

FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Christmas Eve



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Saturday, December 24, 2024

7:00pm

Christmas Eve

PRELUDE:

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming
The First Nowell

arranged by Eugenie Rocherolle
Heather Meachen, organ

The Snow Lay On the Ground (Venite Adoremus) trad. English carol

Greensleeves (What Child is This?) trad. Folk Song

In Dulci Jubilo ancient carol arr. R.L. de Pearsall

Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella trad. French carol

Laura Klein, cello Edan Sabah, violin Heather Meachen, organ

***OPENING HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

P132

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Tonight, old dreams die and new dreams come to life.
The Promise is fulfilled!

PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: Our candles illuminate our story. Dawn invades midnight.
The Light of the World has come.

PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: And this light is a light for all, igniting a flame within the
soul, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our
lives with the presence of God-come-alive in human flesh
within us and among us

**ALL: Within us and among us, now and always. Glory to
God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to
all.****

***HYMN: "Angels We Have Heard On High"**

P116

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:~unison

Tonight, O God, the soles of your feet have touched the earth.
Tonight, the back street, the forgotten place, have been lit up with
significance far beyond our wildest dreams. Tonight, the households
of earth welcome the Child of heaven. For you have come among us,
you are one of us. So may our songs rise to surround your awesome
mystery as our knees bend to approach your cradle. We pray in the
name of our newborn Savior, Jesus Christ^{##}. Amen.

A WORD OF WELCOME

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Still, Still, Still*
Sung by the Chancel Choir

trad. Austrian lullaby

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORY

Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" vs. 1, 3

P 120

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND OUR 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.

OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Offertory: "In The Bleak Midwinter" vs. 1, 4

V55

*Advent Doxology

Tune: Irby

R. G. Huff

IRBY
Henry J. Gauntlett

Unison

Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the new - born Son.
Praise the Spir - it, ev - er — with us. Praise the God - head, Three in — One.
Clear a path! Pre-pare the way! Ad - vent leads to Christ - mas Day!

*Prayer of Dedication

THE CHRISTMAS STORY - LESSONS AND CAROLS

ANTHEM: *Were You There That Christmas Night*

Words & Music by Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)
Sung by The Chancel Choir

Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night, when
the world was filled with a holy light? Were you there to
behold when the wonder foretold came to earth?

Did you see, did you see how they hailed him King, with the
gifts so rare that they chose to bring? Did you see how they
bowed as they praised him aloud at his birth?

Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the
sight? Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang all through
the night?

Did you know, did you know it was God's own Son, the
salvation of the world begun? Did you know it was love that
was sent from above to the earth?

THE ANNUNCIATION TO MARY: Luke 1:26-38 p. 1201

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.
HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Gabriel's Message* S. Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

An Old Basque Carol

Arr. Edgar Pettman

Sung by the Chancel Choir

THE PROCLAMATION TO JOSEPH: Matthew 1:18-25p. 1147

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" v 1, 2, 4

P134

THE BIRTH OF JESUS: 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.

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: *The Rocking Carol*

trad. Czech nativity carol

Arr. Percy Dearmer

Sung by the Chancel Choir

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Prayer *unison*

O Father, who has declared your love by the birth of Jesus Christ at Bethlehem, help us to welcome him with gladness and to make room for him in our common days, so that we may live at peace with one another and in good will with all people everywhere.
Amen.

Sung Response: “A Candle is Burning” v. 5

V6

We honor Messiah with Christ candle’s flame
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian’s true light.

THE SHEPHERDS: Luke 2:8-20

p. 1203

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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. But 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, as it had been told them.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Carol: “The First Nowell” vs 1, 2

P141

THE MAGI: Matthew 2:1-12

p. 1147

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Carol: “What Star Is This?” vs. 1, 2

P144

THE FUTURE’S HOPE: John 1:1-14

p. 1236

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Carol: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” vs. 1, 2, 4

P129

THE LIGHT GOES OUT AMONG US

Carol: “Silent Night, Holy Night”

P 138

*** CLOSING HYMN:** “Joy to the World”

P 130

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Go Tell it On the Mountain*

trad. Spiritual

*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.

Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Celebrate God’s Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada*. Copyright © 2000 The United Church Publishing House.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-719615.

Deacon is Jim Bennett. **Greeters** are Sandy Carter & Nancy Mahoney. **Poinsettias** decorate the sanctuary in memory of family and friends of NHCC.

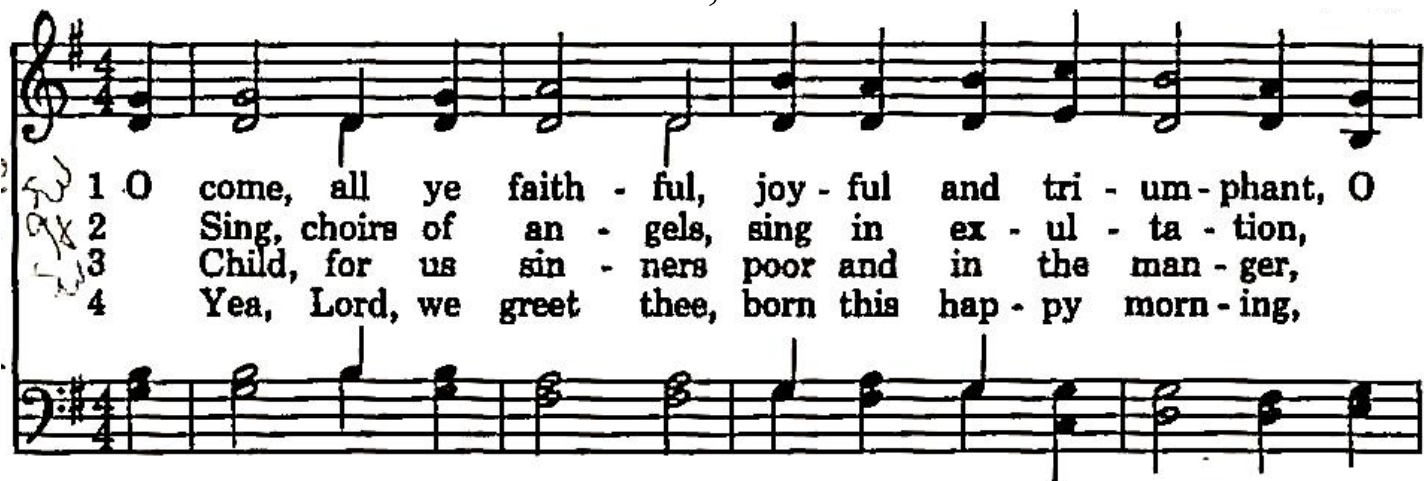
Special thanks to cellist Laura Klein and violinist Edan Sabah for their musical contributions to our worship tonight!

Tonight we receive the all-church special offering for **The Christmas Fund**. This fund aids clergy and lay church workers in the United Church of Christ who have underfunded pensions or emergency situations. Please give prayerfully and generously.

