

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 1, 2024

9:30 a.m.

**First Sunday of Advent
The Sacrament of Communion**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Prelude*

F. W. Zachow

***OPENING HYMN:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs 1-5 V1

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Hear the invitation of the prophet Isaiah:
Come, let us go up to God's holy mountain,

PEOPLE: that we may learn to walk in all God's ways,

Leader: for God will judge between the nations,
And shall decide for many peoples,

**PEOPLE: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks.**

Leader: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

PEOPLE: neither shall they learn war any more.

ALL: Let us come before God to learn the ways of peace.**

Ruth C. Duck

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

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives

always, and particularly this Advent time.## Amen.

***AN ADVENT SONG OF PRAISE**

V882

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~*unison*

We confess, O God, that we do not take seriously your coming into our lives. We do not believe that salvation is near; we do not act uprightly, loving you, our neighbors, or ourselves; now do we bend our swords and spears. Forgive us, we pray, that we might once again walk in your light, choosing for the world of our Christ.** Amen.

~ *silence* ~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 p. 627 Karlee Etter & Jeff Hutchins

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called

“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lighting the **PROPHECY** Candle

Hanging the **BELIEVE** Ornament

Prayer *unison*

On this first Sunday in Advent, O God, we are thankful for our family and friends as we look forward to Christmas. Help us to remember the real meaning of this season and to make room for the spirit of Jesus in our home and in our hearts. Amen.

Sung Response: “ O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” v. 1 V1

O come, O come Emmanuel,

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely lowly exile here

Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Page 727

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

* **HYMN:** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" V8

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 21:25-36 Page 1230

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Come, Jesus, Prince of Peace*

Words & Music: Diane Hannibal

Arranged by Brad Nix

Sung by the Chancel Choir

Felicia Urbanski, violin

MEDITATION: "Find the Path, or Make the Path?" Scott Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral Response

THE OFFERTORY *My Lord, What A Morning*

Traditional Spiritual Arr. H. T. Burleigh

*Advent Doxology

Tune: Irby

Praise to God, the one_ who made us. Praise to Christ, God's on - ly_

4
son. Praise the Spi - rit, ev - er_ with us. Praise the God - head, Three in_

8
One. Clear a path! Pre - pare the way! Ad - vent leads to Christ-mas Day!

*Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Hymn of Preparation: "I Come with Joy"

V477

Invitation and Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Distribution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

GREETING OF PEACE *~unison*

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

*CLOSING HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

V2

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *We Are Going to the Stable*

Trad'l Czech Carol
Arr. by A. V. Lethco

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Adapted from Faith and Worship;
http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Advent.html;
retrieved 12/16/18

Special thanks to the Rev. Felicia Urbanski this morning for sharing her musical gifts with the choir and congregation.

Deacon is Nancy Mahoney. **Scripture Reader** is Doris Ferner.

Today's flowers are given by Doris Ferner for the joy of the season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Urgent Need: Clothing Items for Columbus House

We continue to ask for donations of new essential clothing items to be given to patrons at Columbus House. We will be collecting new men's and women's crew socks, new women's underwear, sizes 7-12 and new men's boxer shorts sizes medium-Xlarge. During this Season of Generosity we are asking for your help to supply these basic items for our brothers and sisters. We will be collecting these items during the months of November and December on Sunday mornings. A bin will be placed in the Narthex alongside the donation basket for the Food Pantry. Please make a difference in someone's life. Jesus taught us to love one another and to share and give to those in need. Thank you. MLB

