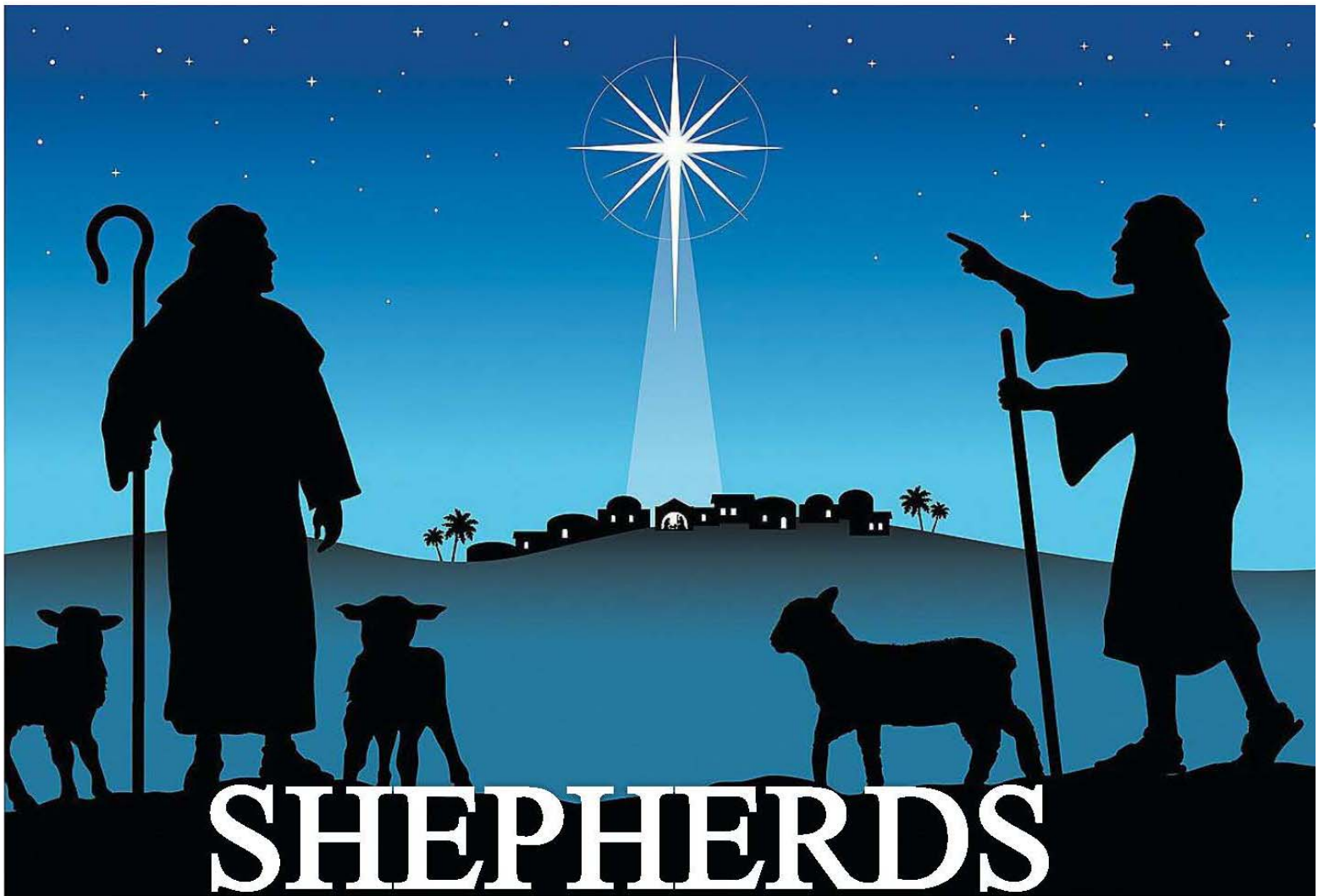


FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, December 15, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Eugenie Rocherolle

***OPENING HYMN:** "All Earth Is Waiting" V5

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: God has shown love among us by coming into the world
in Christ,

PEOPLE: That all people might live.

