



## Hymn “Angels, From the Realms of Glory”



An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,  
Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with man 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:  
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King. A - men.

### Unison Prayer

*We are gathered to bless and honor you, O God, Foundation of the Cosmos, the Welcome to the Marginalized, Wisdom of the Ages, Revealing love to creation, now and forever. We come to speak the truth, in our hearts and with our words, that we have not lived in the illumination of love or the hope of reconciliation. We have participated in actions that wound and ignored work that would bring healing. We have soothed ourselves and nursed our own desires instead of turning to you. In humility and in the hope of a different tomorrow, beginning now, we turn to you in repentance and seek your mercy, forgiveness, and restoration. Amen.*

### Assurance of Pardon and the Lord's Prayer

*Beloved of God, receive and trust this pardon: our sins are forgiven. Even now, Divine Love is at work in you to restore your brokenness and to bring you back to confidence and faith in Jesus Christ, your Savior and Lord, who has never left you and who has 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. Amen.*

Call to Worship, Unison Prayer and Assurance of Pardon adapted from Julia Seymour, accessed at [Worship Words: Christmas 2/Epiphany – RevGalBlogPals](http://WorshipWords:Christmas2/Epiphany-RevGalBlogPals)

### Children's Sermon

**Christ Candle**

“Nooma”

Deacon David McKinnis

**Musical Interlude**

“We Three Kings”

John Henry Hopkins

**Scripture**

Matthew 2:1-12

**Sermon** “Having been warned in a dream”

The Reverend David W. Spollett

**A Time for Silent Reflection**

## Hymn "The First Nowell"

The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to cer - tain poor  
They look - ed up and saw a star Shining in the  
Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full rev - erent -  
6  
shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep - ing their  
east, be - yond them far; And to the earth it gave great  
ly up - on their knee, And of - fered there, in his pres -  
12  
sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
ence, Their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.  
17  
Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## Joys and Concerns

*A donation to the Deacons' Fund, in lieu of flowers, has been made to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the ministries of Robert Codio, John Williams, Jane Barnes, Cheryl Zilinyi, Cheri Evan and the Bell Choir, Roger Crossland, Heidi Butler, Jaida Williams, Jim Muschett, Ainsley Dolan, David & Andrew McKinnis, and Alex Ackley and the Children of Disciple Road for leading us in Christmas worship, touching our hearts, and lifting our spirits!*

## The Prayers of the People

### Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

### The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

#### Invitation

Leader: Come, the banquet of hope and praise is ready.

**Response: We come at Christ's invitation, seeking to be fed.**

Leader: Feed on the love of God in Jesus Christ

**Response: We come at Christ's invitation, needing healing.**

Leader: Be healed by God's gracious mercy

**Response: We come at Christ's invitation, longing for forgiveness**

Leader: In Christ's Name, you are loved, healed and forgiven.

**Response: Alleluia, Praise be to God. Amen.**

### **Prayer of Consecration**

Leader: We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church community is scattered, we are one in Christ. In our many places, let us rest our hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. (Pause for silent prayer.) Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

*Unison: Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on your grace. Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon every table where your children are gathered, that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you; breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.*

### **Words of Institution**

Let us take the Bread, break, and receive it to share the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

*All: We are united in Christ in the bread we share.*

(All partake of the Bread.)

Let us take the Cup, to receive and share the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

*Unison: We are united in Christ in the Cup we share.*

(All partake of the Cup.)

### **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have renewed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body, for hope that we begin to see, and for comfort from the Prince of Peace, we share our gratitude with you, Gracious God. As the daylight hours increase at the dawn of a new year, encourage us so that your hope will carry us in these uncertain times. Strengthen our faith in you, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. Amen.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving adapted from (c) Michelle L. Torigian, 2020. Permission to use and adapt.

