

FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Peace



GLORY TO GOD IN THE
HIGHEST, & ON EARTH PEACE,
GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

LUKE 2:14



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, December 7, 2025

9:30 a.m.

**Second Sunday of Advent
The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***OPENING HYMN: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

V2

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE
LIGHTING:**

Leader: We are God’s gathered people.

People: And so we come to this moment filled with holy hope.

The candle of Hope is lit

Leader: May justice roll down

People: and peace flow like a mighty river around the world.

Leader: May equity be the reality for generations yet to come,

People: and may peace flow throughout humanity, as it did with
the One.

Leader: The One who was sent here, the One who sent us, the One
whose power never fails.

People: Peace is possible and we are resolved today to believe.

**Since God is for us, then anything we dream of can be a
reality. We light this candle as we pray for peace around
the world. We stand together, from one end of the Earth
to the other, knowing God is with us.**

The candle of Peace is lit, and the congregation sings:

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.**

Refrain: 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.**

***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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:~unison

With the songs of angels in our ears, we cannot hear the way we speak words of hurt and anger to others;
looking for the shepherds to arrive, we do not see the homeless family by the side of the road;
waiting to sit down at a fine feast, we ignore those whose bread is their fear, whose cup is filled with their lost dreams.
Come to us, Promised sign of restoration; come to open our eyes;
Come to us, Child of compassion: come to melt our hearts with your tears;
Come to us, Servant of the poor, come to lead us to serve the lost.
O come, o come, Immanuel: to forgive us, to heal us, so all that was promised might be fulfilled for us.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Dear children of God; do not be afraid. The promise given long ago has been kept once and for all in the birth at Bethlehem. Rejoice, rejoice, for Christ has come for you.

People: Grace and peace are the gifts God has given to us, not only on this day, not only in this season, but in all the moments to come. Thanks be to God! ** Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE ~unison

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

People: And also with you!

You are invited to share signs of peace with your neighbors.

The Peaceful Kingdom

- 11 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

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

V8

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25 Pg 1147

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸ 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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC: “Soon and Very Soon”
Sung by the Chancel Choir

Text and Music by
Andraé Crouch (1976)

MEDITATION: “Adopting A Miracle”