Empowering Shared Leadership – In 2015 our congregation shifted from Committees and a Church Council to Mission Teams and the Ministry Leadership Board. Part of the reason for that change was to be more de-centralized and to expand shared leadership in the church. You are invited to **Forward Together**, a morning discussion on Saturday, December 7, from 8:30am – noon. This program will begin with reflection: Why do we have Mission Teams? How did we get them? We will spend some time together considering the gifts and assets of our church. Most importantly, we will hear from the Rev. Sarah Drummond, UCC pastor and founding Dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. Rev. Sarah will speak about *shared leadership* as a distinctive characteristic of UCC/Congregational churches and a powerful motivation in faithful discipleship. Put it on your calendar on Saturday, Dec. 7: **Forward Together: Empowering Shared Leadership**. Come have a bagel, sit at the table with friends, and imagine creativity and possibility in our shared ministry. Please contact Scott with your questions.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	12/1	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP: First Sunday of Advent
Monday	12/2	1:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	12/3	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:30 5:30 6:00	Al-Anon (K) PLP United Girls Choir (CH, Sanct, K) Girl Scout Troop 60071 (RR) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/4	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Leos Club (CH) Lions Club (CH)
Thursday	12/5	2:30 p.m. 4:30 5:30 6:30 7:00	Food Council (CH) Music Together (CH) Girl Scout Troop 60151 (RR) Mothers of Twins (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	12/6	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Al-Anon Area (CH)
Saturday	12/7	7:00 a.m. 8:30 3:00 p.m.	MENS FELLOWSHIP FORWARD TOGETHER (CH) Tibetan American (CH, K, CR)
Sunday	12/8	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP: Second Sunday of Advent ADVENT NIGHT (CH)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Doris Ferner 12/01, Gerard Adinolfi 12/05, Robbie Juliano 12/07, Susan Baldino 12/07, James Studley 12/08.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, Meg Adams, Herb & Ann Schneider, and Sarah.

Church 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
Heather Meachen, Organist
Julie Schweickert, Office Manager
Dave Nelson, Sexton

***OPENING HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs 1-5**

Unison Em Am Em

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high,
 ♦ 3 O come, O come, great God of might,
 4 O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem,
 5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come,

D Bm C Bm Em

and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el
 who or - ders all things might - i - ly;
 ♦ who to your tribes on Si - nai's height
 from ev - ery foe de - liv - er them
 and o - pen wide our heav - enly home;

Am Em Bm

that mourns in low - ly ex - ile here
 to us the path of know - ledge show,
 ♦ in an - cient times once gave the law
 that trust your might - y power to save,
 make safe the way that leads on high,