### **Benediction**

#### **God Be With You**

God be with you till we meet a-gain; by good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,  
With a shep-herd's care en-fold you; God be with you till we meet a-gain. A - men.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

### **Postlude**

“Star-Child”

Ronald F. Krisman

*Go in peace and strength to love and serve the Lord and all God's people*

**LEADING US IN WORSHIP**

The Reverend David W. Spollett  
The Reverend Vanessa Payne Rose  
Ms. Heidi Butler, Student Pastor  
Ms. Holly Sulzycki, Hymn Leader  
Mr. Robert Codio, Worship Music Leader  
Worship Tech Team: David McKinnis, Andrew McKinnis, and Alan Fuehring

*Please hold in your prayers...*

**Disciples at First Church:** Barbara Barton, Sandy Bromer, Ken and Betsy Dalling, Michael Dyslin, Bill Gatto, Sonia Gutierrez and Henry Hernandez, Fenton Furrer, Gayle Hand, Joyce Hutchings, Christy Jefremow, Cathy Kane and her brother Scott and great niece, Adelaide Kitchen, Alice and Jerry Krenke, Lillian Klein, Gerry Kuroghlian, Mimi Maniscalco, Stu Nazzaro, Kathy O'Brien, Gerry O'Donovan, Jack Robinson, Charlie Simmons, Donna Schmidt, Esther Sotolongo, Rachel Spollett, Joe and Lauren Strickland's five grandsons in Libya, Arlene Studer, Maria Sutton, Joann Van Esselstyn, Bill Verdier, Elinor Wilber, and Edith Zambo.

**Our sincere sympathy** is with Lucas Walker and his family in the death of his beloved Grandmother, Amelia Lee. Please hold Lucas in your prayer and reach out to him in love during the time of his bereavement.

**Serving in the military:** James Classy, Sam Classy, Trevor Dawson, David Elmore, Alec Lee, Sean Lomnitzer, and Chris Muschett.

**Those on the Front Lines of COVID-19:**

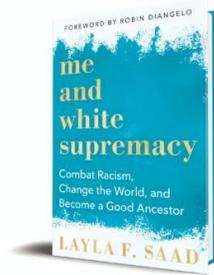
*Members of First Church:* Eric Anderson, Michelle Baker, Laura Burr, Pertrinea Cash, Brooke Hine, Greg Jefremow, Kristin Koch, Kristin Lupo, Beth McKinnis, Kim Chaffee Trupp, Edite Weddle; *Friends of First Church:* Elizabeth Brennan, Raquel Canete, Marguerite Dolan, Fairfield EMS, Ericka Gordon, Stephen Huelskamp, Tracie and Devon Lingenfelter, Lauren Redler McGrath, Maria Pellegrino, Diane Marble, Casey Redler, Maria Sutton, Anna Taft, Westport EMS, and Ann Yergeau.

**Family and Friends:** Gabe, George, Gloria and Eric, John Anderson, Brenda Baker, Nick Bandanza, Anne Barnes, Walter Beck, Doreen Birdsell, Michelle Browser, Kevin Butler, Jaret Chase, Meg Cavanaugh, Amber Chiang, Clara Chokenea, David Ciaburro, Aristodemo Ciabatta, Elizabeth Clark, Charlotte Cole, Tedi Crawford, The Daly Family, Steve Daniels, Brandon Deedon, The DiGioia Family, Jacqueline Geoffroy, Angelo Grilling, Greenawalt and Darnall Families, Linda Drew, Tom Dwyer, Janet Faller, LaTonya Franklin, Scott Ferguson, Allen Freedman, Lauren Frey and Brian's parents, Joan Grabowski, Dave Gurrieri, Ira Jane Han-Cajegas, Nancy Huber, Keli Imperatori, Mary Jean Jacob, Norma Jenkins and Family, Barton Jones, Art Keller, Patricia Keller, Bernie Keller, Steve Kinne, Nancy Kovacs, Jeannette Lazarus,

Desmond Leach, Jan MacMillen, Michael Maxwell, Eileen Maloney, Tim Marble, Verne Marble, Peter J. McGuinness, Lyn McCullers, MaKayla and John McGovern, Claire McMonagle, Matilda, Moeller and Schumann families, Michael Moran, Kathy Murdock, Joelle Murphy, Anne and George Noel, Morgan Paige, Parus Family, Erika Pascarello, Amadeu Pereira, Mike Platt, Dimitri Psachoulias,, Katie Pieterse, Sara Redeghieri,, Dick Reese, Hilarys Rivera, Sally and Paul Robinson, Katelyn S., Greg Sago, Larry Lawrence (Connie Sargent's cousin), Ken Sawicki, Violet, JoAnn Sharnick, Darlene Scaia, Kristin Schleiter, Louise M. Schmidt, Levi Schmidt, Sergei, Connie Sokalsky, Ryan Steward, Seth Sullivan, Steven Szymczak and family, Paul Taylor, Jenny and Mike Tkacz, Harumi Ishihara Sugiyama, Danielle Taal and her five sons, Max Varalli, Sarah Wakeman, Andy Yuan, Virginia MacDonald and her children Linda Hotchkiss, Dan MacDonald, Sydney West and family, Brian Zagorski, Reva Zamero, and James Zamora's family.