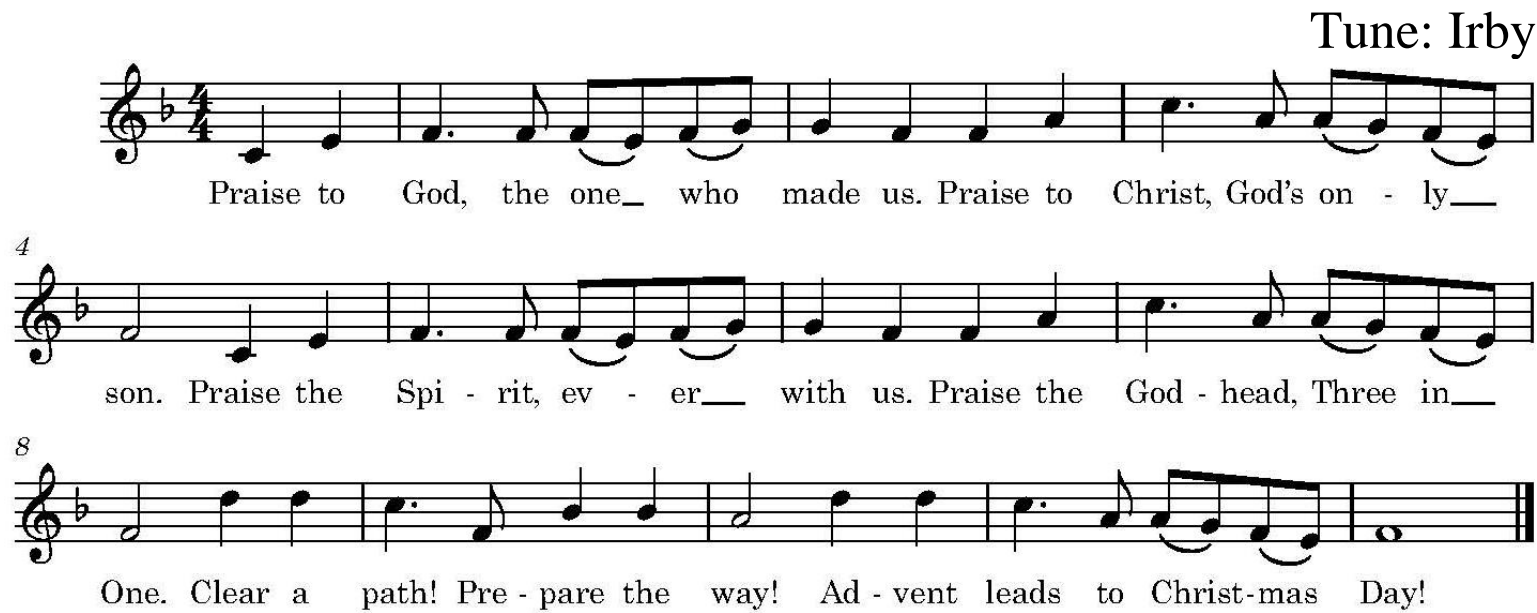
Rev. Cindy

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS
PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral Response

THE OFFERTORY
*Advent Doxology

written by R.G. Huff (1949-2025)
Tune: Irby



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

son. Praise the Spi - rit, 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 SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Hymn of Preparation: “Jesus, United by Your Grace”

V591

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.

Memorial Acclamation

Leader: As we remember Immanuel coming to us, we would keep awake, preparing ourselves to live out that mystery we call faith:

People: Christ died, walking in God’s path;

Christ rose, walking in the light of God;

Christ will return for the sake of the house of God.

Distribution

Prayer of Thanksgiving - Unison

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have done wondrous things. Your glory fills the whole earth. You send the rain to water the land and cause the fields to flourish. You defend those who are poor and deliver those who are oppressed. Use the works of our hands to establish your holy realm, and strengthen our hearts as we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: “As We Gather at Your Table”**

V 457

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

***Those who are able, please stand.**

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

Special thanks to our guest organist today, Juliann Janowski.

Deacon is Nancy Mahoney. **Communion Servers** are Kathy Harple & Jim Bennett. **Advent Candle lighting** by Sandy Carter. **Greeter** is Beth Anderson. **Camera Operator** is Damon Quinn.
Please join us for Fellowship Hour in Carroll Hall immediately following the service.

Today's flowers are given by Doris Ferner in memory and celebration of all December birthdays.

In Our Prayers This Week are: The Family of Barbara Scheidecker, Herb & Ann Schneider, The Rev. Deb Ruotolo, Lee Guckert and her Family, Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, and Charlotte Shea.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Womens Fellowship Annual Christmas Party!

Monday, December 8th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Koinonia Room, Pot Luck Dinner—bring your favorite dish to share!



Bring a “GRAB BAG GIFT” (funny, different, odd, used, etc)
This is a night filled with good food, lots of laughs, and of course great fellowship! All women (members or not) are encouraged to attend.
Please RSVP to Cheryl Bogert at ca.bogert48@gmail.com
Hope to see some new faces there!



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 7th, 2025. 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 Monday, December 22nd, 2025. 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 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!

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	12/7	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 5:00	WORSHIP: Second Sunday of Advent Tibetan American (K,CR, RR) ADVENT NIGHT (CH)
Monday	12/8	1:00 p.m. 4:00 4:45 5:30	FOOD PANTRY OPEN BIBLE STUDY (Zoom) Pierpont Hill Board Meeting (CH) WOMENS FELLOWSHIP: CHRISTMAS PARTY (K)
Tuesday	12/9	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 3:30 6:00	Al-Anon (K) PLP (Library) BUILDING & GROUNDS (H) United Girl’s Choir (Sanctuary) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	12/10	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN MLB (L)
Thursday	12/11	1:00 p.m. 7:00 7:00	STAFF LUNCH (Office Closed) CHANCEL CHOIR REHERSAL Garden Club (CH)
Friday	12/12	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Al-Ateen (CH)
Saturday	12/13		
Sunday	12/14	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:00	WORSHIP: Third Sunday of Advent Tibetan American (K,CR, RR) Musical Folk: Jingle Jam (Sanctuary)

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Sally & Anthony Pallatto 12/14.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Robbie Juliano 12/07, Susan Baldino 12/07, James Studley 12/08, Emma Mickolyzck 12/09, Merrilee Gladkosky 12/11, Linda Silk 12/14.

