

FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Peace



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

**NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Sunday, December 20, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Prelude on *Forest Green*

Wilbur Held

***OPENING HYMN:** "Once in Royal David's City"

V62

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Your promise dawns upon us, Living God –

PEOPLE: we wait expectantly.

Leader: Your hope arises among us, Living God –

PEOPLE: we wait confidently.

Leader: Your Cherished One appears for us, Living God –

ALL: we wait in joy!**

***LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE ~unison**

God of short days and long nights,
God of deep darkness and numbing cold,
howling wind and silent stars, we are cold and numb.
Yet still...You come, dancing and exuberant,
filling us with hope, bringing us back to life...
bringing Your peace! Amen. ##

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison

God of unending mercy, we are a people of abundance. Your never-ceasing love surrounds us; your great compassion embraces us; but we take these gifts for granted. Open our eyes to the wonders of creation. Tune our ears to the cries for love in a lonely world. Fill our hearts with a faith that is revealed in action. This we pray in the name of the One who never ceases to come. Amen. ~ *silence* ~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Carol Mitchell

Sung Response: "People Look East" V9

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE OFFERTORY:

*Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

p. 278

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

HERE ENDS THE READING. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

*HYMN: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

V8

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 1:47-55

p. 1202

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

HERE ENDS THE READING. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Carol: “Away in a Manger”

P 137

GREETING OF PEACE

May the peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you always!

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

P116

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

setting by T. Tertius Noble

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Special thanks to Saydee and Sienna Baldino, Hannah and Aaron Dean, Thomas and Patricia Jennings; Aidan, Emma, and Hannah Nottingham, Raj and Brie Rose, and Liza Stewart for their help with our online video pageant this morning!

In Our Prayers This Week are: Heather Purcell, Ona & Sam Gott, Ben & Cole Purcell, Heidi Welch, Mary Cestaro, Tim Peiffer, David Bellonio, Marlene Belonio, Stefan McKosky, Rose Monaco, Sabrina Selmer, Linda Shannon, Elaine Burr, Joyce Bellonio, and Betsy Gumbart.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Stefan McKosky 12/20, Rich Gallagher 12/22, Saydee Baldino 12/24, Stephen Simonson 12/26, John Tibor 12/27.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Bill & Robin Rose 12/26.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	12/20	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP – Online OASIS (Zoom)
Monday	12/21	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	12/22	12:00 p.m.	Town of North Haven Food Distribution (Parking lot)
Wednesday	12/23	9:00 a.m. 10:00 1:00 p.m.	WINDOW MAILING FOOD PANTRY OPEN STAFF MEETING (Zoom)
Thursday	12/24		CHRISTMAS EVE
Friday	12/25		CHRISTMAS
Saturday	12/26		
Sunday	12/27	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP – Online

*Small print indicates non-Church function
Bold print starts new day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Office will be closed: Friday, December 25th (Christmas Day), Monday, December 28th, and Friday January 1st.

This morning we receive the special offering for the Christmas Fund. The Christmas Fund is a special offering of the United Church of Christ which provides assistance to UCC clergy and lay employees who retired before a pension was a regular benefit of employment. The Christmas Fund provides pension supplementation and health insurance supplementation to lower-income retired clergy and lay employees, as well as a modest Christmas “thank-you” gift check and emergency assistance grants to a small number of active clergy and lay employees. You can give electronically on our website [ONLINE GIVING] or send a check to the church with Christmas Fund in the memo line. Please give generously.

Please watch our online Christmas Eve Service. We invite you to watch our online worship service on Christmas Eve. Featuring lessons, carols, candlelight and a special message for children, the service will be available online through the church website beginning at 5pm.

Church Office Staff:

All the Members, Ministers to the World
The Reverend Scott G. Morrow, Senior Pastor
Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children
Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music
Gary Snowbeck, Organist
Julie Schweickert, Office Manager
Todd Swarney, Sexton
Telephone: 203-239-5691
Fax: 203-234-1751
Email: churchoffice@northhavenucc.org
Website: northhavenucc.org

MISSION

Our church's mission is to bind ourselves with Jesus Christ in:

- Worship together;
- Nurture of Christian discipleship; and
- Compassionate service to our community and beyond.

