

**Welcome to this Service of Lessons and Carols.**  
*As Jesus Christ welcomes each one of us, we hope you sense the friendly welcome of this congregation of God's people. We light the Peace Candle to stand as a beacon of hope, calling us and all the world from darkness to light, from violence to peace.*

[\*]If you are comfortable doing so, it is appropriate to stand.  
**Bold type** signifies congregational response.

**WE GATHER IN JESUS' NAME**

PRELUDE *Two Settings of "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"*  
arr. Peeters and Stearns

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE  
Shirley & Julius Aboagye

**God of the poor and meek, in this time before Christmas, quiet us so we may hear where new life is struggling to be born. Slow our rush so we may hear the faint sound of angel wings, and the words whispered in hope and love. Open our hearts to receive your love anew. Amen.**

\* HYMN #49 *Once in Royal David's City*  
*The congregation is invited to join the choir in singing verses 3 & 4.*

BIDDING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*The Lord's Prayer is found on the top of page 16 of the Hymnal, traditional version, using "debts" and "debtors."*

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 (Pew Bible OT p. 3)  
Reader: Elder Lois Maxwell

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

Please respond after each lesson:

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SOLO *An Irish Carol* Callahan  
Maria Cook, soloist

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18 (Pew Bible OT p. 18)  
Reader: Rev. Terry Davis

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.*

HYMN #13 *Prepare the Way*

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (Pew Bible OT p. 638)  
Reader: Grant Spears

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.*

ANTHEM *Direct Our Steps This Day* Wilson

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9 (Pew Bible OT p. 640)  
Reader: Elder Juliana Mantey

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

ANTHEM *Song of Zechariah* Causey

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible NT p. 56)  
Reader: Elder Edwin Carty

*The birth of Jesus is foretold by the Angel Gabriel.*

ANTHEM *Gabriel to Mary Came* Willcocks

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7 (Pew Bible NT p. 58)  
Reader: Elder Carolyn Blick

*Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

ANTHEM *In the Bleak Midwinter* Darke

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-14 (Pew Bible NT p. 58)  
Reader: Elder Julius Aboagye

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

HYMN #23 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11 (Pew Bible NT p. 2)  
Reader: Elder Jean Hager

*The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.*

OFFERING  
*The offering will be received during the singing of the offertory anthem.*

OFFERTORY *Beside Thy Cradle Here I Stand* Bach  
*(From "Christmas Oratorio")*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**With deep gladness in our hearts, O God, we bring this offering to you. For gathering us when we were outcast, for saving us when we were lost, for loving us when we were unlovable, we thank you. Strengthen us by your presence to make known your mercy to all people. Amen.**

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14 (Pew Bible NT p. 91)  
Reader: Pastor Feroe

*John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.*

HYMN #28 *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Great God of power, we praise you for Jesus Christ who came to save us from our sins. We thank you for the hope of the prophets, the song of the angels, and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We thank you that in Jesus you became flesh and dwelt among us, sharing human hurts and pleasure. Glory to you for your grace-filled love. Glory to you, eternal God; through Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, and King of kings, forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN #31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#540 *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

**God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a Shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE *Toccata* Bach  
*(from Toccata, Adagio, and fugue in C Major)*

Note:

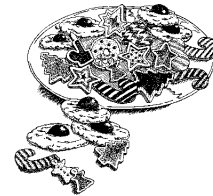
*This special seasonal order of worship "Lessons and Carols" originated in England in 1880 when Bishop E. W. Benson of Truro, later to become Archbishop of Canterbury, designed it for use on Christmas Eve in his cathedral.*

*In 1919 some changes were made but since then their annual service has always begun with the hymn "Once in Royal David's City" and the backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged.*

*This tradition at Cambridge continues to the present (and is broadcast each year by the BBC). It is a tradition that has been adopted and adapted in many churches throughout the world, including our own.*

SERVICE

**Acolyte:** Fiona Tamburini  
**Greeters:** Grace & Ernest Brodeur  
**Liturgist:** Enoch or Margo Darko  
**Ushers:** Julius Aboagye, Tom McNeill, Maude Morrison, Akosua Ware.



Members, friends, and visitors are invited to join us as our guests for coffee and fellowship in Hodge Hall immediately following worship. **George & Carolyn Blick** are our hosts.