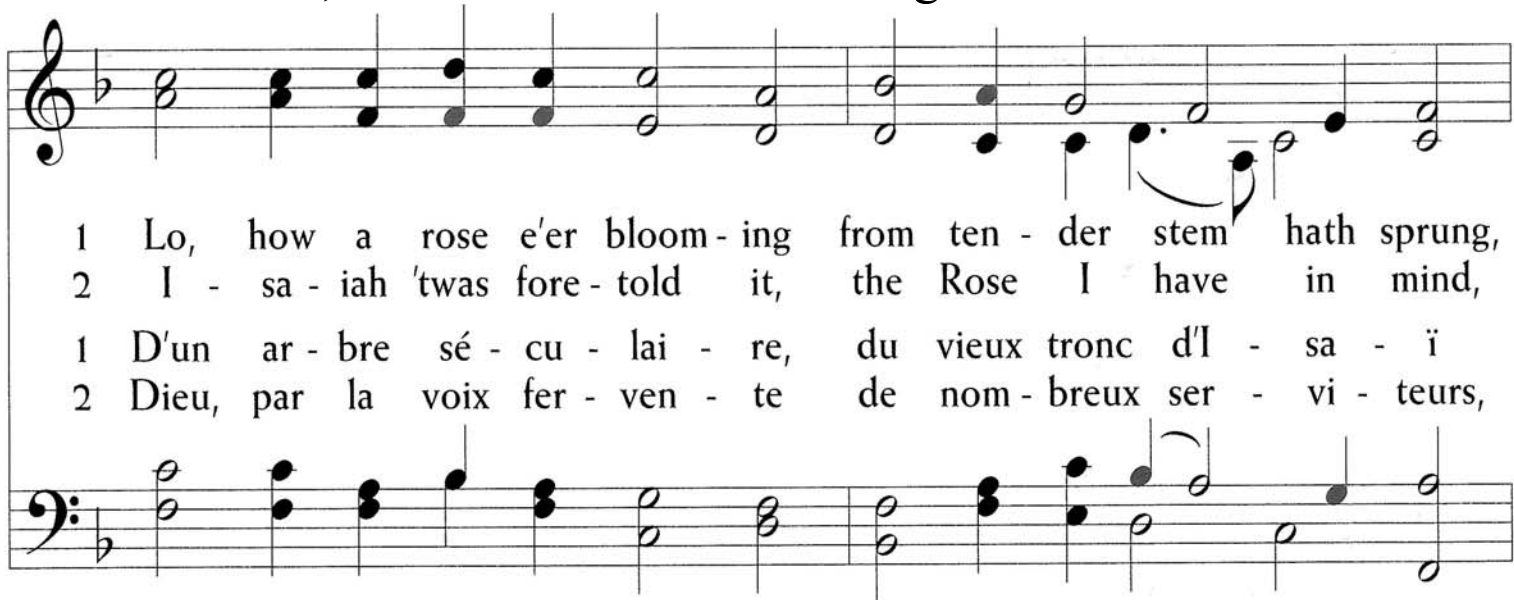
Em D G Am Em

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and teach us in her ways to go.
 ♦ in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.

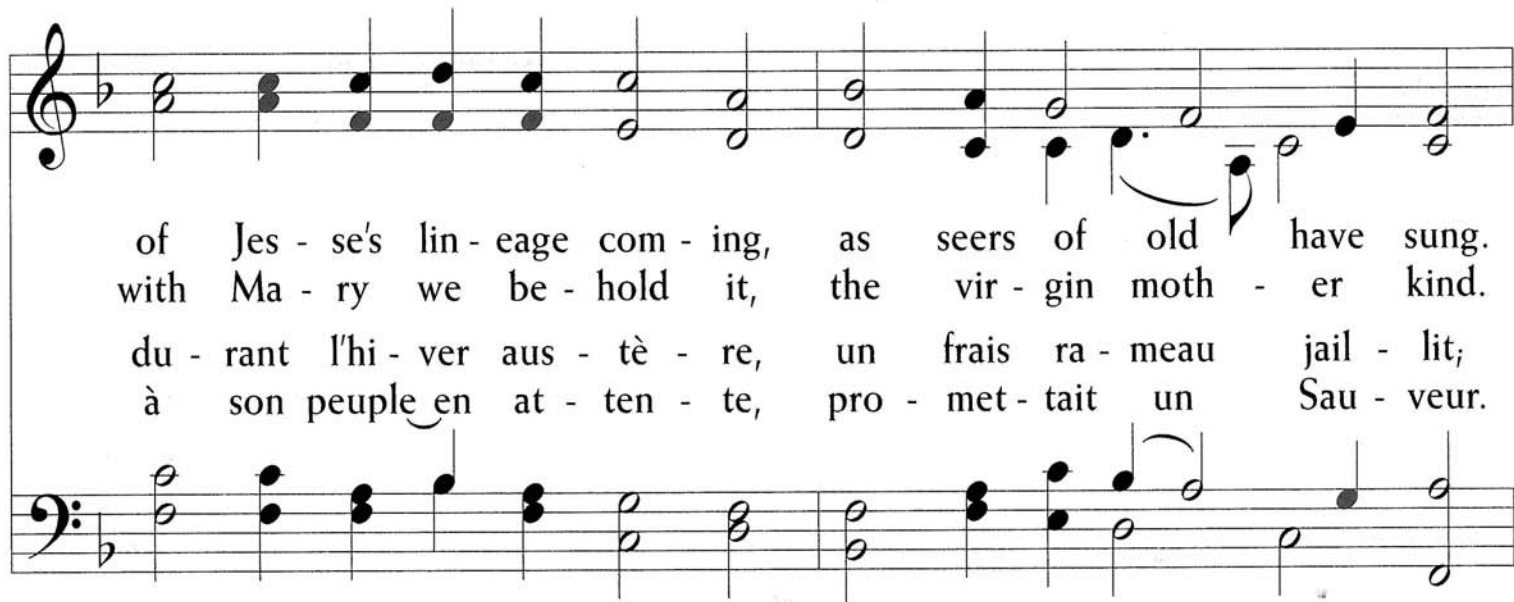
Refrain G D Em Bm G Am Bm Em G Em Am Bm Em

