

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
Wednesday, December 24, 2025
7:00 pm. Christmas Eve**

MUSICAL PRELUDE: In Dulci Jubilo
Lo, How a Rose

CAROL SING:

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” vv. 1 &4 V. 44

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
2. For, lo! The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

“There’s a Star in the East” V 70

1. There's a star in the east on Christmas morn, rise up shepherd and follow, It'll lead to the place where the Savior born; rise up shepherd and follow. *R.*

Refrain

Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow, follow the Star of Bethlehem, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

2. If you take good heed to the angel's words, rise up, shepherd, and follow, you'll forget your blocks, you'll forget your herds, rise up, shepherd and follow. *R.*



“What Child Is This”

V. 74

1. 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? *Chorus*

Chorus:

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

2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. *Chorus*

“Still, Still, Still”

V. 47

1. Still, Still, Still: the night is calm and still. The Christ-child in his crib lies sleeping, angels round him watch are keeping. Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.

2. Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus, softly sleep, while Mary sings and gently holds you, safely in her arms enfold you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus softly sleep.

3. Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy! For through God's holy incarnation Christ is born for our salvation. Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vv. 1 & 4

V. 64

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

INSTRUMENTAL

CHIME CHOIR: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Arr. Patricia Sanders

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Isaiah 9*

Leader: Tonight old dreams are put to rest 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 the night.
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 in 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 now and always.

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace,
goodwill to all.**

* HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard on High” V. 38

1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

4. See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
while our hearts in love we raise. *Refrain*

THE LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS

The Light of Hope

Isaiah 35: 1-10

The Light of Peace

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

The Light of Joy: A Litany of Glad Tidings

Leader: Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness, shining forth from the heavens and enlightening the whole universe.

People: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ, reigning with the Creator and Holy Spirit above the cherubim; worshiped by the seraphim.

People: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Leader: Blessed are you, born as a little child and laid in a manger.

People: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Leader: Blessed are you, giving us all we possess, yet accepting the gifts of the visitors from the East.

People: Let heaven and earth rejoice!

Leader: Blessed are you, our Bread of Life, giving eternal life to our souls.

The Light of Love

Luke 2: 1-20

GIFT OF MUSIC: “Were You There on That Christmas Night?”

Natalie Sleeth

The Light of the Word

John 1: 1-14

Pastor Cindy

HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

V. 60

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2. God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created; *Refrain*

3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain*

4. See how the shepherds summoned to his
cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly
fear, we too will thither bend our joyful foot steps. *Refrain*

5.Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

EVENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Almighty God, you have favored us with the greatest gift ever given--your only begotten Son, light of true light, God of true God. May we never take this gift for granted; may our songs of praise never fade, and may we treasure it in our hearts always and forever.

People: Bless all of us here gathered in worship as well as our loved ones at home. May peace and joy ring in our hearts and reverberate through our communities tonight in the name of Jesus, the new-born King. Together we pray as our King taught us: 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.

Choral Amen.

***HYMN: "Away in a Manger" vv. 1&2**

P.137

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and
stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

ANTHEM: CHANCEL CHOIR AND GUEST MUSICIANS: “O Holy Night”
Music: Adolphe Charles Adam
Author: Placide Cappeau
Translator: John Sullivan Dwight

1. O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, It is the
night of the dear Saviour's birth;
long lay the world in sin and error pining,
"Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the
weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Chorus:

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O
night when Christ was born. O night, divine, O night, O night
divine!

3. Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name
all oppression shall cease, Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus
raise we; Let all within us praise His holy name! Chorus

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Old 100th

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace,
Praise God for gifts of joy and love,
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell,
on earth for us—Emmanuel. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Holy God, as we gather this evening, all our attention is focused
on a baby, lying in a manger. It's not lost on us that you sent your
Son, our Savior, into the world among the poorest of the poor and
told us: “This will be a sign to you.” As we present gifts to you, we
pray that they might reach those in the greatest need, that they
might lift those in the deepest despair, and that they might bring
peace and compassion to those who find themselves amidst
conflict. We pray this in the name of that Holy Child, Jesus the
Christ, our Savior and Redeemer! Amen.**

MEDITATION: “Sharing the Light”

Pastor Cindy

PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The deacons will pass the light of Christ as we sing Silent Night. To light your candle, tip the unlit candle toward the lit candle. At the pastor's signal, we will extinguish our candles together, leaving only the Christ Candle burning.

HYMN: "Silent Night, Holy Night"

P. 138

1. Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly host sing alleuia.
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."

3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

BENEDICTION

*RECESSATIONAL HYMN: "Joy to the World"

P. 130

1. 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 heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the Earth! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, And wonders of this love, And wonders,
wonders, of his love.

POSTLUDE: Variations on Antioch Lowell Mason, 1848

A warm welcome to our special guest musicians this Christmas Eve:
Joshua Peiffer, Flute/Vocals; Weichien Huang (Gina), Clarinet/Vocals;
Edan Sabah, Violin: Gage Ackert, Bass.

*Those who are able, please stand.

** Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *The Chalice Worship*.
Copyright © 1999 Chalice Press.

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 Joshua Peiffer, Flute/Vocals; Weichien Huang
(Gina), Clarinet/Vocals; Edan Sabah, Violin: Gage Ackert, Bass.

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 Thursday and Friday,
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 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

2025 POINSETTIA FUND

Donations Provided By



Beth Anderson: In loving memory of my husband Philip DiPeri and parents Robert & Catherine Anderson.

Patience & Martin Benassi: In loving memory of our parents.

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.

Ed & Mary Ellen Collett: In loving memory of Charles & Barbara Collett.

Donle Family

Carl & Lillian Flodquist: In loving memory of our son, David Thomas Flodquist.

Tom & Wendy Glynn: In loving memory of Wendy's dad, Richard Jahoda, and brother, Tom Jahoda, and Tom's parents, Thomas & 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.

Vivian Harris: In loving memory of Edward Harris from his wife Vivian and three sons, Eric, Todd & Matthew.

Carla Hill: In loving memory of: Parents - Phil & Cindy James, Brother - Brian James, Maternal Uncle - Charles Gedney, Paternal Aunt - Marcia Carthaus, In-laws - Barbara & Paul Hill.

Bernie and Elfie Hummel: In loving memory of Bernie and Elfie's parents, Paul & Irmgard Hummel and Martin & Adelheid Dimmlich.

Jeff Hutchins: In loving memory of Thomas Lissey, church musician, uncle of Jeff, Sister of Janet Hutchins.

Jackie Jennings: In loving memory of Diane Santaniello.

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 Ted's parents, Anthony T. and Marion Manzo.

Billy & Jeanne Mecca: In loving memory of Chuck Lampe.

Mickolyzck & Conley Family: In loving memory of Phyllis Pugliese beloved Mom, Grandma, and Great-Grandma.

Carol Mitchell: In loving memory of Jörn & Mary Berg-Johnsen and William S. Dawless.

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.

The Reardon Family: In loving memory of Audrey & George Tilley.

Cheryl Solecki: In loving memory of my beloved husband Tony Solecki.

Catherine Welch: In loving memory of Henry & Martha Griffis, and Betty & Max Welch.





**Merry
Christmas**