

FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

First Sunday after Christmas



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, December 27, 2020

9:30 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Christmas Medley*

William Stickles

***OPENING HYMN:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward all.

PEOPLE: For out of God's own being, Jesus has come to bring light and love to all people.

Leader: Jesus is Emmanuel, God-with-us, come to gather our tears and laughter, our work and our play, into God's loving embrace.

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.**

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

O God, You made Yourself known to us in the person of Jesus, and now, You are made flesh in all people. Let us be a community of the incarnation; a people who sorrow, suffer, hope and rejoice with all human beings. Let us be Christ to one another. Let us be peace.^{##}

Amen.

Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador 1977-80

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:~unison

O God of angel song, shepherd surprise, stable warmth and birthing cry;

Dawn in our darkness, sing through our silence,
surprise us with wonder and with joy this holy season.

O come to us, Emmanuel.** Amen.

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 FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

p. 681

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

***HYMN:** "In The Bleak Midwinter"

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THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:22-40

p. 1203

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

A CHRISTMAS STORY – *The Littlest Angel*

Read by Carol Amico and Scott Morrow

by Charles Tazewell
illustrated by Paul Micich

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

GREETING OF PEACE

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

*CLOSING HYMN: “On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

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***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Postlude on *Antioch*

Hugo Gehrke

*Those who are able, please stand.

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The Littlest Angel, by Charles Tazewell. Text copyright © 1947 by Charles Tazewell; text copyright © renewed 1974, held by Louise Tazewell. Illustrations copyright © 1991 by Childrens Press, Inc. This book is available through the Jack Viele Memorial Library in our church.

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: John Tibor 12/27, Raymond Geissler 12/29, Heather Tolisano 12/29 Edward Collett 12/29, Sandy Mayhew 12/29, Elfie Hummel 12/30, Tanner DiVito 12/30, Alec DiVito 12/30, Bill Rose 12/31, Evan Schweickert 01/01, Lily Corcoran 01/02.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	12/27	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP – Online OASIS (Zoom)
Monday	12/28		OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday	12/29		OFFICE CLOSED
Wednesday	12/30		OFFICE CLOSED
Thursday	12/31		OFFICE CLOSED
Friday	1/1		OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday	1/2	8:00 a.m.	MEN’S FELLOWSHIP (Zoom)
Sunday	1/3	9:30 a.m. 5:00	WORSHIP – Online OASIS (Zoom)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Make your Church Pledge Online!

We are trying many new ways of reaching out to members and friends this year. In conjunction with the **Season of Generosity** this year, you have the opportunity to make your pledge of financial support for the church next year online, through the church website (www.northhavenucc.org). On the homepage of the website you will see a bright purple banner invitation “Make Your 2021 Pledge Today.” Click on the purple banner, and the Generosity page will open. Here you will find some comments from church members reflecting on their giving to the church, and a Pledge Card form which you can fill out and submit from the web page. If you would like a copy as your confirmation, you can print the screen before you submit your pledge, or call the Church Office and Julie Schweickert will send it to you.

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

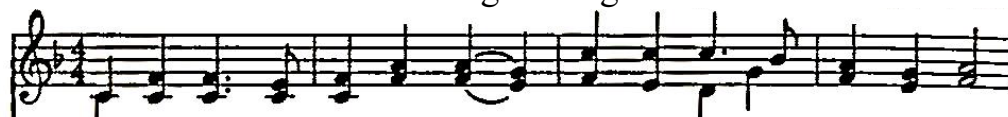
We are a hub for the larger community as a church of action:

- 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.





1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of right-eous-ness!


Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings,

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

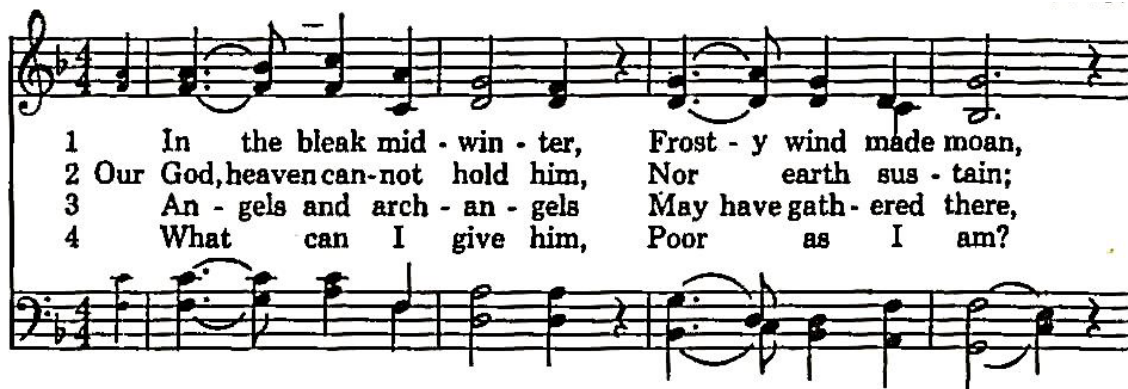


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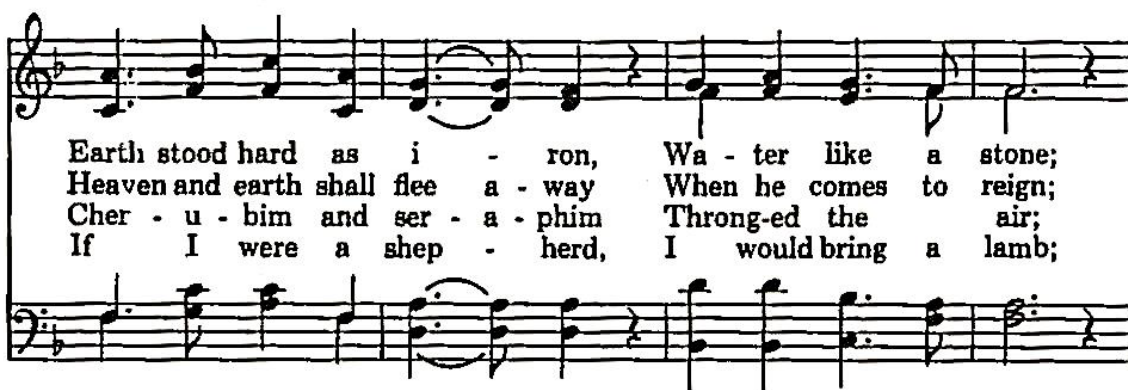


Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!" A-men.

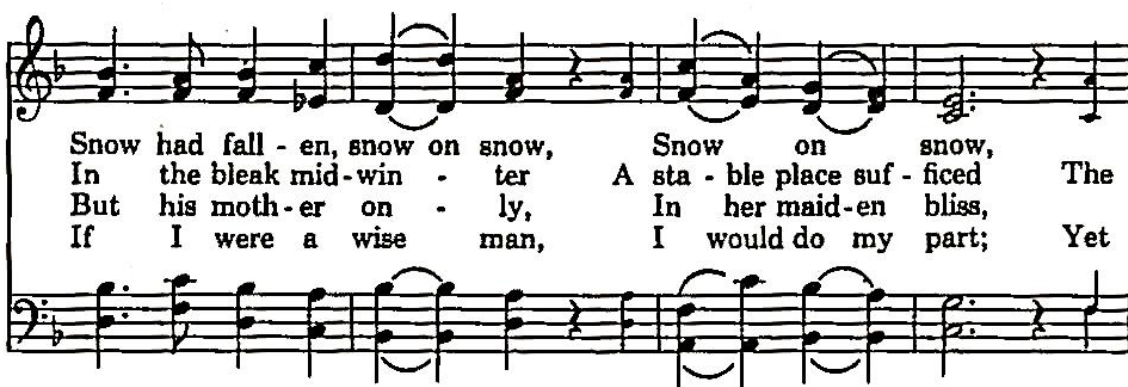




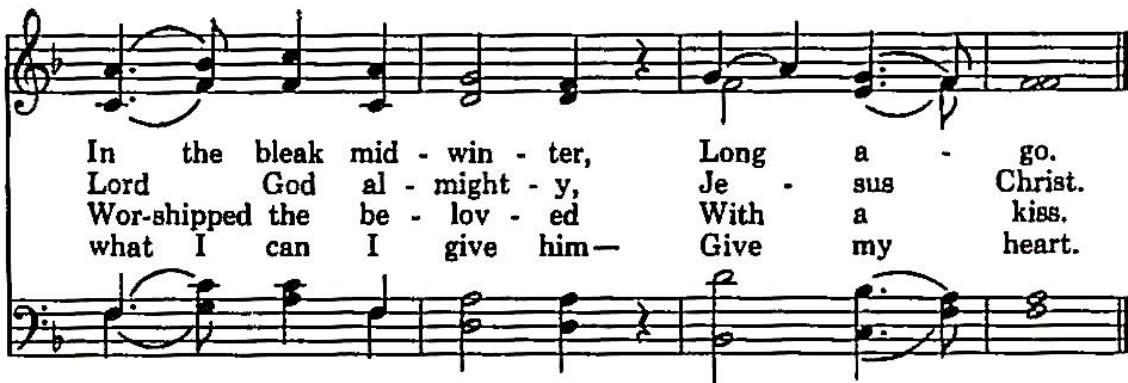
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, Frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, Nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels May have gath - ered there,
 4 What can I give him, Poor as I am?



