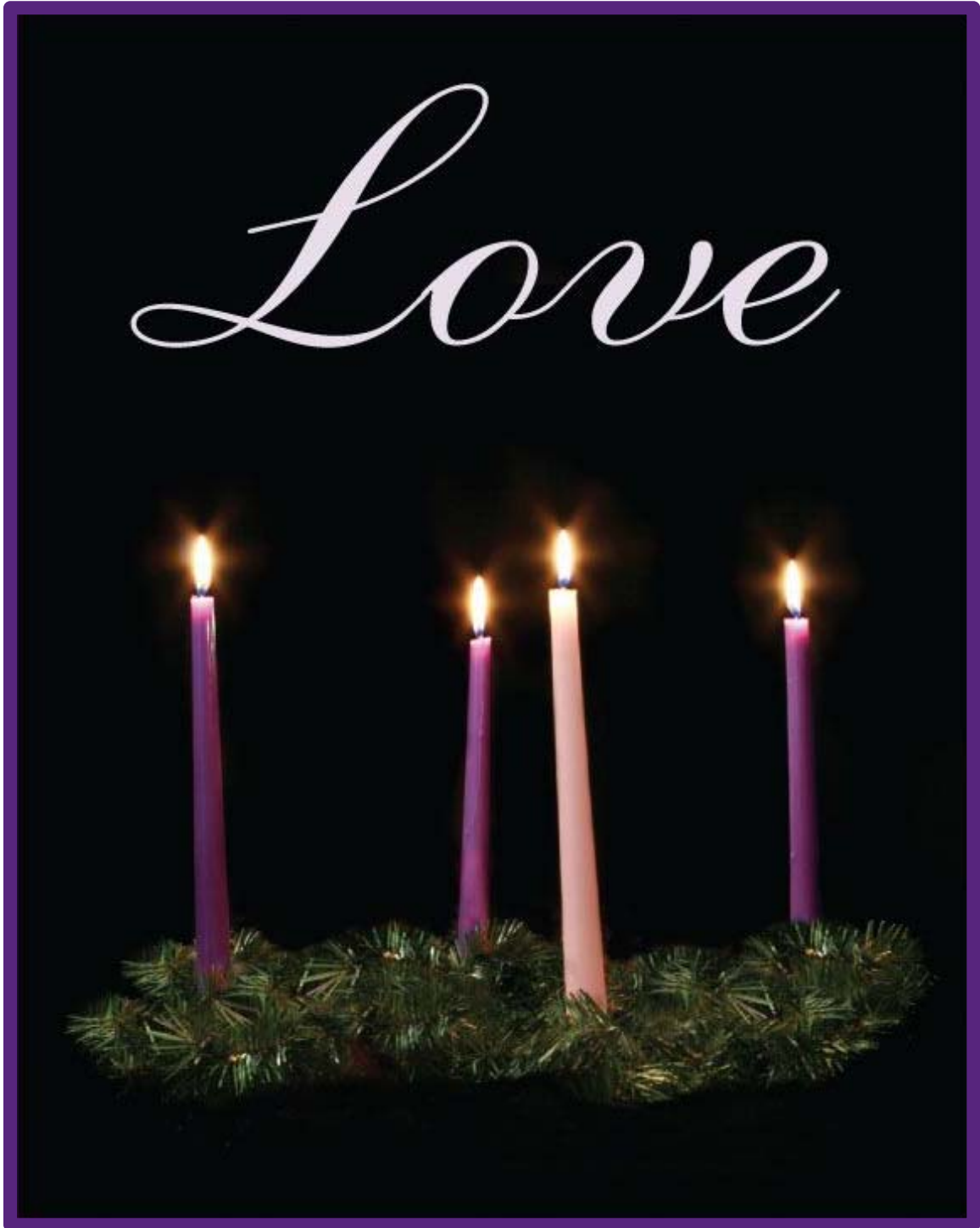


FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, December 19, 2021

9:30 a.m.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Christmas Pageant**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Prelude on *Forest Green*

Wilbur Held

***OPENING HYMN:** “Prepare the Way”

V882

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Advent summons us with the exuberant hopefulness of a child.

PEOPLE: Advent holds us spellbound with child-like wonder.

Leader: Advent challenges us to care for the littlest child.

ALL: Advent amazes us, for God was made known in a tiny child.**

***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

O God of unconditional love, we measure our love against yours: your love is vulnerable, helpless as a new-born babe—our love is often cautious, well-defended; your love is offered humbly – we often seek to impress with our devotion; your love is free, ours comes with strings attached. Loving God, forgive us. Heal our imperfect loves and teach us to love as you have loved us. Amen. ** ~ silence ~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

Organ Amen

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

The Jennings Family

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 p 1203

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Lighting the Candle of **Love**

Prayer-*unison*

Lord, thank you for being with us on our way to Bethlehem. Thank you that you love us so much that you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, as a little baby. Amen.

Sung Response: "Hope Is a Star" v. 3

V7

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,

Jesus has come and will never depart.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,

And none shall be afraid.

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Organ Response

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: Psalm 80:1-7

Page 532

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, 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

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-gone was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior
When half-gone was the night.

"What Child is This, Who, Laid to Rest"

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* Traditional American Spiritual
Sung by the Children's Choir

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev’ry heart prepare him room
and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

GREETING OF PEACE ~unison

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

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

P 117

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Prelude on *Antioch*

Hugo Gehrke

*Those who are able, please stand.