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

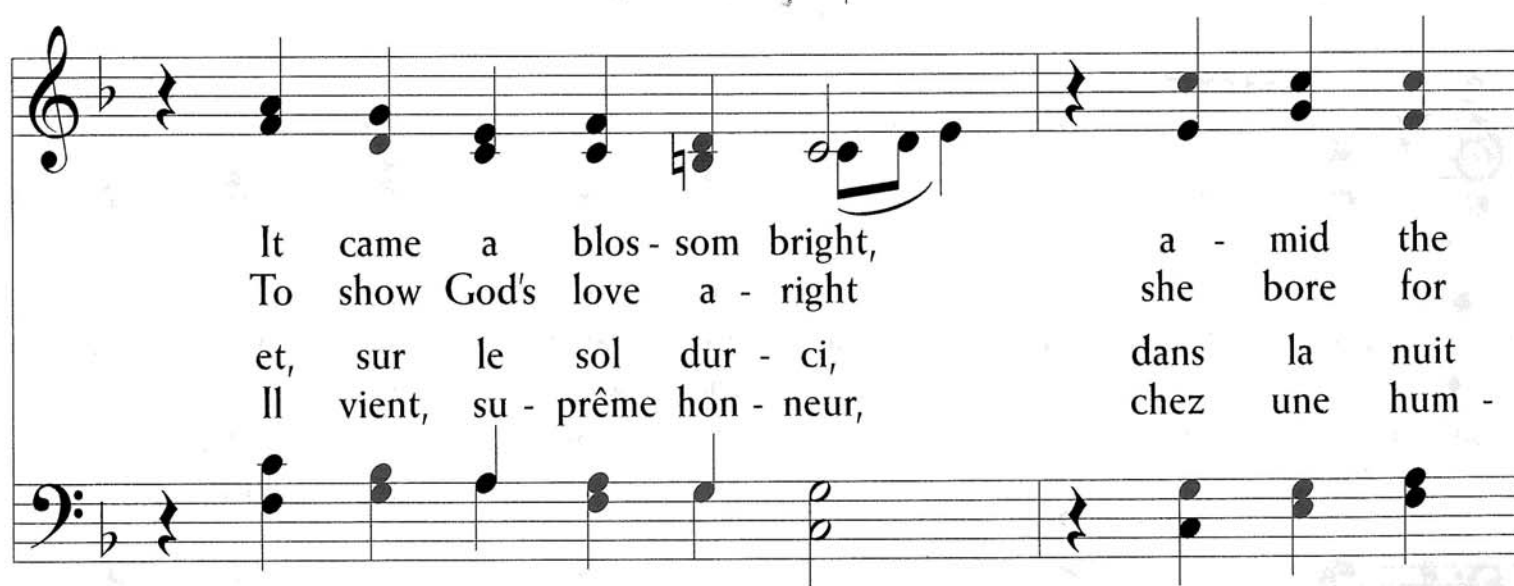
* HYMN: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"