TODAY

Christmas Joy Offering

THIS WEEK

Tues. Dec. 22	5:00 PM Community Meal
Wed. Dec. 23	7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Dec. 24	7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service
Fri. Dec. 25	Christmas Day Office Closed HOH Community Meal

NEXT SUNDAY

Acolyte: Gina Wright  
Liturgist: Lianne Doherty (tentative)  
Greeters: Pauline Robertson, Ed Carty  
Multicultural Team meeting after worship  
Education Committee meeting after worship



## First Presbyterian Church

136 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT

Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Pastor

Worship 10:30 am  
Sunday, December 20, 2009

**This is a welcoming Church**, embracing sisters and brothers without regard to age, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, family status, economic situation or theological viewpoint. We want our visitors to feel a part of the family. *“Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA).”*

There is a variety of materials near the entrance to acquaint you with the Church. We encourage you to sign the guest book in the entry and to use the yellow card in the pews to register your attendance and enable us to add you to our newsletter mailing list. Please place yellow cards in the offering plates.

All of our services and activities are open to non-members.

**Membership and Baptism**— First Presbyterian Church, Hartford invites you to commit to membership as witness to your faith in Christ, and the mission of Christ as lived out in the life of this congregation. We receive members by affirmation of faith, or by reaffirmation or transfer of membership. Also, if you have an interest in baptism please see or e-mail Pastor Feroe at rferoe@sbcglobal.net or speak with one of the session members or other elder.

*Offering Envelopes* are available in the pews for the convenience of those who may have forgotten their assigned envelope or for those who wish to use an envelope for a cash gift. If you wish your contribution to be used for a specific cause, please indicate that on the envelope.

**ASSISTED LISTENING SYSTEM AVAILABLE**

Anyone who has difficulty in hearing and understanding the service is encouraged to use the assisted listening system. This is a wireless system so users can sit anywhere in the sanctuary. Receivers are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. Many of you have used a similar system at the Bushnell or Hartford Stage.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Pastor. Office Hours 8:30 am – 12:00 noon Tue., Wed., Thu. E-mail: rferoe@sbcglobal.net or call: 860-904-6467 anytime.

Dianne Ney, Music Director; Ruth Van Anden, Office Mgr.; John Du Pont, Sexton.



Office Hours: M – F 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (Closed 12:00 – 1:00 PM).



We are a member church of the Presbyterian Church USA), Synod of the Northeast, Presbytery of Southern New England.

†††† <b>SESSION</b>	
Class of 2010	Holly Billings (Clerk of Session), Alice Evans, Samuel Hamilton, Juliana Mantey
Class of 2011	Susan Corrigan, Robin Herrera, Mildred McNeill, Gladys Wiafe
Class of 2012	Julius Aboagye, Jane Murray Yaa Okoampa-Sykes, (open)
<b>THE BOARD OF DEACONS</b>	
Class of 2010	Gretchen Fuchs, Carolyn Perkins, Keith Rhoden (Deacon Moderator)
Class of 2011	Michael Asare, Lloyd Brooks, Susan Labins
Class of 2012	Michael Adzenyah, Cynthia McPherson, Jean Nesbitt

*Intercessions*

In our First Presbyterian Church cycle of prayers, we pray this week for:

- Jessica Aboagye, Nya Kwasi & Rebecca Adjei, Ashley, Earvin, Leslie Charles Adom
- Michael & Vida Adzenyah
- Aboagye family – mourning loss of Shirley’s mother.
- Kristin Moir Harvey (she continues treatment for leukemia).
- Jerry Butler – who needs a kidney. He is the husband of Rachel Butler.
- Deborah Gadson – recovering from surgery.
- John & Dottie Brash
- Jean Engquist and family. Jean has Alzheimer’s and is in hospice. She is Bill Cooke’s sister.
- George Christinat– living with ALS. He is Keith Rhoden, Jr.’s neighbor.
- The future of First Presbyterian Church.
- Our self-forming communities in Bridgeport, CT and Hyannis, MA.



**First Presbyterian...Who Are We?**

The downtown First Presbyterian Church, founded in 1851, is a richly diverse group of people from both city and suburbs, committed to ministry to and with the people of the City of Hartford.

We are building a warm and caring community that spiritually nurtures people in worship, education, fellowship and active involvement in mission.

We believe that the Church is called to reflect the kingdom of God which embraces all believers. We invite, accept and welcome into our membership and leadership people who differ by age, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, family status, economic situation and theological viewpoint. This diverse group energetically and cooperatively participates in the life of this congregation, its mission and its leadership. We are committed to our Presbyterian traditions of representative government and reformed theology, while open to working collaboratively in mission and ministry with other faith traditions.

