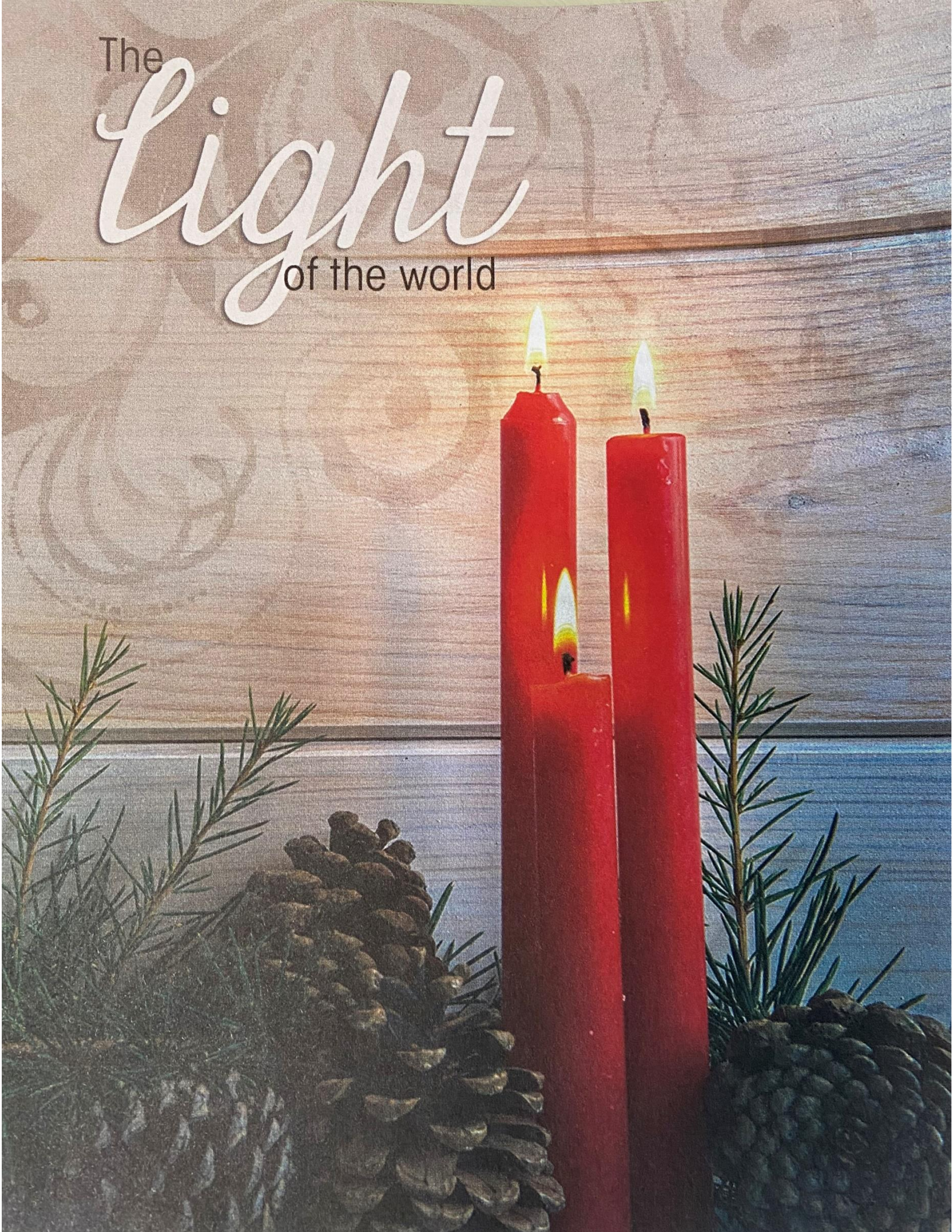


The

Light

of the world



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Saturday, December 24th, 2022 10pm
Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

PRELUDE **“The Work of Christmas”** Howard Thurman, Dan Forrest

GREETING

Leader: Grace to you and peace from the One who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Lord God, the Almighty!

People: Glory to God in the Highest!

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: Tonight we light the Christ candle.

People: Holy is the coming of the Lord.

