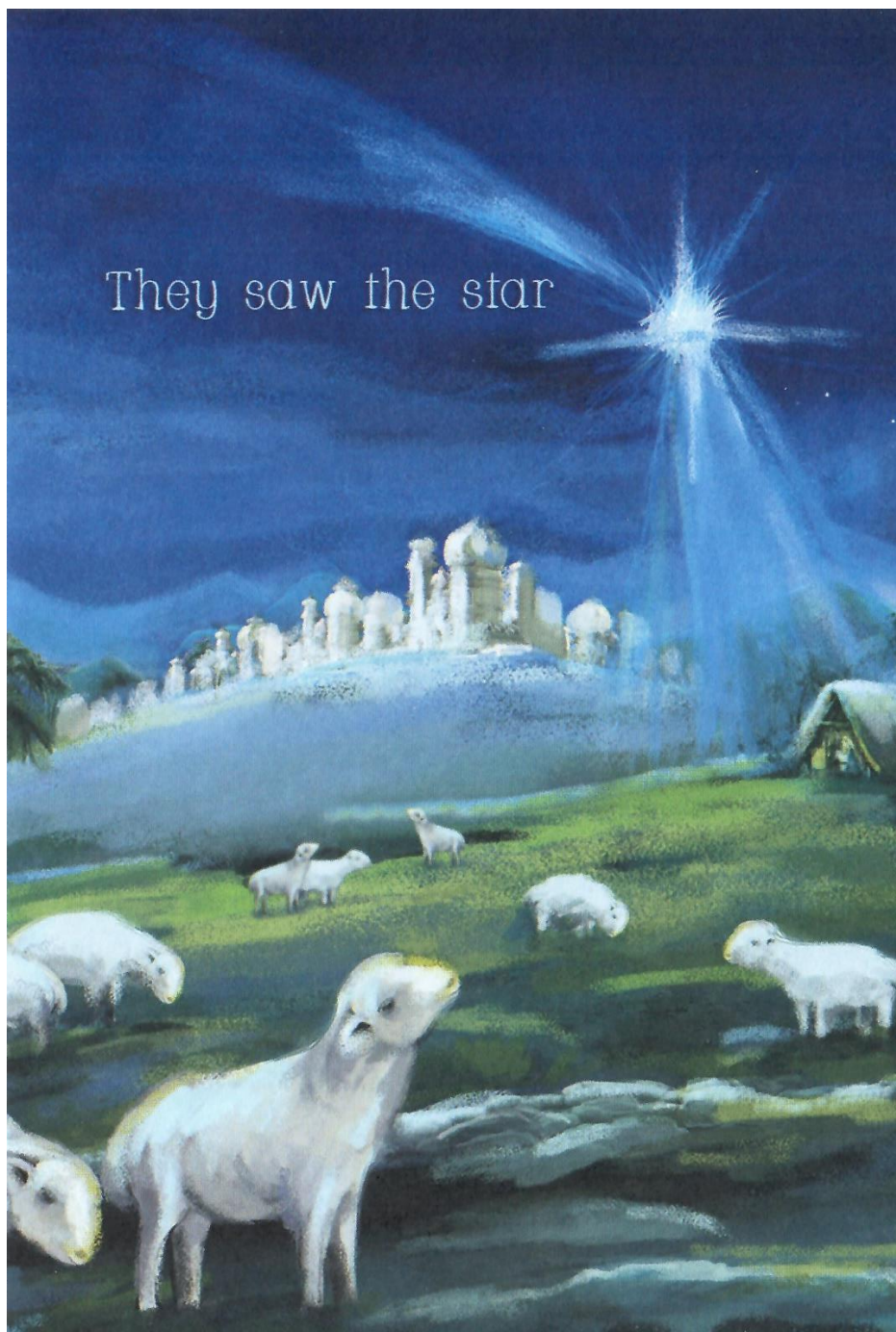


They saw the star



December 24, 2022,

4:00 PM

Gathering

Prelude Carols

Deck the Hall,

Deck the hall with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la, la la la, la la la.
Troll the ancient Yule tide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Holiday Carol

(to the tune of “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”)

The holidays are here again, to lift the darkening year
And celebrate the Feast of Lights, ‘Mid glow of Christmas cheer.
For not alone was Jesus sought By wise men from afar;
The joy of other hallowed births shines with the wondrous star.

And Hanukkah is freedom’s shrine to all ‘neath tyranny,
The lamps are lit within their hearts for faith to make all free.
Joy to the world, these festive days! Nowhere my hope be dim.
And as the gladsome season glows, sing carol, song and hymn.