Leader: My friends, if God so loved us,

PEOPLE: we also ought to love one another.

Leader: For if we love one another,

PEOPLE: God dwells in us.

**ALL: Let us worship the Holy One and seek to love as we
have been loved.****

Ruth C Duck

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

God of love and mercy, thank you for your great gift of your Child,
Jesus Christ, who fills us with all that we need.

Merciful God, we are fully aware that not all your children are able to
bask in joy or peace during this season.

We pray for peace within all walls: walls within our own homes, walls
that surround each city and town.

We pray that during this season of Advent we may usher your
promise of salvation into our lives and that we may share the Good
News of our Savior with others.

We pray that the promise of your birth may be the promise that we
live in and share at home, at work and at school.

May we be moved to compassion and action in your name.

We pray this in the powerful name of Jesus Christ.^{##} 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*

O Holy God, our Advent waiting is a confession. We wait for a Messiah because the proud are still powerful, the mighty are still exalted, and hungry people stand unheard at the door. We wait for your incarnation in human form because we have not recognized you in our sister, we have not loved you in our brother, we have not served you in our neighbor. In the stillness of Advent love and light, heal us and make us new through the good tidings of your presence in our lives.** Amen. *Maren C. Tirabassi*

~ *silence* ~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

Choral 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

Scripture: Luke 2:15-20

Dave Nelson & Sandy Carter

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them

Lighting the **SHEPHERD** Candle

Hanging the **SHEPHERD** Ornament

Prayer *unison*

Glory be to you, Almighty Father, who has given us your only begotten son, that we may live through him. Glory be to you, O Holy Spirit, who does direct and rule our hearts. All glory be to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,
 Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
 It will lead to the place where the Christ was born;
 Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
 Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow,
 Follow the star of Bethlehem, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 12:2-6 Page 631

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation."

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day:

"Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

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

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

V55

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 3:7-18 Page 1205

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Sung by the Chancel Choir

16th Century German Carol

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

SERMON: “What Then Should We Do?”

Scott Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral Response

THE OFFERTORY

*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

GREETING OF PEACE ~unison

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

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending” Insert

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *There's a Song in the Air*

arr. Willard A. Palmer

based on the melody by Karl P. Harrington

*Those who are able, please stand.

** Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 2012 The Pilgrim Press.

Adapted from UCC Worship Ways; www.ucc.org; retrieved 11/23/16.

Music reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-719615. All rights reserved.

Deacon and Scripture Reader is Jim Bennett. **Greeter** is Patience Benassi. **Fellowship Hour** is hosted by Peter Hall.

Poinsettias decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas Season.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Carol Mitchell 12/15, Cynthia Boerma Campos 12/18, Carol Amico 12/19, Damon Quinn 12/19, Rich Gallagher 12/22.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettias

The poinsettias decorating the sanctuary during the Advent season will be distributed to our homebound members. Please look for the special envelopes that are in the pews. Contributions may be placed in the offering plates or left in the church office. Checks should be made payable to the “North Haven Congregational Church” and marked “Poinsettia Fund”. The contributions that exceed the cost of the poinsettias will be donated to Outreach for urgent community needs. Please mark the envelope with your dedication.

Urgent Need: Clothing Items for Columbus House.

Thank you for your donations of essential clothing items for the Columbus House donated in November. Our Congregation gave six large bags of socks and men’s and women’s underwear. The North Haven Rotary Club also donated six large bags of these items. Twelve large bags were brought to the Columbus House on November 27th and it was greatly appreciated by Sheree, the contact at Columbus House. The need for these items is very great at this facility. We will continue to collect the socks and underwear through the month of December at the Church.

