

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 28, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**

**First Sunday of Christmas  
Family Sunday**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Arranged. Eugenie Rocherolle

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

V60

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

People: **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Let the seas  
roar and the mountains quake.**

Leader: Everything came into being through the Word. What came  
into being was life, and the life was the light for all people.

People: **Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous  
things.**

Leader: The Word became flesh and blood, and lived among us to  
bring all people to the light.

People: **Let heaven and earth break forth into joyous song,  
singing praises to our God.**

Leader: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not  
overcome it.

**All: Christ, our light, shines forth in glory. Christ, our life,  
brings us grace and truth. Alleluia!**

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

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our siblings throughout the world  
who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our  
hands, this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give  
peace and joy. Amen. Mother Teresa

**\*THE GLORIA PATRI**

P513

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it  
was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end.  
Amen. Amen.

## **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.

### **Children's Message**

Rev. Cindy

### **HYMN: "Hope Is a Star"**

V7

### **THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 98**

P. 543

### **Praise the Judge of the World**

#### **A Psalm.**

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar and all that fills it,  
the world and those who live in it.

<sup>8</sup> Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy

<sup>9</sup> at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

HERE ENDS THE READING.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**HYMN: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

V 48

**THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 1: 1-5**

The Good News Translation

**The Word of Life**

**1** In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** From the very beginning the Word was with God. **3** Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. **4** The Word was the source of life,<sup>[a]</sup> and this life brought light to people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

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

**SERMON: “Let Heaven and Nature Sing”**

Rev. Cindy

**PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Choral Response

**THE OFFERTORY**

\*Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN “Joy to the World”**

V59

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** As with Gladness Men of Old

Arr. by John Leavitt

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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**Deacon** is Sandy Carter.

**Please join us for Fellowship Hour in Carroll Hall immediately following the service.**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Safety Mission Team**

We have been considering ways in which to make our church safer for members and visitors. The Safety Team has met with people from both the police and fire departments to get some advice. One plan we will initiate in the very near future is locking the doors on Sunday morning shortly after the service has started. Anyone who arrives late will have to ring the doorbell at the elevator entrance to be let in. Thanks for your cooperation. We all want our church to be a safe place.  
Cheryl Bogert, for the Safety Mission Team

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS\***

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12/28</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>  <b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP:</b> First Sunday after Christmas  Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12/29</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b> <b>4:00</b>	<b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b> <b>BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/30</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> <b>12:00 p.m.</b> <b>6:00</b>	<b>Al-Anon (K)</b> <b>PLP (Library)</b> <b>BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12/31</b>		<b>New Year’s Eve</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1/1</b>		<b>New Years Day: Office Closed</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1/2</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1/3</b>	<b>7:30 a.m.</b>	<b>MENS FELLOWSHIP (CH)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1/4</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>  <b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Second Sunday after Christmas  Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Edward Collett 12/29, Elfie Hummel 12/30, Tanner DiVito 12/30, Alec DiVito 12/30, Bill Rose 12/31, Evan Schweickert 01/01, Genoveive Doyon 01/01, Lily Corcoran 01/02.

## ***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.

# 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  
Susan Compton  
Kim & Tom Coughlin  
George & Florence Coulston  
Jim & Leslie Dockendorff  
Laura & Dave Donle  
Ken & Ann Dubar  
Doris Ferner  
Carl & Lillian Flodquist  
Gail Fulop  
Jody & Rich Gallagher  
Sara & Brian Gannon  
Merrilee & George Gladkosky  
Wendy & Tom Glynn  
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  
Ross Lanius  
Carol Lasse  
Nancy & Ken Mahoney  
Ted & Joyce Manzo  
Rhonda & John Masnato  
Barbara & Rick Massey  
Jeanne & William Mecca  
Kathleen & Robert Mickolyszck  
Carol Mitchell  
Bryant & Sara Munson  
Dave & Barbara Nelson  
Lynne & Rob Nielsen  
William Olmstead  
Stephen & Mabel Peterson  
Dot Pierce  
Damon & Gressa Quinn  
Jeanne Reardon  
Lynn Reardon  
Betsey Reid  
Jane & Tom Romans  
Robert Scheidecker  
Adam & Julie Schweickert  
Stephen & Linda Simonson  
Cheryl Solecki  
Peter & Vicky Struk Jr.  
John & Sue Tibor  
Doris Vigliotto  
Catherine Welch

