

Ask an usher for large-print bulletins and/or hearing phones.

- CD recordings of today's worship service are available following worship.
- Families and children are invited to sit together in the first two rows on the left hand side of the church facing the lectern.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### GATHERING

PRELUDE *Noel #4 "En Duo"* Louis Claude Dacquin  
Gary Fitzgerald

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Peter Dennebaum

CALL TO WORSHIP (alternating) Peter Dennebaum

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.  
Jesus Christ is our life and light. In his name and in his power, let us worship  
God!

*(based on Isaiah 9:2)*

\*OPENING HYMN *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* NCH, #129

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

Almighty and everlasting God, you have stooped to raise fallen humanity.  
Grant that we who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature, and  
your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image  
and conformed to the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Brother. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (alternating)

Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself, but often we find  
it hard to take notice; we are caught up with our own gifts, given and  
received.

**Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your gift of love.  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.**

*A minute of silent prayer*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SHARING OUR FAITH

Bonnie Hardy

WELCOME OF VISITORS

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ANTHEM

*A Prayer To The Child Jesus*

text by St. Ita (7th cent. Irish), setting by Alfred Fedak

Text:

Jesu-kin, Jesu-kin, lives my little cell within,  
What were wealth of cleric high, all is lie save Jesu-kin.

Nursling nurtured as 'tis right, harbors here no servile sprite;  
Jesu of the skies who art next to my heart through every night!

Jesu-kin, my good for aye, calling and will not have nay,  
King of all things ever true, he shall rue who will away.

Jesu more than angels aid, fosterling nor formed to fade,  
nursed by me in desert wild, Jesu born of Judah's maid.

Son of kings and kingly kin to my land may enter in;  
Guest of none I hope to be, save of Thee, my Jesu-kin!

Unto heaven's high King confessed, sing a chorus, angels blessed!  
He is o'er us, though within, Jesu-kin is on my breast.

Jesu-kin, Jesu-kin, lullaby my Jesu-kin.

### PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 148

Hallelujah,

Praise God from the heavens; praise God on high. Praise God, all God's  
angels, praise God, all God's hosts. Praise God, sun and moon, praise God, all  
bright stars. Praise God, highest heavens, and you waters that are above the  
heavens. Let them praise the name of God, for it was God who commanded  
that they be created. God made them endure forever, establishing an order  
that shall never change. Praise God, O you who are on earth, all sea monsters  
and ocean depths, fire and hail, snow, and smoke, storm wind, that executes  
God's command, all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars, all wild and  
tamed beasts, creeping things and winged birds, all kings and peoples of the  
earth, all princes of the earth and its judges, youths and maidens alike, old



**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**A Just Peace, Open and Affirming,**  
**Multiracial and Multicultural Congregation**  
**Intentionally Inclusive...Expect the Unexpected**



**“The Gift That Cannot Be Returned”**

**December 26, 2010 – First Sunday after Christmas**

**Mark the date:**

**INVITATION**  
**TO THE PASTOR’S NEW YEARS RECEPTION**

With Stollen and coffee into this for us so important New Year 2011!  
It would be an honor for me to welcome you on New Years Day - January 1, 2011 at my home,  
1768 Florida Ave, NW, Washington DC 20009. (Apt 1, cell: 202 441 6950)

As my apartment is small I invite everybody, whose family name starts with A-M from 2-4pm, the  
ones with the start letter N-Z from 4-6pm.

For planning reasons please let me know until Dec 24th if you plan to come! I am looking forward  
to welcome you!

Yours, Peter

Directions: <http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=de&tab=wl>

I live in the block northeast of the intersection of U-Street and 18th Street. Please don't get  
confused that just down the block on U Street the same house number exists, but I live in the red  
brick building on Florida Ave. The next Metro Station is Dupont Circle. There is a local parking  
around, but also a garage just a block north at the corner of Florida Ave & Champlain Street.

**DOUBLE TAKE**

A Christmas Pageant as Told by  
Matthew and Luke  
By Dennis Hartin



An Intergenerational  
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Presentation  
First Congregational Church  
January 2, 2011

The Care of Parish  
Commission  
will appreciate it if you  
will please take a  
poinsettia on December  
26<sup>th</sup> or January 2<sup>nd</sup> to  
someone you think  
would enjoy it on