



July 26, 2026

Christmas in July

Service of Word

† Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Prelude on "Divinum Mysterium"

David P. Dahl

Greeting

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.
Thanks be to God!

† Call to Worship

Christ is born!
Alleluia!

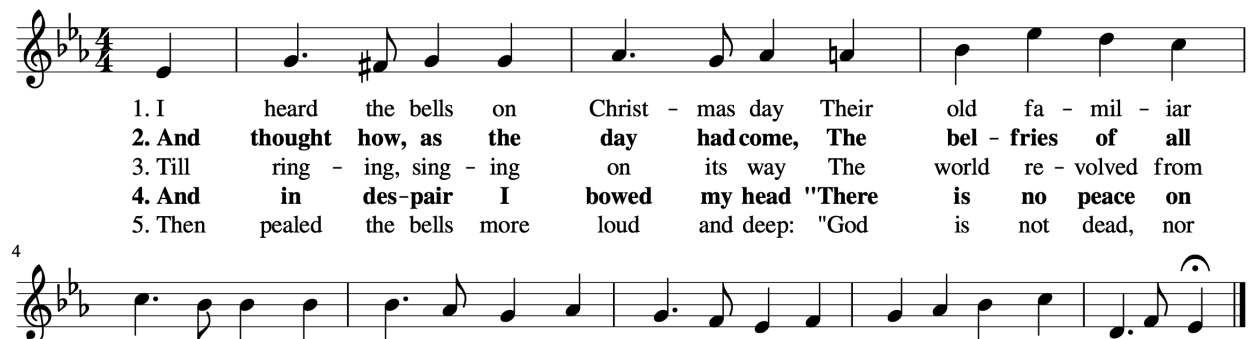
Jesus is among us!
Alleluia!

The Word has become flesh!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let us worship God!

† Opening Hymn

I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day



1. I heard the bells on Christ - mas day Their old fa - mil - iar
 2. And **thought** how, as the day **had come,** The **bel - fries** of all
 3. Till ring - ing, sing - ing on its way The world re - volved from
 4. And **in des-pair** I **bowed my head** "There is no peace on
 5. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor

4

car - ols play, And wild and sweet the words re - peat Of peace on earth, good will to men.
Christ - en-dom Had **rolled a - long th'un - bro - ken song** Of **peace on earth, good will to men.**
 night to day, A voice, a chime, a chant sub-lime Of peace on earth, good will to men.
earth." I said, "For hate is strong and mocks the song Of **peace on earth, good will to men.**
 doth Hesleep: The wrong shall fail, the right pre-vail With peace on earth, good will to men.

† Invocation

Holy God of Love, there is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love. A love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love. And may we share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness. **Amen.**

Let us sing praise to God.

We will continually praise God's holy name.

† Gloria Patri

Christmas Gloria

GREATOREX



Glo-ry be to the Christ Child, God's strength made weak, has come to light our way. As the
 7
 first born of cre - a-tion, the Alpha and O - mega, Won-derful birth, God has come to earth.

Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2. Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4. Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear;

5. ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light:
 seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

9. Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

† Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains, and the moun-tains
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long? What the glad-some
 3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing; come, a - dore on
 4. See him in a man-ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise; Ma - ry, Jo - seph,
 6 in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains. Glo - - - ri - a
 tid - ings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
 lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
 13 in ex-cel-sis De - o, Glo - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Reverend Dr. Greg Gray

Sharing our Concerns

For all these persons and all who are in need.

Hold your people near, O God.

Sharing our Joys

We give thanks to God for these blessings.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

Welcome Christmas

Albert Hague

Fah who for - aze! Dah who dor - aze! Wel - come Christ - mas Come this way!

5
Fah who for - aze! Dah who dor aze! Wel - come Christ - mas, Christ - mas Day!

9
Wel - come, wel - come! Fah who rah - mus! Wel - come, wel - come! Dah who dah - mus,
Wel - come Christ - mas! Fah who rah - mus Wel - come Christ - mas! Dah who dah - mus,

13
Christ - mas Day is in our grasp! So long as we have hands to clasp!
Christ - mas Day will al - ways be just as long as we have we!

17
Fah who for - aze! Dah who dor - aze! Wel - come Christ - mas! Bring your cheer.

21
Fah who for - aze! Dah who dor - aze! Wel - come all who's far and near.

† Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.

Response to the Peace

Dona Nobis Pacem

DONA NOBIS PACEM

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pacem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis

12

pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem.

The musical notation is in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff starts at measure 12 and continues the melody and lyrics.

Invitation to the Offering

For the sake of those in need, for the care of the church in proclaiming Christ's birth, and for all that God calls us to do, let us gather our tithes and offerings.

Offertory

Christmas Pastoral

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

† Doxology

Christmas Doxology

OLD 100th

O Glo-rious God, to you we bring Praise, trea-sures, lives as of - fer - ing; Come,

5

Ho - ly Spirit, with - in us dwell; Born is the Christ, Em - man - u - el! A - men.

The musical notation is in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff starts at measure 5 and continues the melody and lyrics.

† Prayer of Dedication

With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. **Amen.**

† Closing Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where; Go, tell it on the moun - tain That

Je-sus Christ is born! **1. While** shep - herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by
2. The shep - herds feared and trem-bled **When** lo! a - bove the
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was

night, Be - hold through-out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
earth Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
born, And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

† Benediction

Postlude

Christmas...in About Three Minutes

Mark Weston

THIS IS THE HOUSE OF GOD

This is the house of God:
Not my house or your house; not bricks and mortar, wood and walls:
but a place for everyone, with no barriers.

This is the Word of God:
Not just a rulebook or a history book; not simply a storybook,
but an inspired beginning to a continuing, unfolding life together.

We are the Body of Christ:
Not me or you or them, but one Body with many members-
many members called to do their part in one very big plan.

This place is God's. This world is God's.
We are God's:
let us build community and grow and live together. **Amen.**

Sally Foster-Fulton

WELCOME STATEMENT

We covenant with God and each other to live as Jesus has taught. Following God's example, we strive to be a Christian Community welcoming you no matter who you are. No matter your physical or mental ability, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, or economic status, you are truly welcome. We acknowledge past hurts individuals may have experienced and look to offer a safe, non-judgmental space for all who want to know God in Christ. This covenant includes the right to participate equally and fully in all aspects of the life and ministry of this congregation. In a spirit of understanding, we strive for collaboration as we seek to become the fully inclusive community of faith that God calls us to be.

ENFIELD UCC GUN POLICY

Gun violence continues to exist in the United States as a public health issue, one that requires reform in policy and culture. Enfield UCC is a gun-free zone, and no one may bring a firearm on the premises unless explicitly authorized by the pastor and/or moderator.

The United Church of Christ is a proponent of gun safety and gun control and supports policies including:

- strengthen the licensing and registration of handgun transfers
- restrict firearm possession by persons convicted of violent crimes and by juveniles
- limit handgun purchases to one per month
- strengthen regulation of gun dealers
- increase civil and criminal liability for misuse of firearms
- prohibit semiautomatic assault weapons, Saturday night specials, explosive ammunition and large capacity magazines
- require gun safety devices
- require training in the safe use of firearms as a condition of licensing

We encourage everyone to be in touch with legislators, urging them to pass legislation that restricts the sale of firearms.