Pledges as of 12-22-25

With Thanks from the Generosity  
Mission Team: Joan Bennett, Cheryl  
Bogert, Priscilla Bradford, Sue  
Cifelli, and Mabel Peterson  
Pledges as of 12-22-25



**\*OPENING HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

V60

G D G D G C G D  
 1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 God of God, light of light,  
 3 Sing, choirs of ang - els, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 See how the shep - herds sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
 5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

Em D A D G D G D A D

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem:  
 lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb;  
 ♦ sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove;  
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh with low - ly fear;  
 Je - sus, to thee be glo - ry given;

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 ve - ry God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted:  
 ♦ glo - ry to God in the high - est:  
 we too will thi - ther bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
 word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

G D

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,  
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,

G D7 G D Em D G C G D G  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.  
 ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.



Unison C

1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
2 Peace is a rib - bon that cir - cles the earth,  
3 Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,  
4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart,

F C Dm7 Fmaj7 Gsus4 G

lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.  
giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.  
tell - ing the world that the Sav - iour is born.  
Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

Refrain Am F G C Am

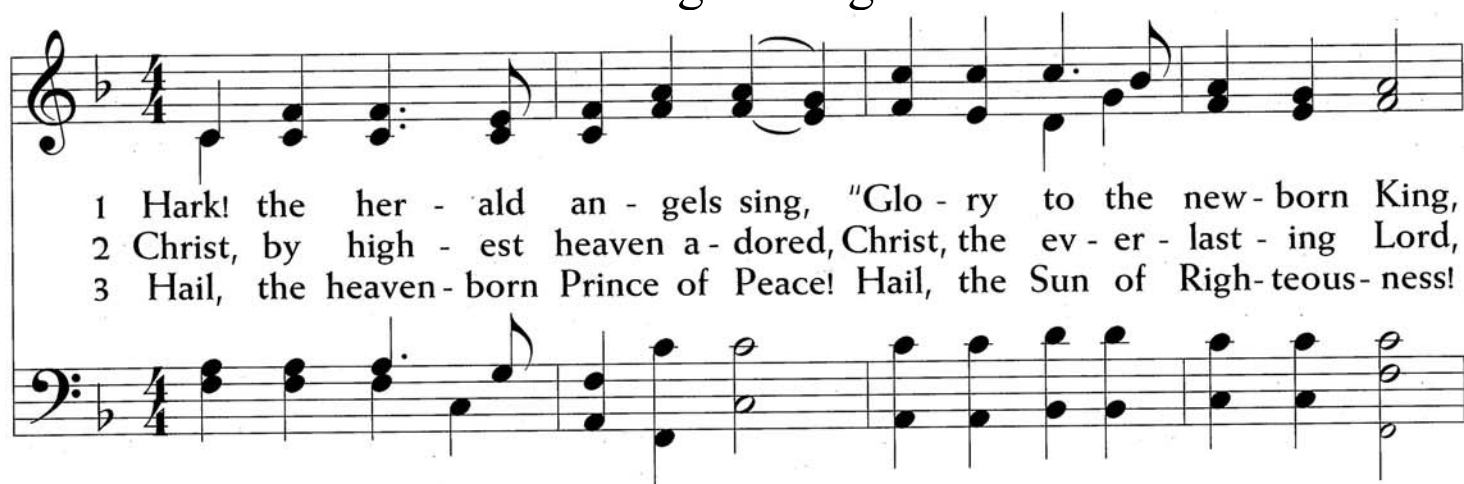
When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be