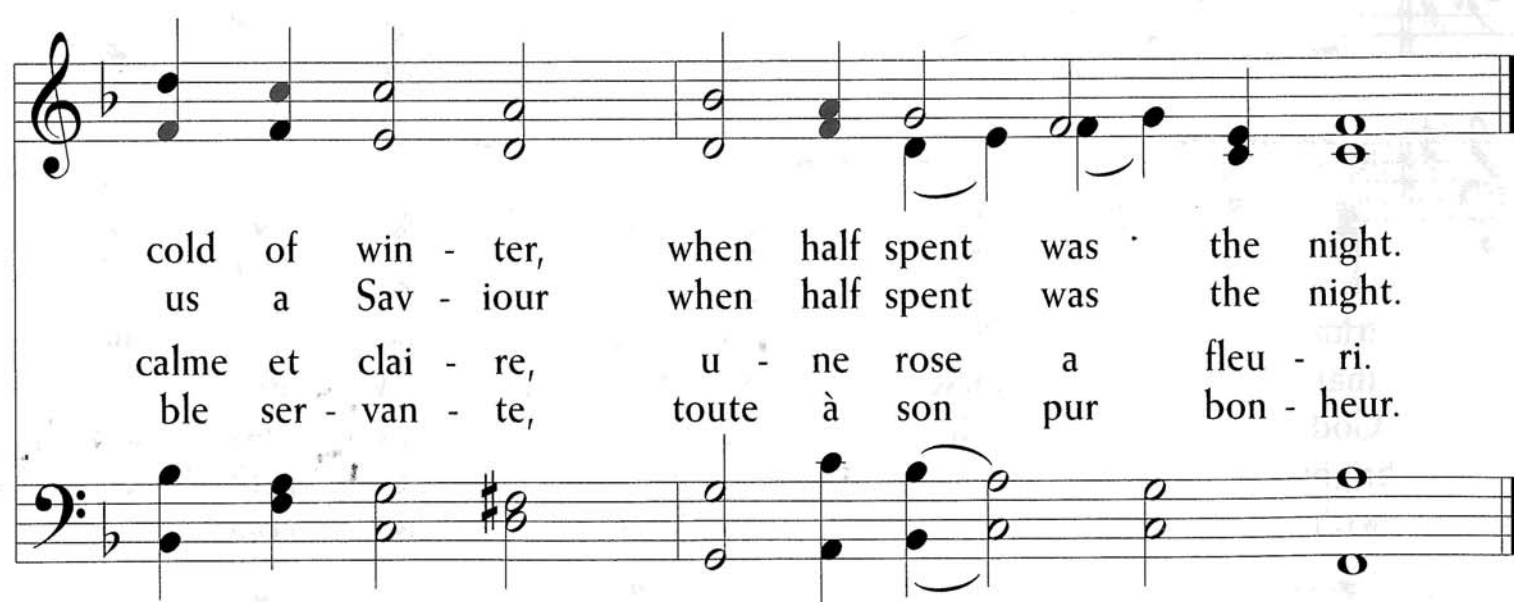
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 1 D'un ar - bre sé - cu - lai - re, du vieux tronc d'I - sa - i
 2 Dieu, par la voix fer - ven - te de nom - breux ser - vi - teurs,



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.

Hymn of Preparation: "I Come with Joy"

V477

Unison

F

Bb

F

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en,
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as
 ♦ 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di -
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that