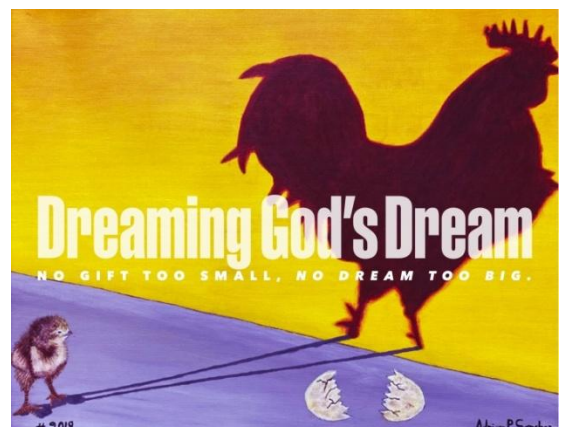
Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

Elizabeth Anderson
Larry Ballantyne
Martin & Patience Benassi
Jim & Joan Bennett
Mark & Laurel Bessette
Cheryl Bogert
Priscilla Bradford
Elaine & Sonny Burr
Mark & Martha Butterworth
Sandy Carter
Suzanne Cifelli
Ed & Mary Ellen Collett
George & Florence Coulston
Susan Compton
Jim & Leslie Dockendorff
Ken & Ann Dubar
Doris Ferner
Carl & Lillian Flodquist
Jody & Rich Gallagher
Sara & Brian Gannon
Merrilee & George Gladkosky
Susan Guckert
Nancy Gutowski,
Peter & Cheryl Hall
Eleanor Harple
Kathleen Harple
Vivian Harris
Susan Beth & Robert Higgins
Carla & Michael Hill
Linda Howe
Bernard & Elfie Hummel
Barbara Joslyn
Roberta & Bruno Juliano
Linda Lacobelli
Dan & Lynn Lafleur
Carol Lasse

Nancy & Ken Mahoney
Ted & Joyce Manzo
Rhonda & John Masnato
Barbara & Rick Massey
Carol Mitchell
Dave & Barbara Nelson
Lynne & Rob Nielsen
William Olmstead
Stephen & Mabel Peterson
Dot Pierce
Jeanne Reardon
Lynn Reardon
Betsey Reid
Jane & Tom Romans
Robert Scheidecker
Adam & Julie Schweickert
Cheryl Solecki
Peter & Vicky Struk Jr.
John & Sue Tibor
Doris Vigliotto
Catherine Welch

With Thanks from the
Generosity Mission Team: Joan
Bennett, Cheryl Bogert, Priscilla
Bradford, Sue Cifelli, and Mabel
Peterson