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The flowers are given by Sally Pallatto in memory of her loving mother, Joan Hall. She has been missed each and everyday since leaving us 7 years ago on December 21.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Linda Shannon, Betsy Gumbart, Marcia Foulds, Martha Swarney. Marlene Bellonio, Lorraine Burdge, Herb Schneider, and Kerry Stewart.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Carol Amico 12/19, Damon Quinn 12/19, Stefan McKosky 12/20, Rich Gallagher 12/22, Saydee Baldino 12/24, Stephen Simonson 12/26.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Bill & Robin Rose 12/26.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Christmas Eve Service will be at 5pm. It will be a service of Lessons & Carols, with a special message for children. The service will be in-person and online. The recording will be posted promptly afterward to allow for viewing later on Christmas Eve.

*OPENING HYMN: "Prepare the Way"

V882



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 Christ brings God's rule, O Zi - on, he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - iour's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 And tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.

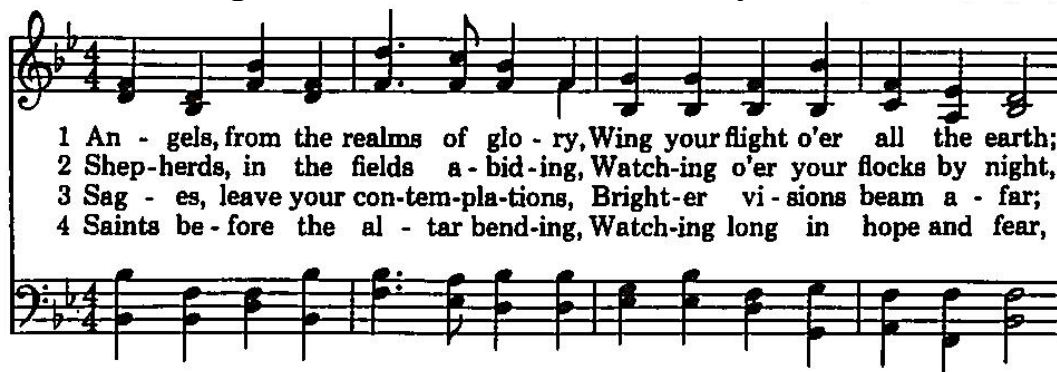


Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

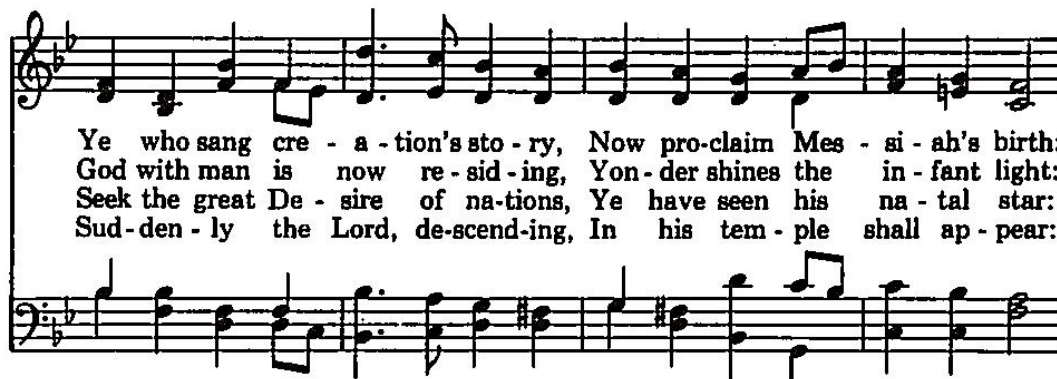


O blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.



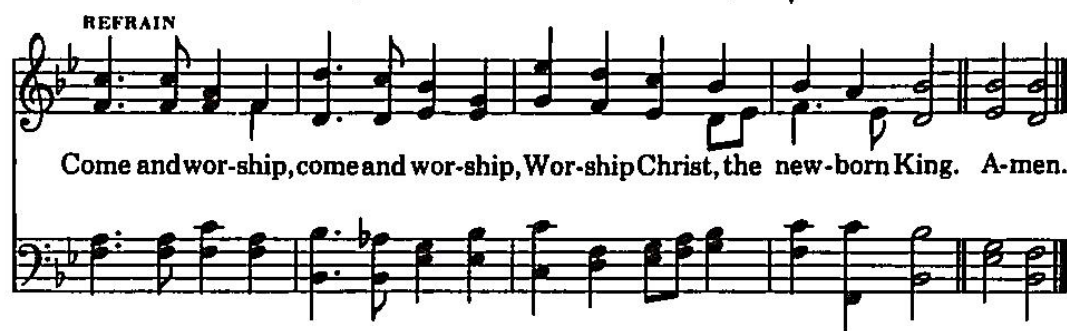


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid-ing, Watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sag - es, leave your con-tem-pla-tions, Bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend-ing, Watch-ing long in hope and fear,



Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light:
 Seek the great De - sire of na-tions, Ye have seen his na - tal star:
 Sud - den - ly the Lord, de-scend-ing, In his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

REFRAIN



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new-born King. A-men.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	12/19	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP-PAGEANT (In Person & Live Stream)
		11:30	BAPTISM (SANCTUARY)
		4:00 p.m.	OASIS & Tidepool (Spring Glen Church)
Monday	12/20		
Tuesday	12/21	6:00 p.m.	BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/22	10:00 a.m.	WINDOW MAILING
		1:30 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
			STAFF MEETING (Zoom)
Thursday	12/23	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom)
Friday	12/24	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service (In Person & Live Stream)
Saturday	12/25		CHRISTMAS DAY
Sunday	12/26	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP (In Person & Live Stream)
		9:30	CHURCH SCHOOL
		4:00 p.m.	OASIS & Tidepool (Spring Glen Church)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

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
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.