# Announcements

## Community Meal

Our next Community Meal is on Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Menu is meat loaf, rice and black beans, tossed salad, bread & butter, dessert, regular canned soda. A sign up sheet is in Hodge Hall.

## Christmas Day Community Meal

Friday, December 25 at South Congregational Church. If you'd like to help make Christmas Day special for Hartford's homeless please stop by between 9:30 am and 2pm. Call 860.728.3201 for info.

## Personal Hygiene Items

When shopping, please keep an eye out for sales on items you can share with MANNA Food Pantry clients. Non-food items needed include combs, razors, toilet paper, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and bar soap. Thank you.



## Weekly Offering Envelopes

If you haven't yet picked up your personalized box of numbered envelopes for weekly offerings please do so today.

## Dec. 20 Photos

A poster of photos from the Christmas Dinner and Pageant is posted in the annex hallway and photos are also on line at the church website.

**During the service** we provide Nursery Care in the Buchanan Room for children up to age 4. An usher will direct you to the location. Shannon Hopkins is the nursery director and Augusta Jara is the assistant. For safety's sake, please have a responsible adult drop off and pick up your child.

*The Abiding Memorials Book* is open to the abiding gift given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Evelyn Dressner**, born October 1, 1903, died September 24, 1998, perpetuated in the Assisted Listening System given by Joyce Larsen, 1999.

*The Christmas flowers are given to the Glory of God*

*by:*

Holly Billings & Mimi Nelson

Plantsville Firefighter  
Rich Brodeur  
Cousin and Brother  
Richard C. Brodeur

Ed, the kids, and grands, too

Shirley Dudley

Bob & Alice Evans

Their Children  
Sandy & Sam Hamilton

Pam Hauburger  
The Labins Family

Christine & Jasen Lambright

Children and Families  
Doris Lewis & Family

Anita & Sherry Marchant  
The Marshall Family

McNeill Family

*and by:*

Alan & Jane Murray

*in Loving Memory of:*

Hugh & Eleana and Ceil  
Billings, parents and  
sister of Holly Billings.

Firefighter Ron Buechele.

Gary C. and David M.  
Brodeur.  
Wife Eileen and brothers  
Noel and Leopold Carty.  
Carl and his stories at  
Christmas.

Hazel Evans and Mary Jane  
Frazer.

Simon & Mary Kunikewich  
Charlie and Gordon  
Hamilton, Rev. Frank &  
Evelyn Gordon and  
Johnnie B. Sherrod.

My parents.  
Joyce T. Arnold, Kathrine B.  
Tuthill, David B. Tuthill.

JoAnne Morse, Lucille  
Murray, April Bradley,  
Mary Elizabeth Alton,  
Mary Lee Bradley.

John & Beverly McNeish.  
George Lewis and Cheryl  
Lewis.

Our Parents.  
Mr. & Mrs. David Marshall,  
David & Betty Marshall.

16 Children of McKay &  
Rosabella McNeill and  
NC origins.

*in Loving Memory of:*

Henry Erbe, Jane Osler,

Jean Nesbitt  
Pamela Nesbitt

June, Jim and Robert O'Neil

Flora E. Perleoni and family  
Keith Rhoden, Jr.  
Pauline Robertson and family

The Spears Family  
The Tamburini Family

Criss Watson  
Gladys Wiafe

*The Christmas flowers are given to the Glory of God*

*by:*

Holly Billings &  
Mimi Nelson  
John & Dorothy Brash

Grace & Ernie Brodeur  
Gretchen Fuchs

Sandy & Sam Hamilton

Juliana Mantey and  
Grace Buabeng  
McNeill Family  
Maude Morrison

*in Thanksgiving for:*

Jean & Sandy Nelson, parents  
of Mimi Nelson.

The Brash and Kallkvist  
families.

Our dear family and friends.  
The whole First Presbyterian  
Church family.

Noah T. Hamilton, Katie and  
Meghan Gordon.

God's mercies and blessings  
throughout the year.

Health Care Reform  
Our terrific staff: Dianne, Ruth,  
and John.

Nancy Murray, Don  
Nicholas, William  
Wilson.

My father James Moir, Jr.  
My grandfather James Moir,  
Jr.

James O'Neil, Jr., Bertha  
Garbe and Robert Garbe.

Archie & Grace McNeish.  
Sam Pough.

Bob Robertson, Patti  
O'Neal Robertson.

Carl Dudley.  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis E. Boldi,  
Mrs. Corinna G. Boldi.

Harold William Watson.  
My mother Comfort

Mintah & my father  
Richard Donkor  
Wiafe.