Pledges as of 12-3-25

*OPENING HYMN: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

V2

C F Bb C F C F Bb 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 Bb F C F

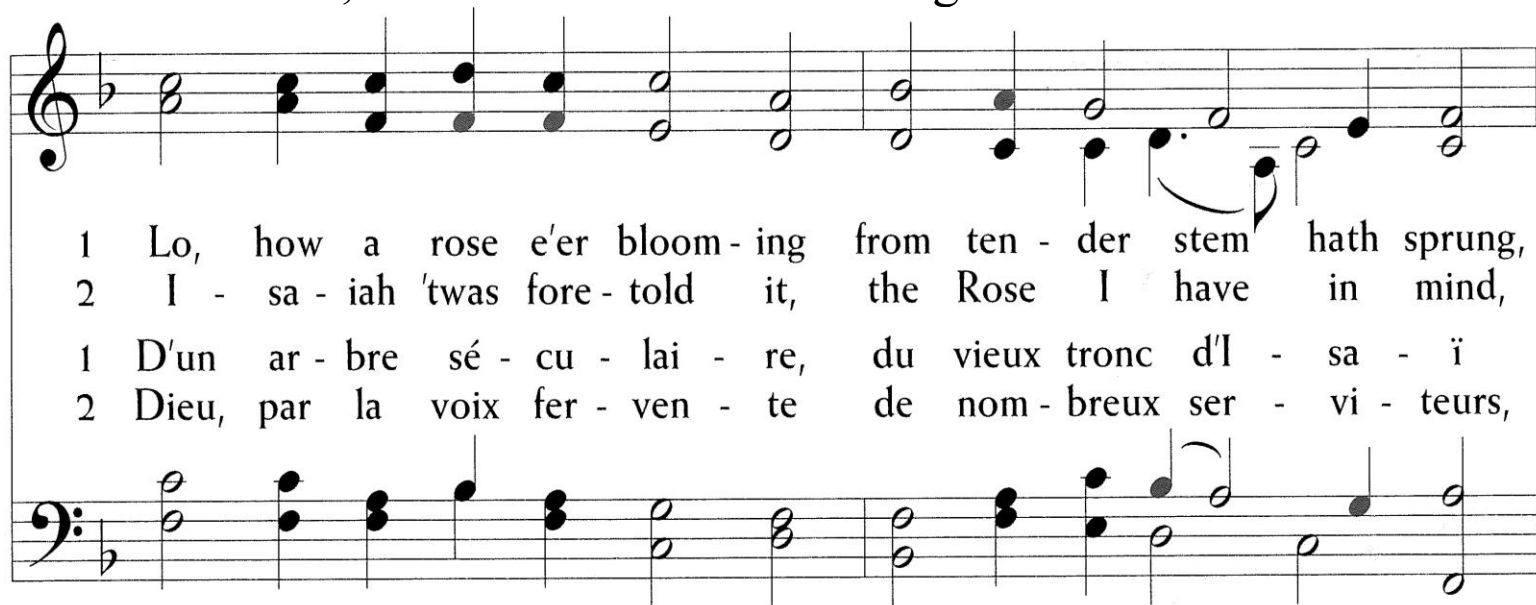


from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er; now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

