

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BUCKLAND

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Phone: 625-9440 Pastor's Phone: (413) 634-5451

Rev. Richard T. Fournier, Pastor

Sandy Carter - Organist / Pianist

December 26, 2021

Lessons, Carols, and Candle Lighting

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT "In Excelsis Gloria" - Henry Gauntlett

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: This morning we kneel with families all over the earth in the presence of the Most High.

People: We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Pastor: As we have been invaded by the Light, let us enlighten.

People: As we have been found, let us seek out the lost.

Pastor: As we have been liberated, let us set the captives free.

All: For unto us a Child is born, the One whom God sends to bring peace and light, freedom and love. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*HYMN "O Come All Ye Faithful" No. 103 (vs. 1 & 3)

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

O God, Your birth startles us with glory that reaches heaven to earth and enkindles hope that brings earth to heaven. We thank You for choosing our hearts as Your cradle. May we be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child, not only during this Christmas season, but every day of our lives. Empower us to continue the sacred work of love and peace in the world that began with your Son. Amen.

THE WORD OF PROPHECY Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7, 52: 7-10
Pgs. 555 & 596

CHOIR ANTHEM "Were You There on That Christmas Night?" -
Natalie Sleeth

THE BIRTH OF JESUS Luke 2: 1-7 Pages 832-833

*HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 121 (vs. 1 & 2)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER (whole congregations)

Dear God, we are thankful for Christ's coming to live among us as one of us. His light and his love continue to touch and heal our lives to this very day. Help us to remember that Christ's presence is ever in us and in all people, making us sisters and brothers together in one family. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM "O Holy Night" - Adolphe Adam

THE ANGELS APPEAR Luke 2: 8-14 Page 833

*HYMN "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" No. 106 (vs. 1)

THE SHEPHERDS RESPOND Luke 2: 15-20 Page 833

*HYMN "The First Noel" No. 108 (vs. 1)

THE MAGI COMES Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-11 Pages 783-784

*HYMN "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse a far
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

PRAYER REQUESTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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. 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 "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" No. 585

OFFERTORY "Let Us Praise Him, Alleluia!" - I. Watts & G. Sewell

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings" No. 572

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - Rev. Rich Fournier

***HYMN & CANDLE-LIGHTING** "Silent Night, Holy Night" No. 117
(vs. 1, 2 &3)

***BENEDICTION**

***HYMN** "Joy to the World" No. 120 (first verse only)

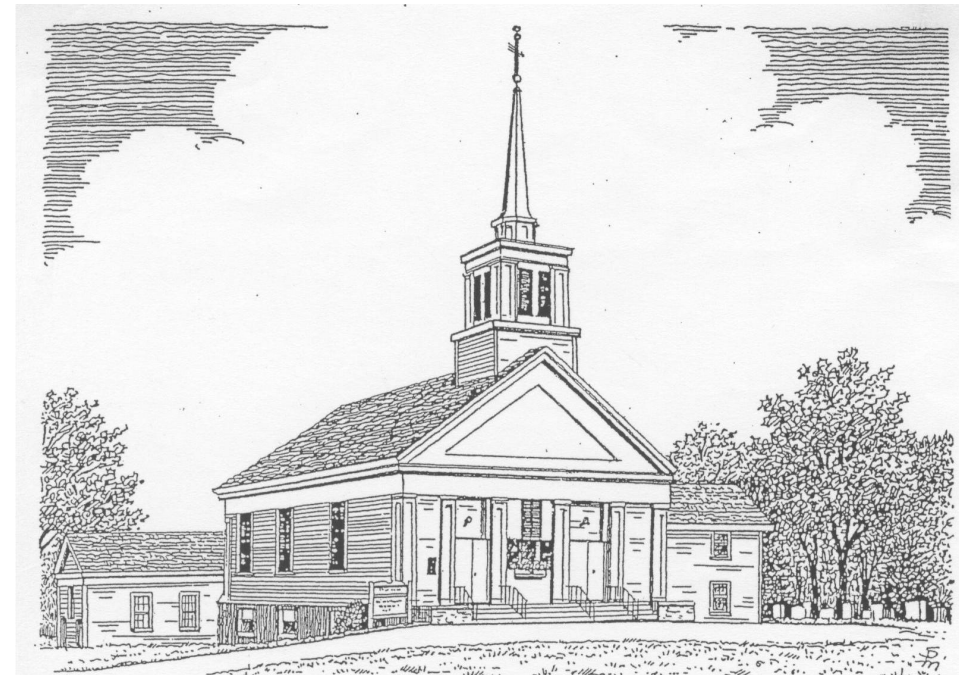
POSTLUDE

Announcements

Next Sunday, January 2nd, will be a communion Sunday.

The January 2022 newsletter/calendar is in the works. Tina wants to hear from you no later than Monday 12/27 noon with any news you have to share. She welcomes you to share events, comments, prayers, etc. Please call Tina at 413-625-9629 or email our church at info@marylyonchurch.org

A reminder that Committees' and Officers' written reports for the year 2021 are due by Sunday, January 9th. Reports may be left at the church on the table in the entryway, on Willis's porch, or emailed to Judy Willis at judywillis56@gmail.com Copies of reports will be available to members on January 16th. The Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held on January 23rd.



Mary Lyon Church

First Congregational Church of Buckland

P.O. Box 87

Buckland, MA 01338