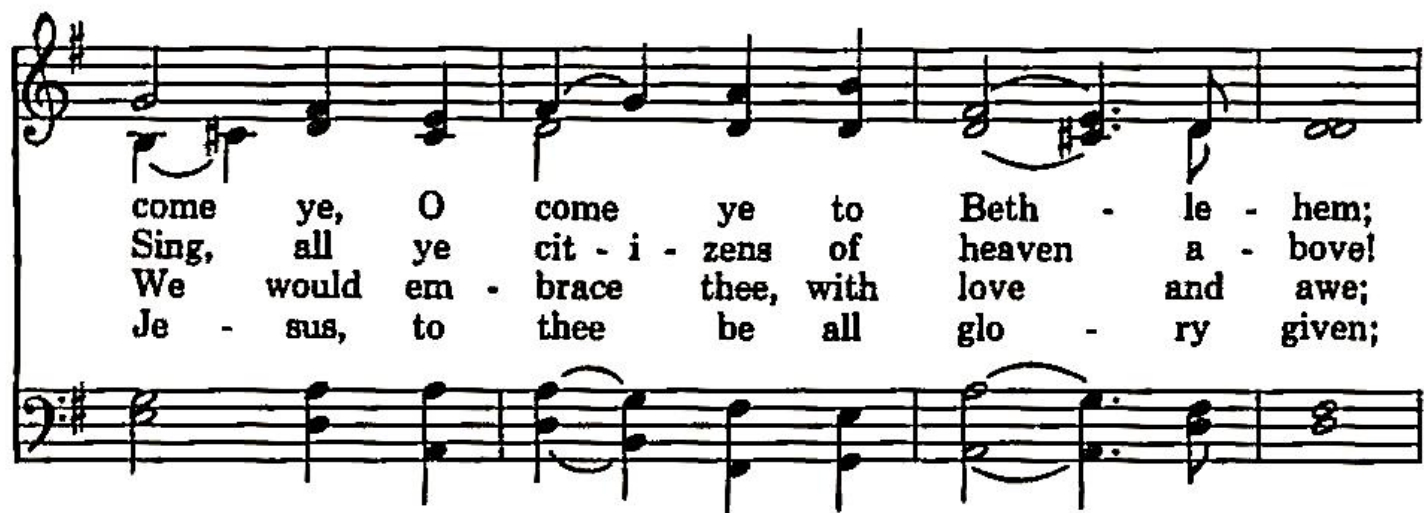
THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Wednesday and Thursday, December 25 and 26. If you should have an urgent pastoral need, please leave a message at the church in the “Pastoral Emergency” voice-mail box which is checked regularly each day.

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



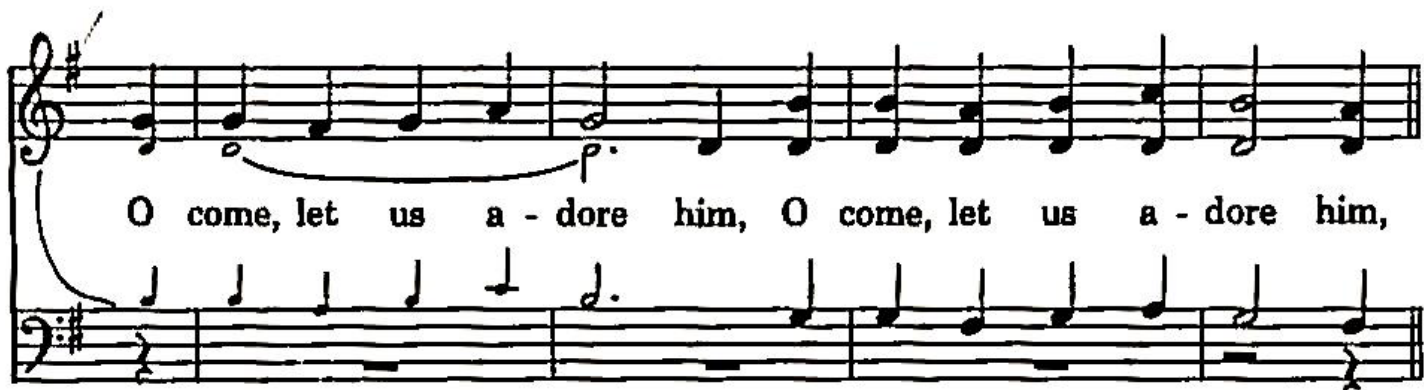
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
We would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord! A-men.

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 heav - en - 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.

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of right-eous-ness!