Leader: May all share in the light of the Lord.

People: And, may there be peace on earth!

*CAROL No. 132 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* *Vs. 1 & 4*

WORDS OF WELCOME

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Holy God, come and be with us as we gather for worship on this Holy night. Illumine our minds with the radiance of your light. May your Word rest gently in our hearts and stir up wonder in our souls. May our music be a delight to you as we raise up our spirits in praise of the glory of your coming. Amen.

ANTHEM **“Whisper! Whisper!”** Jay Althous

LESSONS & CAROLS

CAROL No. 149 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* *Vs. 1 & 5*

Isaiah 9:2,6 “A Child Has Been Born”

CAROL No. 141 *The First Noel* *Vs. 1 & 2*

Isaiah 40:1-5 “Comfort, O Comfort My People”

CAROL No. 151 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* *Vs. 1 & 2*

***All who are able, please stand**

(1)

Matthew 1:18-23 “The Birth of Jesus”

CAROL No. 135 *Angels We Have Heard on High* Vs. 1, 2, 3

Luke 2:8-14 “The Shepherds & The Angels”

CAROL No. 137 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Vs. 1 & 3

Luke 2:15-20 “Let Us Go Now to Bethlehem and See”

CAROL No. 162 *We Three Kings of Orient Are* Vs. 1 & 5

Matthew 2:1-12 “The Visit of the Magi”

CAROL No. 134 *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come* Vs. 1, 2, 3

Revelation 4:11, 5:13 “Glory to God”

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

People: Christ is in our midst.

Leader: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING *Our Annual Christmas Appeal*

This year our Special Christmas Offering will benefit the Wrentham Food Pantry, the UCC Christmas Fund and the World Central Kitchen. Thank you.

OFFERTORY “**Gesù Bambino**” (The Infant Jesus) Frederick Martens, Pietro Yon

*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY No. 48 words:1736; tune 1551

To God, all glorious heavenly light,

To Christ revealed in earthly night,

To God the Spirit now we raise,

Our joyful songs of thankful praise.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION *All are welcome to receive from the Lords Table. We offer wheat bread, gluten free option and juice in individual cups.*

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS *Sung, please see page 4.*

CONSECRATION PRAYER

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR *all versions are welcomed in the Spirit.*

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 and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD *Sung, please see page 4.*

SHARING THE BREAD AND JUICE

All are invited to the Table to pick up bread and juice and return to the pews.

Please wait until instructed to eat and drink as one in the Spirit.

MUSIC

“O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam

CLOSING PRAYER *unison*

Almighty and Everlasting God, thank you for welcoming us to your table and renewing our spirits in yours. Strengthen our faith. Increase our love for one another. Send us forth in courage and peace, as we go rejoicing in the power of your Holy Spirit, to share in the light of love through Christ our Risen Lord and Savior. Amen.

COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

Please share a message to all on your social media far and wide...

May Christmas bring you a deep and enduring peace.

*FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Please keep candles upright when lit. Caution, the melted wax is very hot for little hands!

*CAROL No. 142 ***Silent Night, Holy Night***

Please see lyrics on the last page.

*BENEDICTION

Leader: Let us depart now in peace.

People: Holy is the light of the Lord.

*DISMISSAL

We depart into the stillness of this Holy Night. Please place extinguished candles in the baskets at the door. May you and your loved ones have a most blessed Christmas Day!

*And all are welcome to return to the sanctuary tomorrow for our
Christmas Sunday, 10:00am Worship Service of Music and Prayers.*



Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

- Franz Schubert

mf Ho- ly, Ho- ly, Ho- ly Lord, God of pow'r & might. *f* Hea- ven & earth are full, *mf* full of thy glo- ry. *f* Ho- san- na in the high- est, *mf* ho- san- na in the high- est.

Lamb of God - Ar hyd y nos

"All Through The Night" - Traditional Welsh

Lamb of God, you take a- way the sins of the world.
Lamb of God, you take a- way the sins of the world.
Lamb of God have mer- cy on us,
Lamb of God *rit.* grant us peace.
Lamb of God, you take a- way the sins of the world.

*Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*