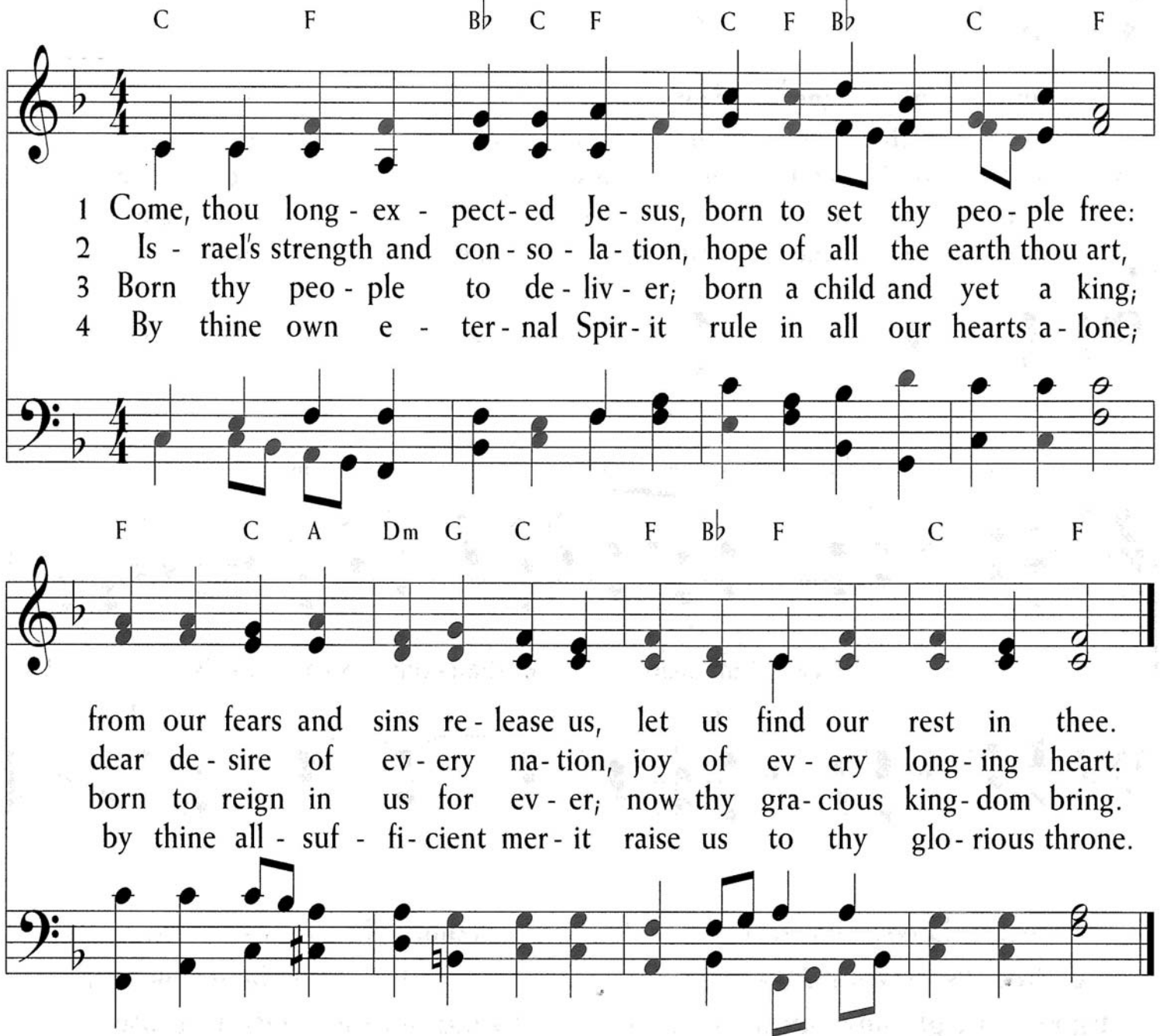
loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 all are fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ♦ vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 ♦ stran - gers now are friends, and stran - gers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 ♦ stran - gers now are friends, and stran - gers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

***CLOSING HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

C F B \flat C F C F B \flat C F



1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free:
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; born a child and yet a king;
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

F C A Dm G C F B \flat F C F

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er; now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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.

Saturday,
December 14, 2024
at 2:00 p.m.

North Haven
Congregational Church
28 Church Street
North Haven, CT 06473



R.S.V.P. Appreciated by December 7th
(203) 288-0800

Anyone who has lost a loved one is welcome

Holiday Remembrance Service

We will hold a Holiday Remembrance Service, in collaboration with the Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home, on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2pm. The experience of loss and bereavement can be complicated in the Christmas season. This Holiday Remembrance Service is an opportunity to acknowledge feelings of loss and grief in the context of Advent and Christmas. The service will be held in the sanctuary with scripture readings, prayers, and hymns. Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music, and Heather Meachen, Organist, will join Scott and staff from Beecher & Bennett in leading the service. The Chancel Choir will sing! The service will last an hour, and there will be reception in Carroll Hall with coffee and cookies afterward. This service is open to the public; Beecher & Bennett will invite families they have served this year and we will offer a special invitation to those church members who have experienced a loss.

This service is an annual tradition for Beecher & Bennett. Beecher & Bennett staff will read a list of names of those being remembered, and provide an ornament personalized with the name of the person which can be hung on a Christmas tree in the sanctuary as part of the service. There will also be a video tribute to those being remembered. **If you wish to remember someone during the service, please call the Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home at 203-288-0800 to RSVP by Dec. 7.** They will ask for the name of your loved one, their dates, and a photo. They will help you to find a photo from a published obituary if you wish. They will provide an ornament at the service which you may keep afterward.

Please contact Scott or call the Church Office with any questions.