s people on earth!

### Christ is born! Hallelujah!

No longer do we seek light from another source, for the light of Christ shines in our hearts.

**Living God, we stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory. We sing with angels, rejoicing in your work. We wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise. We sit with Mary, cradling your love.**

Hymn 230      “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

### Christmas Eve Prayer

O God, you have caused this night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven, where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God in glory everlasting. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

Leader: We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:  
**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 and ever. Amen.**

## Prayer for Illumination

**Old Testament**      Isaiah 9:2-7

**New Testament**      Luke 2:1-20

**Sermon** “The Long Way to Bethlehem”      Dr. Rosanna Anderson

## Gathering the Collection

### Response of Praise

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains:

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

### Prayer of Dedication

**God our Redeemer, your glorious love shines in the face of Jesus, born a babe in this dark world. We marvel that he generously humbled himself to bring salvation. How precious is your gift of love! Let the light in our sanctuary and our songs of praise spill through the windows to neighbors dwelling in darkness. May our gifts reflect the light of Christ and, as beacons in the night, draw people far and near closer to you. Amen.**

### Benediction

### Carol “Silent Night” with Lighting of Individual Candles

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 “Hallelujah!”  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.

*“Whoever you are and wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here.”*



## **Fishers Island Union Chapel**

Box 192, 821 Crescent Avenue  
Fishers Island, NY 06390

**The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson**

Saturday, December 24, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

### Hymn 230 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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 everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!