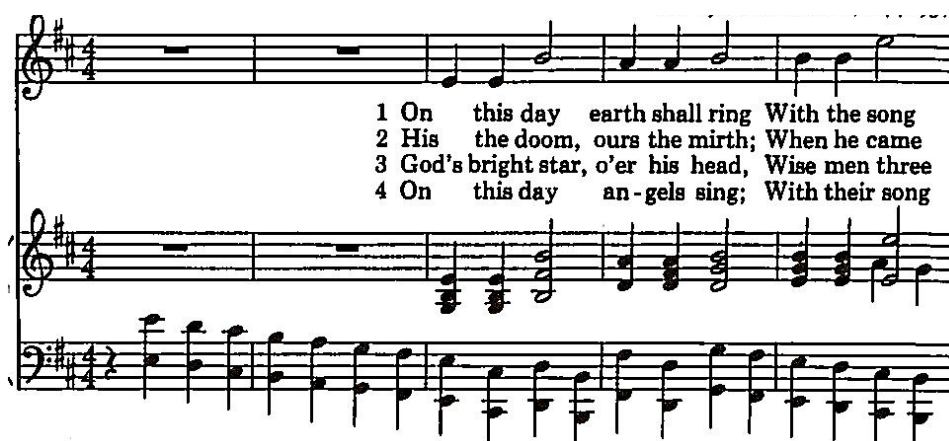
Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;
 Heaven and earth shall flee a - way When he comes to reign;
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim Throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble place suf - ficed The
 But his moth - er on - ly, In her maid - en bliss,
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet



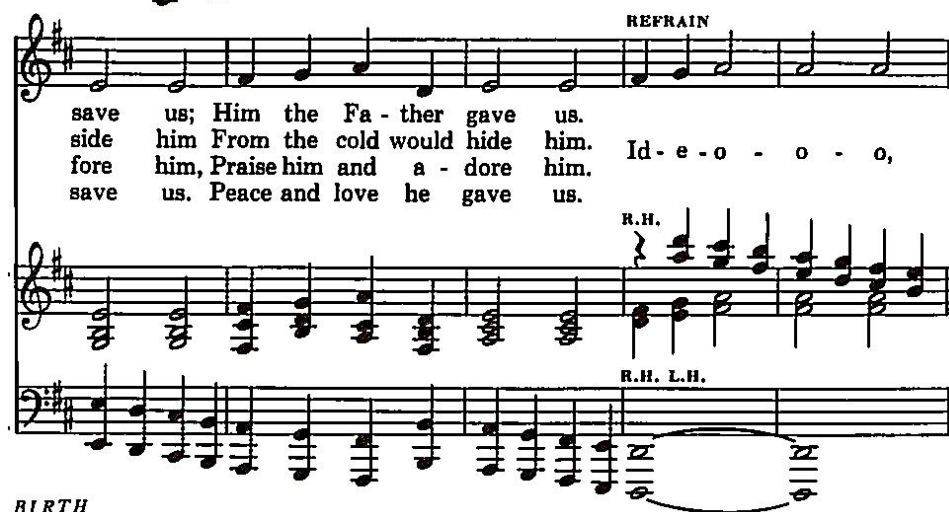
In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.
 Lord God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 Wor - shipped the be - lov - ed With a kiss.
 what I can I give him - Give my heart.



1 On this day earth shall ring With the song
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise men three
 4 On this day an-gels sing; With their song



chil-dren sing To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to
 down to earth, Beth-le-hem saw his birth; Ox and ass be-
 to him led, Kneel-ing low by his bed, Lay their gifts be-
 earth shall ring, Prais-ing Christ, heav-en's King, Born on earth to



REFRAIN
 save us; Him the Fa-ther gave us.
 side him From the cold would hide him. Id-e-o-o-o-o,
 fore him, Praise him and a-dore him.
 save us. Peace and love he gave us.

R.H.
 R.H. L.H.

BIRTH



Id-e-o-o-o-o, Id-e-o glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!