### **The Needs of God's Beloved World:**

- Those who are suffering the effects of the economic crisis: lost jobs, businesses closed, wide spread food insecurity, threat of eviction or foreclosure, and homelessness
- All who have suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic: over **82 million infected**, many living with chronic conditions and more than **1.8 million deaths** worldwide; nearly **21 million infected** and more than **350,000 deaths** – 1 of every 1,000 people - in the US
- Health care professionals who provide care for COVID-19 patients as new cases surge
- Thanksgiving for all who created effective and safe Coronavirus vaccines in record time
- Essential workers who have continued to work in spite of the risk
- Parents and all who are involved in education: teachers, administrators, and staff who are doing the best they can juggling schedules, rules, COVID-19 testing, and shutdowns
- Those who are lonely, anxious, afraid, and isolated in this time of social separation
- All who suffer from depression, anxiety, and all mental illnesses and their families
- Mental health providers who care for all who are suffering mentally and emotionally
- All who work to prevent domestic violence and to care for the victims of such violence
- People targeted by hatred of all kinds, including anti-Black, anti-Migrant, anti-Gay, anti-Trans, anti-Semitic, anti-Islamic, anti-Christian prejudice, and actions
- All who are committed to the work of antiracism and the eradication of white supremacy
- Survivors of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment and those who love them
- The world's 71 million refugees, especially children & immigrants at risk of deportation
- Uighur Muslims in China and Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Bangladesh
- Those who are addicted and their loved ones; those who have died and those in recovery
- Victims of war in Iraq, Sudan, the DR of Congo, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, & Libya, especially the grandsons of Joe and Lauren Strickland,
- Our Brothers and Sisters at the First Baptist Church of Stratford
- Our community partners: Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, School Volunteer Association, Mercy Learning Center, Operation Hope, Westbridge, Simply Smiles, Make the Road Connecticut, and the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants
- First, we pray and then we work for justice and its fruit which is peace



*Create the change the world needs by creating change within yourself*

--- Layla Saad

You are invited to join a group of 10-12 First Church members in intimate conversation about white supremacy.

Beginning Thursday January 21 (7-830 pm), the Working for Racial Justice strategic pathway team is hosting a 12-week *Me and White Supremacy* Zoom workshop series to combat racism, change the world and become a good ancestor.

To learn more, or to register, please contact [clara.harmon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clara.harmon@sbcglobal.net) / 203 816 7318 (cell).



### **Monday Night Faith Discussion Group**

Starting January 11th, Deacon David McKinnis will lead a discussion group over Zoom for six weeks using Rob Bell's acclaimed NOOMA videos as our jumping off point.

Perhaps you are curious about the NOOMA video series? Vanessa mentioned in her sermon that the confirmation class is using it as they explore their faith.

Perhaps you are curious what "NOOMA" means. Nooma – or pneuma – is the Greek word for wind... life... breath... Spirit.

Each of the NOOMA videos are expertly crafted short, spiritual reflections.

Perhaps you've heard about Rob Bell and want to hear more of his work?

Or perhaps you want to spend an hour talking with others in the church about issues of faith?

Each video is independent so you can attend whichever weeks you are able. We will gather to socialize starting at 7:30 with the program starting at 7:45.

Contact David via email at [david@bethanddavid.org](mailto:david@bethanddavid.org) call/text 203-246-8138 if you are interested.

**JOIN US**

**CONNECT JANUARY ASSEMBLY**

**01.12.21**

**7:00 - 8:30 PM**

**REGISTER HERE:**  
**HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/NUBWHFXRRZ**  
**WEBBUCA**



***THANKS FROM THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT***

For your remarkable and generous gifts totaling \$4,705 fund the Computer Loan and WiFi Access program for students-at-risk in Bridgeport!

The program is now fully funded for these 90 students who will now have full access for distance learning this winter and benefit from the comprehensive mentoring program of the Janus Center for Youth. Thank you!