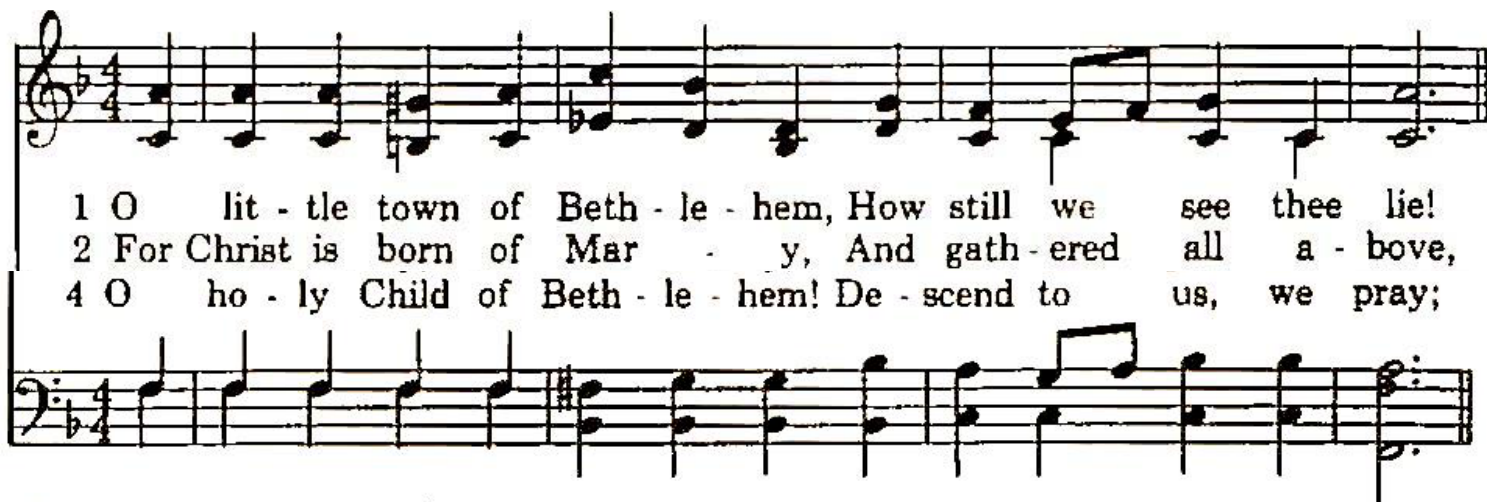
Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings,

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

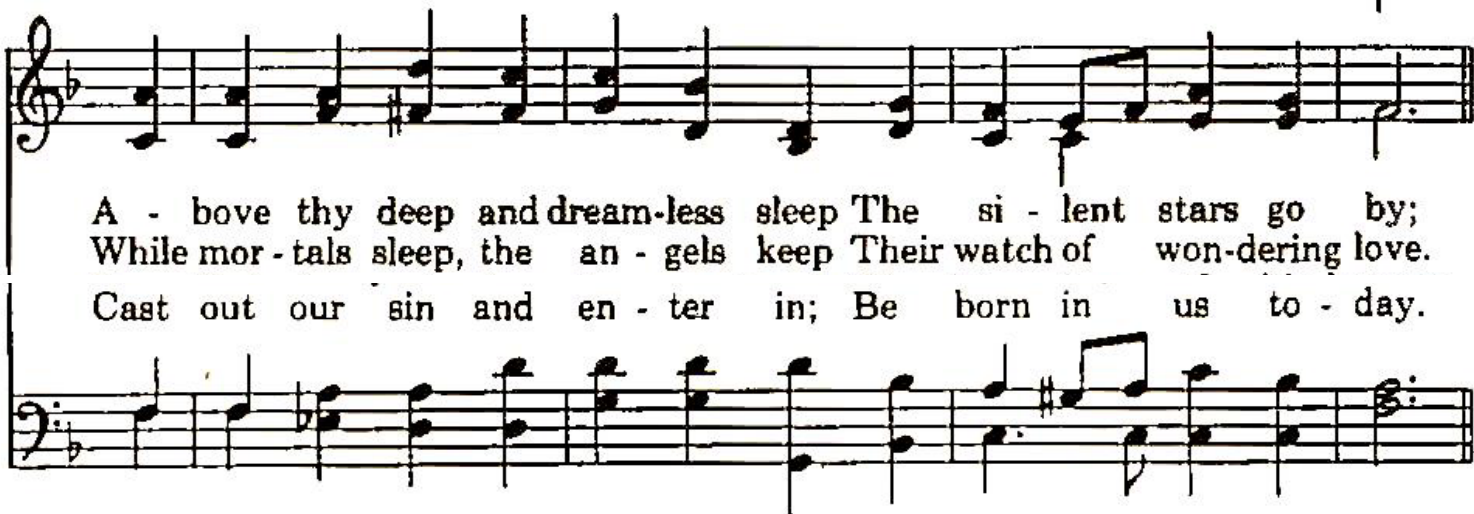
With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN

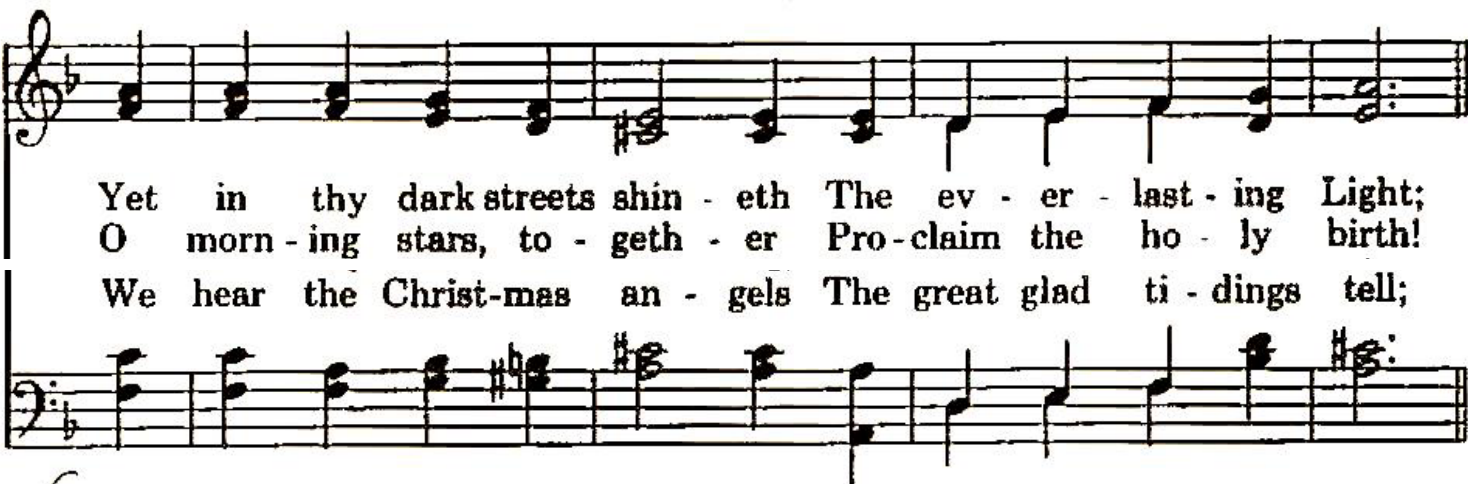
Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!" A-men.



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And gath - ered all a - bove,
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night,
 And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el! A - men.

1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where
 in the east, be - yond them far, And to the

they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave great light, And so it con -

night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.

REFRAIN

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -

ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, More love - ly
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From Ja - cob

than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to announce a new - born
 shall a star pro - ceed"; And lo! the east - ern sa - ges

king, Glad ti - dings of our God to bring.
 stand, To read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.