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome

The Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum

Call to Worship *Another Star, Another Night*
by Richard S. Gilbert

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Chalice Lighting

*** Carol**

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The savior reigns:
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

The Story of Christmas

Reading

For So the Children Come
by Sophia Lyon Fahs

Brad Dumont, Music Director
& Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

The Story of the Birth of Jesus

Unison Response: From *UU Christmas*
Pageant by Tim Kutzmark, adapted

*May this heart help me remember
That I am like Mary and Joseph
May this heart help me remember
That I can open my heart to others.*

*** Carol**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together,
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth!

The Story of the Angels and the Shepherds

Unison Response:

*May this softness help me remember
That I am like a shepherd
May this softness help me remember
That I need to care for others*

*** Carol**

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds, in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the king of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the king of Israel.

The Story of the Magi

Unison Response:

*May this star remind me
That I am like the Magi
May this star remind me of the brightness and wisdom
That is with me wherever I may go.*

* Carol

The First Nowell

3. And by the light of that same star,
three magi came from the country far;
to seek a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the king of Israel.

The Meaning of Christmas

Story:

The Gifts of Our Nativity
adapted by Misty-Dawn Shelley
from *The Twelve Gifts of Birth*
by Charlene Costanzo

Sharon Brownfield, Board President
& Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Anthem

Believe by Glen Ballard

Krystal Morin and Brad Dumont

Reading

After the Stores Have Closed
by Ed Searl

Rick Lent, Climate Change Taskforce

Candle Lighting

Reading *I Will Light Candles This Christmas*
by Howard Thurman

Passing of the Christmas Light

*** Carol** *Silent Night*

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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.

*** Benediction** *The Work of Christmas*
by Howard Thurman

Postlude *Lo, How a Rose* Sanghee Kim, organ
J. Brahms



Thank you to: Katy Weeks, Zoom Host;
Marion Scott, Rick Lent, Sharon Brownfield,
Trish Kwartler, and Brendon Chetwynd, Ushers;
Sharon Brownfield and Rick Lent, Readers
Brad Dumont and Krystal Morin, Soloists
and to our participants, staff, and leadership



Our flowers today are given by
Sharon Brownfield & Rick Lent ***

Skip Warren ****

Rev. Cynthia Landrum*

Marcia & Richard Allison**

Ann Sadler*

Trish Kwartler*

Peter Karb *

and Marion Scott*

** indicates number of poinsettias*



Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that this service is being held by a community that gathers on the stolen traditional lands of the Massachusetts, Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Wampanoag People. We pay respect to those Indigenous Peoples who lost their lives in the colonization of this land and recognize that these Indigenous tribes are still today facing violations of sovereignty, territory, and water. We also give thanks for the Earth we walk upon, the waters, the lifegiving plants, and all the Earth's creatures, as well as the winds, sun, moon, and stars. We recognize this is just a first step in moving toward right relationship with Native peoples and healing of the Earth.

Connect with First Parish Church



Sign our visitor's log at tinyurl.com/visitfpc
Services Sunday at 10 am, in person and online

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Forum, all at **<https://www.fpc-stow-acton.org/subscribe-newsletters>**

FPC Upcoming Services

Sunday December 25. No services.

FPC Minister and staff are off from December 25, 2022 – January 1, 2023. In an emergency, you can reach Rev. Cindy on her cell phone **517-879-9565**.

Sunday, January 1, 2023. 10 am, Commnty Rm, in person only.
“**Quaker Service**” – Neil Saunders, Worship Committee Chair
Start the New Year with a quiet, meditative worship service in the Quaker style. Put all the cares and worries of everyday life behind you, especially at this busy holiday time, and settle into a time of silent contemplation. This is an opportunity to enjoy a deeply calming and spiritual experience. **Nursery care for children up through 5 years resumes.**

Sunday, January 8, 2023, 10 am Sanctuary/online.

“Centering”- The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

Join us for a service about finding our center through spiritual practice. **Intergenerational service for K-8**



Join Worship by Video:

<https://tinyurl.com/2223fpc>

Meeting ID: 9990 7077 00266

Passcode: 01775

Join Worship by Phone: (929) 205-6099 (toll call)



Sunday, January 15, 2023, 10 am Sanctuary/online.

“Learning from Mistakes and Miracles”

– The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum

This service will draw from this year’s UUA Common Read Book, Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karen Lin as we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. **RE classes resume.**



Join Worship by Video:

<https://tinyurl.com/2223fpc>

Meeting ID: 9990 7077 00266

Passcode: 01775

Join Worship by Phone: (929) 205-6099 (toll call)

