

*Welcome to this service of worship on the first Sunday after Christmas. 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 *O Holy Night*  
Holly Billings, Organist

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

With birds and beasts and all creation, we sing God's praises!  
**With mountains and hills, we display God's glory.**  
Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to all on God's earth. Amen.**

\* HYMN #41 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

\*PRAYER OF PRAISE

**Ever-present God, clothe us with your compassion. Instill in us your kindness and mercy. Bind us together in humble patience and gentle love. Rule in our hearts, that we may reveal your healing presence in all we say and do. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

SELECTION OF CHRISTMAS HYMNS

SCRIPTURE I John 4:7-12 Pew Bible NT p.241

HYMN #53 *What Child is This*

MESSAGE Rev. Russell Feroe

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\* HYMN # 23 *Angels We Have Heard On High*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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"*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (a medley of Christmas music) *Christmas Night*

\*RESPONSE *All Things are Thine*  
(Tune: 423, Duke Street)

**All things are thine: no gift have we, Lord of all gifts, to offer thee; And hence with grateful hearts today Thine own before thy feet we lay.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious and loving God, we come with gratitude and wonder for your marvelous gifts. We thank you for Christ's birth, for the presence of your spirit in**

**our lives, and for this church family. Receive the gifts we offer, and transform them and us for your service in our communities. Amen.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*(Those who have announcements are asked to please move to the front pews at this time.)*

\*HYMN # 29 *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Sing of God's deeds. Speak of God's grace.  
**God is with us here.**  
Live as God's people. Walk in God's ways.  
**God is with us on the way. Alleluia, Amen.**

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 *Do You Know What I Know*

## SERVICE

**Acolyte:** Gina Wright  
**Greeters:** Pauline Robertson, Ed Carty  
**Liturgist:** Lianne Doherty (tentative)  
**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.

*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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



## First Presbyterian Church

136 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT  
Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Pastor

Worship 10:30 AM  
Sunday, December 27, 2009