The Ministry Leadership Board thanks everyone who has contributed during this season of generosity. Jesus taught us to care for our brothers and sisters and our Congregation and Rotary Club Members have given to those less fortunate.

Special Offering for the Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund is a special offering of the United Church of Christ which has provided assistance to UCC clergy and lay employees for more than 100 years. The Christmas Fund provides pension supplementation of pension and health insurance 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. This offering will be received on Sunday, Dec. 22nd, and at the services on Christmas Eve. Please give prayerfully and generously!

Covenant to Care

Now that Thanksgiving is in the rear view mirror, it's time to look ahead to Advent and Christmas. Our church will again this year supply gifts for children less fortunate than ourselves. The Angel Tree will be in Carroll Hall at fellowship hour on Sunday December 8, 2024.

Children's names and ages and a “wish list” will be on ornaments on the tree. If you would like to participate, please select a child and write your name and the child's name on the provided sign up sheet. Please have your wrapped gifts to the church by Tuesday December 17, 2024.

If you would like to give a monetary gift, please submit a check to the church office with “Angel Tree” written in the memo line. The money will be used to supply other gifts for children.

This has been a beloved project in our church for many years. Let's provide a little joy in a child's heart at this beautiful time of year.

Special Music Collection For Musicians At Christmas

We are very grateful to those church folks who have given to our holiday special music collections in the past. This money goes directly toward funding guest musicians such as trumpeters, flutists, and string players on Christmas and Easter. We are hoping to hire a flutist and a cellist to augment the beauty of this year's 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service. If you can donate regularly to this ministry, we are most grateful, as it is a year round collection. The pink music collection envelopes will be in the pews during Advent. It is important that we compensate our guest musicians fairly and at current professional rates. Thanks again to all who have made this possible over the years.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	12/15	9:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 6:00	WORSHIP: Third Sunday of Advent Music Together: Jingle Jam (Sanct) CONFIRMATION (K)
Monday	12/16	6:00 p.m.	WINDOW DEADLINE (EARLY!) CT Record Club (K)
Tuesday	12/17	9:30 a.m. 11:00 12:00 p.m. 12:00 5:30 6:00 6:00	Al-Anon (K) ORGAN TUNING (Foley Baker) PLP BUILDING & GROUNDS (H) Girl Scout Troop 60071 (RR) WF CHRISTMAS PARTY (CH) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/18		
Thursday	12/19	2:00 p.m. 7:00	HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE – PACKING BOXES (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	12/20	2:00 p.m. 4:00	HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE – PACKING BOXES (CH) PACKING BOXES (CH)
Saturday	12/21	7:00 a.m. 7:30 9:00 3:00p.m.	MENS FELLOWSHIP (CH) PACK DAIRY (CH) HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE: PICK-UP/DELIVER BOXES Tibetan American (K, CR)
Sunday	12/22	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	WORSHIP: Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Pageant CONFIRMATION (K)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

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: "All Earth Is Waiting"

Unison D F#m Em A7

1 All earth is wait - ing to see the Prom - ised One,
 2 Thus says the proph - et to those of Is - ra - el,
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be made plain,
 4 In low - ly sta - ble the Pro - mised One ap - peared.

and o - pen fur - rows a - wait the seed of God. All the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el." One whose
 o - pen new high - ways, new high - ways for our God, who is
 Yet, feel that pre - sence through - out the earth to - day, for Christ

world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true lib - er - ty; it
 name is "God with us," our Sav - iour shall be, through
 now com - ing clos - er, so come all and see, and
 lives in all Christ - ians and is with us now; a -

cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth.
 whom hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.
 o - pen the door - ways as wide as wide can be.
 gain, on ar - riv - ing, Christ brings us li - ber - ty.