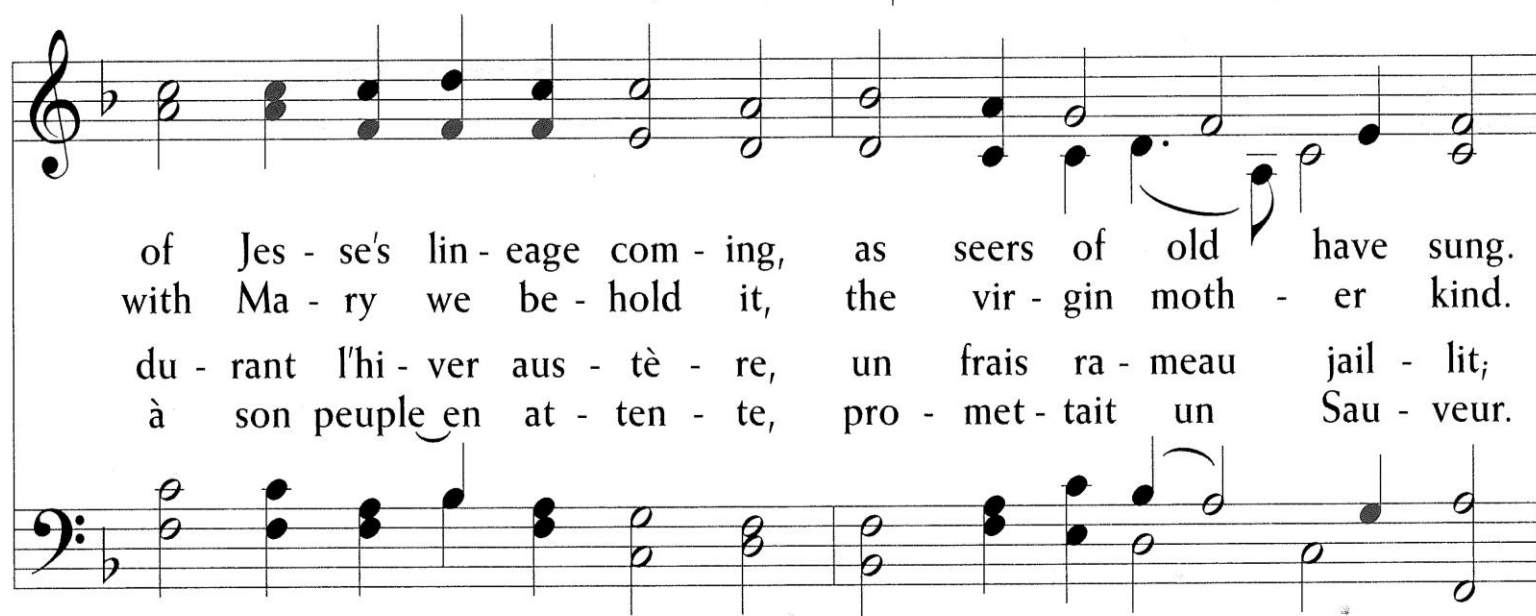


* HYMN: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

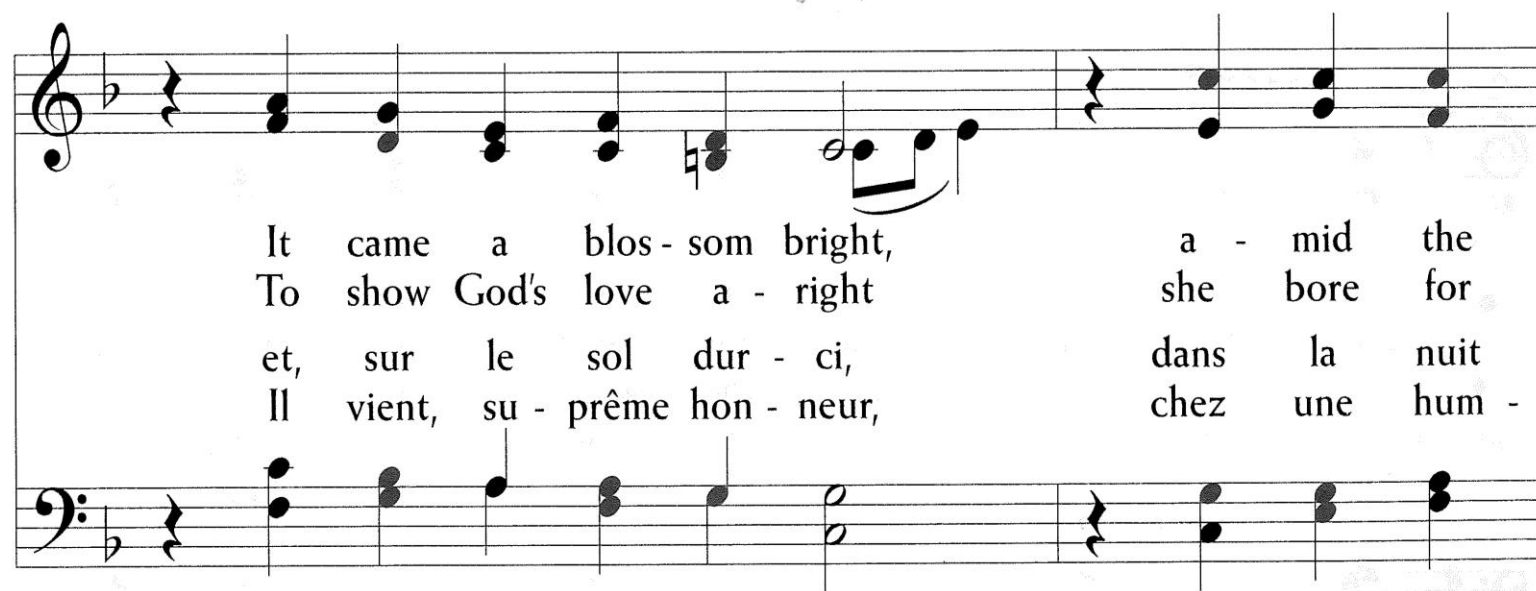
V8



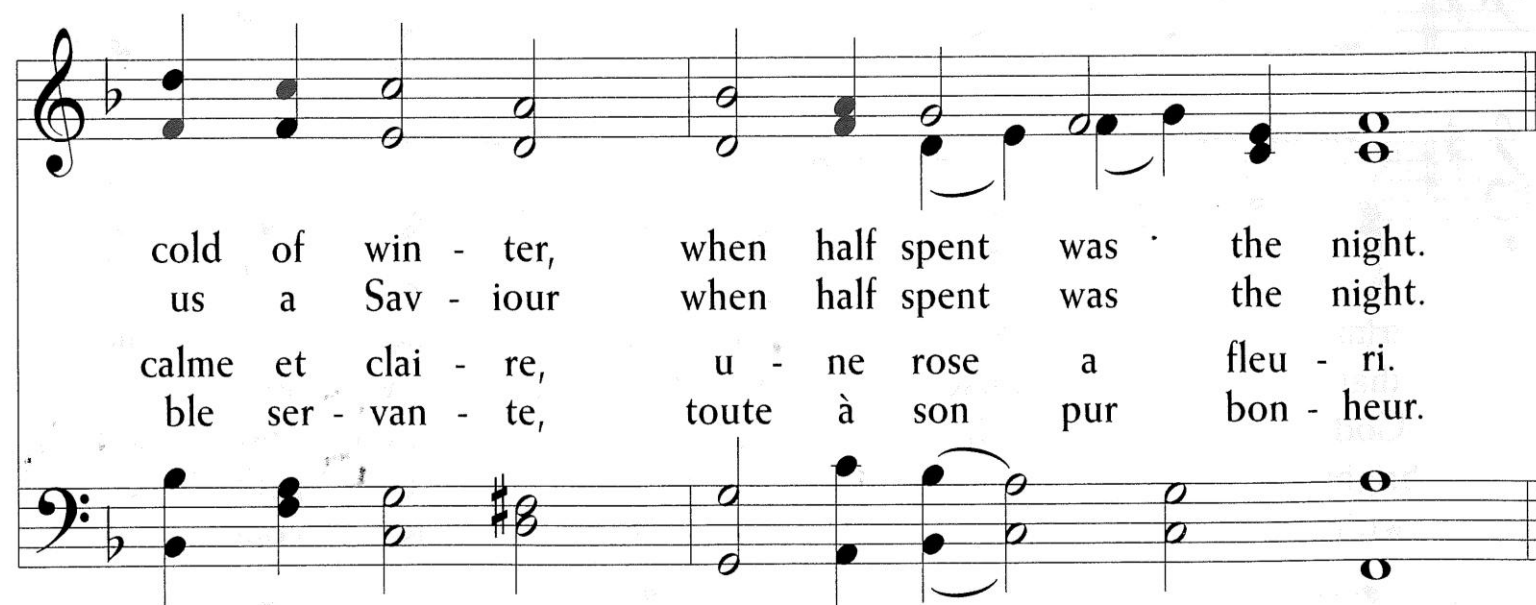
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 1 D'un ar - bre sé - cu - lai - re, du vieux tronc d'I - sa - i
 2 Dieu, par la voix fer - ven - te de nom - breux ser - vi - teurs,



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: "Jesus, United by Your Grace"

V591



1 Je - sus, u - ni - ted by your grace, and each to each en - deared,
 2 Help us to see in each a friend, each o - ther's cross to bear;
 3 Up un - to you, our liv - ing head, let us in all things grow,
 4 Drawn by the lode-stone of your love, let all our hearts u - nite;



with con - fi - dence we seek your face, and know our prayer is heard.
 let all their friend - ly aid ex - tend, and feel the oth - er's care.
 till you have made us free in - deed and faith - ful here be - low.
 let us to - ward each oth - er move, and move to - ward your light.



*CLOSING HYMN: "As We Gather At Your Table"

V457

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we list - en
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra -
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to

to your word, help us know, O God, your pres - ence;
 ment of life; send us forth to love and serve you,
 share that feast where tri - umph - ant Love will wel - come

let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish us with sa - cred
 bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great com -
 those who had been last and least. There no more will en - vy

sto - ry till we claim it as our own; teach us through this
 pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave; may we still be -
 blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy, as we join with

ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

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.

Church Staff: All the Members, Ministers to the World

The Reverend Cindy Stasko, Bridge Pastor

Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children

Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music

Heather Meachen, Organist

Julie Schweickert, Office Manager

Dave Nelson, Sexton

PEACE