VISION

We are a hub for the larger community as a church of action:

- Conducting regular, robust worship in a responsible and relevant way in an ever changing and challenging world;
- Welcoming all people from different and diverse backgrounds to become a community of disciples together; and
- Involved in purposeful action and activities through the structure of self-directed Mission Teams.

VALUES

We:

- Pray together, encourage each other, and trust one another;
- Take personal responsibility for fellowship and our community; and
- Celebrate with honored traditions.

***OPENING HYMN: "Once in Royal David's City"**

V62

Descant

4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who, with
 3 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his

own re - deem - ing love, for that child who seemed so

low - ly cat - tle - shed, where a moth - er laid her
 God, is ov - er all, and his shel - ter was a
 when on earth he grew, he was temp - ted, scorned, re -
 own re - deem - ing love, for that child who seemed so

help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he

ba - by in a man - ger for his bed. Ma - ry
 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall. There a -
 jec - ted, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he

leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 mong the poor and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - iour ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 1 D'un ar - bre sé - cu - lai - re, du vieux tronc d'I - sa - ï
 2 Dieu, par la voix fer - ven - te de nom - breux ser - vi - teurs,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 du - rant l'hi - ver aus - tè - re, un frais ra - meau jail - lit;
 à son peuple en at - ten - te, pro - met - tait un Sau - veur.

It came a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right she bore for
 et, sur le sol dur - ci, dans la nuit
 Il vient, su - prême hon - neur, chez une hum -

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sav - iour when half spent was the night.
 calme et clai - re, u - ne rose a fleu - ri.
 ble ser - van - te, toute à son pur bon - heur.

Anonymous

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with some words aligned under specific notes. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line.

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, The lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord

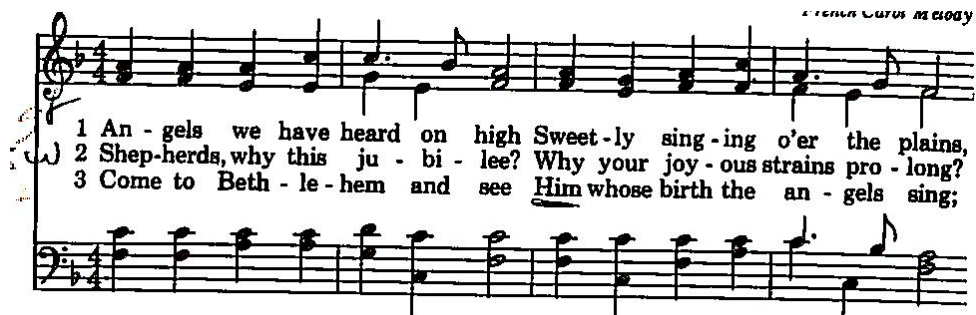
Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look

down where he lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay
 down from the sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.

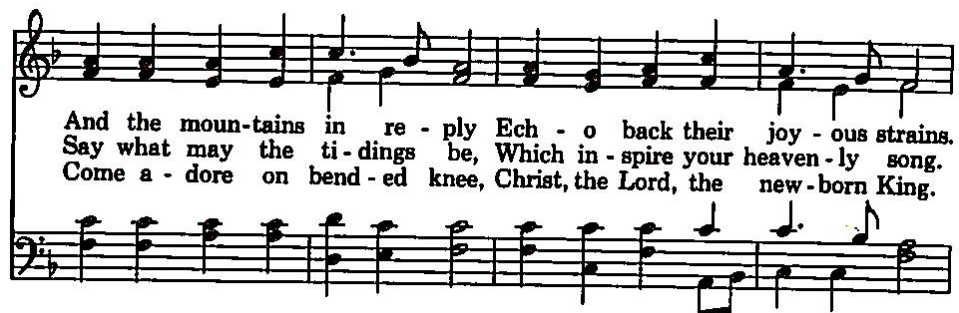
*CLOSING HYMN: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

P116

Stentor Carus melody



1 An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heaven - ly song.
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.