1 It came up - on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace-ful wings un - furled,
 4 For lo, the days are hasten-ing on, By proph-et bards fore-told,

From an - gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold;
 And still their heav-en-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world;
 When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold;

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all gra - cious King."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hover-ing wing,
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol-ern still-ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o'er its Ba - bels sounds The bless-ed an - gels sing.
 And the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing. A men.

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,
 Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, Heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 Ra - diant beams from thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav-ior, is born! Christ, the Sav-ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
 3 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, And
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 And won - ders of his love, And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love. A - men.

heaven and na - ture sing.
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

2024 POINSETTIA FUND

Donations Provided By

- Beth Anderson:** In loving memory of my husband Philip DiPeri and parents Robert & Catherine Anderson
- Joyce Bellonio:** In loving memory of Anthony & David Bellonio, Edith & Frank Prentice and Eugene & Bertha Allen.
- Jim and Joan Bennett:** In loving memory of Jean Bennett and Ethel Hall.
- Cheryl Bogert:** In loving memory of my parents, Joan & Al Bogert.
- Sandy Carter:** In loving memory of my parents Richard & Carmel DeCola, my Niece Cindy Henniger, and my beloved grandson Jack Viele.
- Wendy Civitello:** In loving memory of Nina & Papa Collett.
- Ed & Mary Ellen Collett:** In loving memory of Charles & Barbara Collett.
- Corcoran Family:** In loving memory of Betty DiCarlo.
- Carl & Lillian Flodquist:** In loving memory of our son, David Thomas Flodquist.
- Merrilee Gladkosky:** In loving memory of Wilmer & Jean Taylor.
- Tom & Wendy Glynn:** In loving memory of Wendy's dad, Richard Jahoda, and brother, Tom Jahoda, and Tom's mom, Helga Glynn.
- Susan Guckert:** In loving memory of my husband, Gary Heffernan, and my parents George & Agatha Guckert.
- Ellie & Kathy Harple:** In loving memory of Warren & David Harple.
- Carla Hill:** In memory of my family members who watch over me/us from above with our Lord God: Mother - Cindy James, Father - Phillip James, Brother - Brian James, Maternal Uncle - Charles Gedney, Paternal Aunt - Marcia Carthaus, In-laws - Barbara & Paul Hill.
- Melanie J. Howlett:** In loving memory of Winston & Hilda Howlett.
- Bernie and Elfie Hummel:** In loving memory of Bernie and Elfie's parents, Paul & Irmgard Hummel and Martin & Adelheid Dimmlich.
- Linda Lacobelli:** In loving memory of Anthony Lacobelli (husband), Tony Lacobelli (son), Mr. & Mrs. Frank Prentice and Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Lacobelli.
- Barbara Massey:** In loving memory of Barbara's parents, David & Gert Diana.
- Joyce & Ted Manzo:** In loving memory of Joyce's brother, John Petzel.
- Billy & Jeanne Mecca:** In loving memory of Maria Mecca, Marylou Lampe & Susan Gooley.
- Carol Mitchell:** In loving memory of Jörn & Mary Berg-Johnsen and William S. Dawless.

Scott Morrow and Carol Amico:

In loving memory of Robert & Marylou Morrow, Anthony & Frances Amico and Robert Amico.

Sara & Bryant Munson: In loving memory of Philip Munson.

Mabel & Stephen Peterson: In loving memory of Charlotte and Byron Liske (Mabel's sister and brother-in-law), and Stewart LaRocque (Mabel's brother-in-law), Donald Mark Peterson (Stephen's brother).

Dot Pierce: In loving memory of Greg & Stephen Pierce.

Peter & Victoria Struk: In loving memory of Melanie Struk.

Catherine Welch: In loving memory of my beloved parents Henry & Martha Griffis.

Donations from:

Raymond Filip

Peter & Cheryl Hall

Rob & Lynne Nielsen

Cynthia Boerma Campos