Bm F#m 1-3 4
 Em A7 Em F#m7/A D

* HYMN: "In The Bleak Midwinter"

F Dm Gm C

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 E - nough for him, whom che - ru - bim wor - ship night and day, a
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

F Dm Bb C7 F

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 breast full of milk, and a man - ger full of hay. E -
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Bb Bb Dm F Gm C

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
 nough for him, whom an - gels fall down be - fore, the
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet

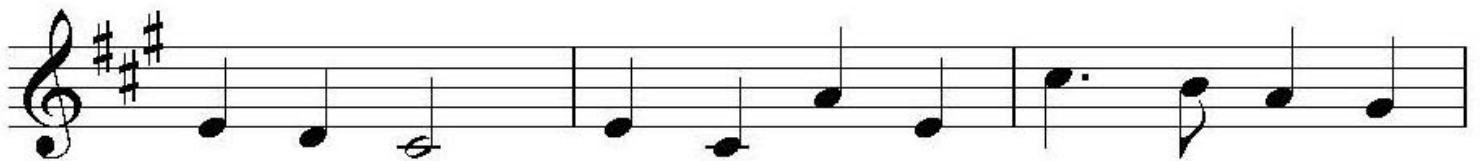
F Dm Bb C7 F

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 Lord God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 ox and ass and cam - el which a - dore.
 what I can I give him — give my heart.

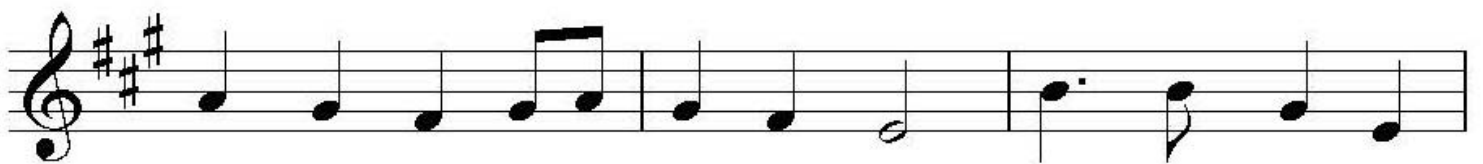
***CLOSING HYMN: "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"**



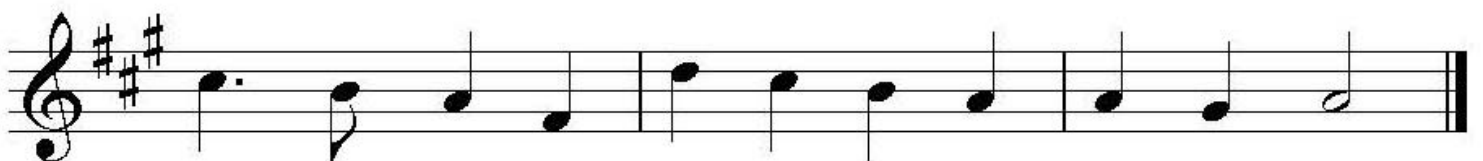
1. Lo, He comes with clouds des-cen-ding, Once for fa-vored
2. Ev'-ry eye shall now be-hold Him, Robed in splen-dor's
3. Now the Sa-vior, long ex-pec-ted, See, in so-lemn
4. Yea, a-men, let all a-dore Thee, High on Thine c-



sin-ners slain; Thou-sand thou-sand saints at-ten-ding
 ma-je-sty; Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 pomp ap-pear; All who have not Him re-jec-ted
 ter-nal throne; Sa-vior, take the pow'r and glo-ry,



Swell the tri-umph of His train: Al-le-lu-ia,
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree, Dec-ply wail-ing,
 Now shall meet Him in the air: Al-le-lu-ia,
 Claim the king-dom for Thine own: Oh, come quick-ly,



Al-le-lu-ia! God ap-pears on earth to reign.
 dec-ply wail-ing, Shall the true Mes-si-ah see.
 al-le-lu-ia! See the day of God ap-pear.
 oh, come quick-ly! E-ver-las-ting God, come down.



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.