F G C Am F Dm7 C

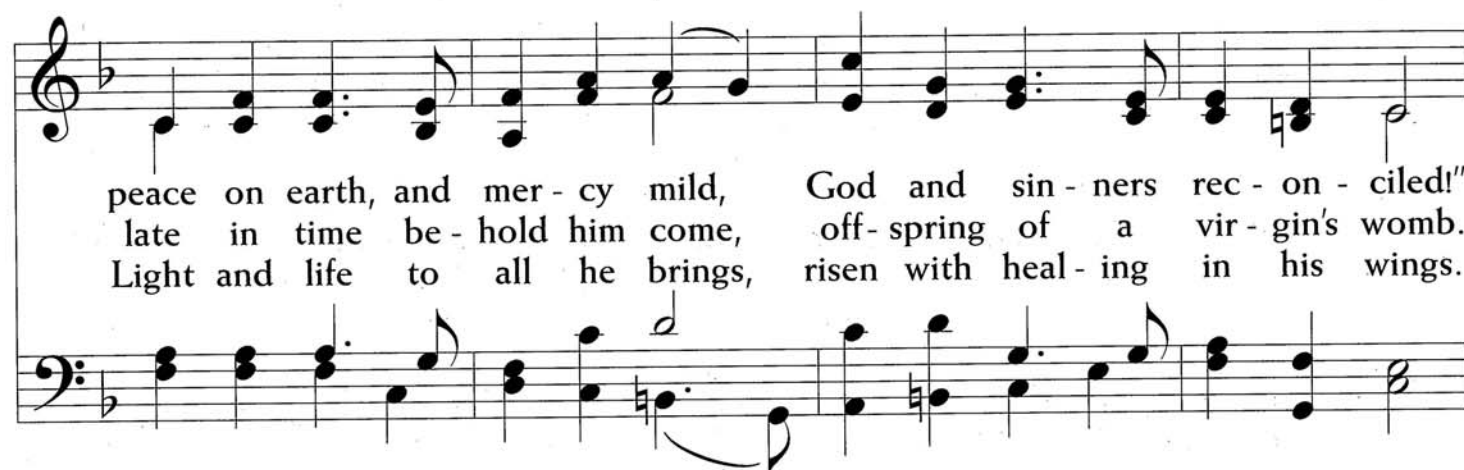
first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

# HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

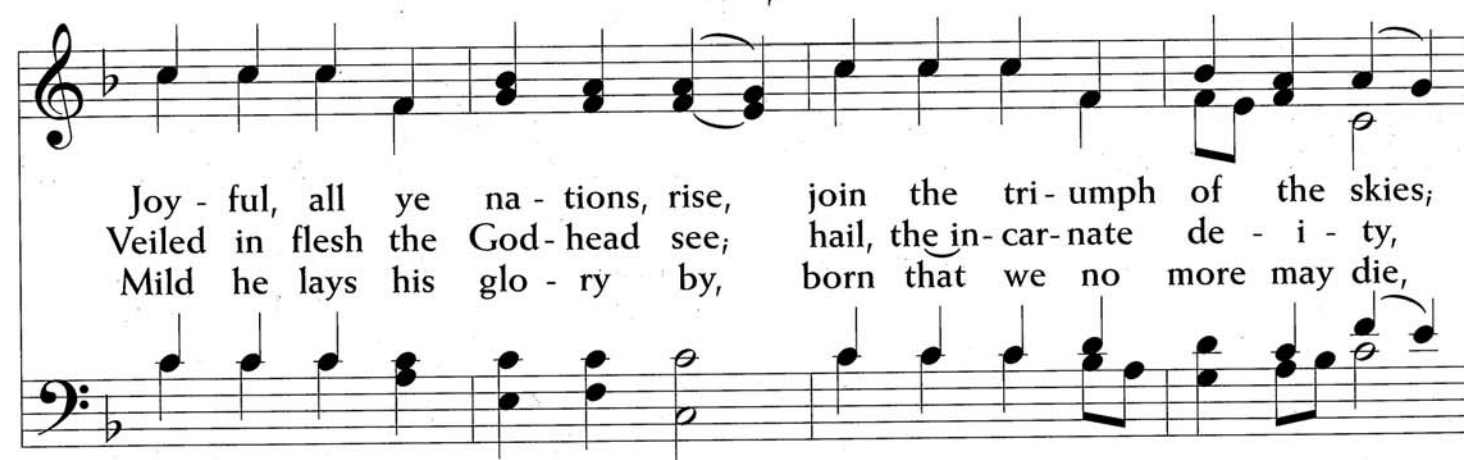
V 48



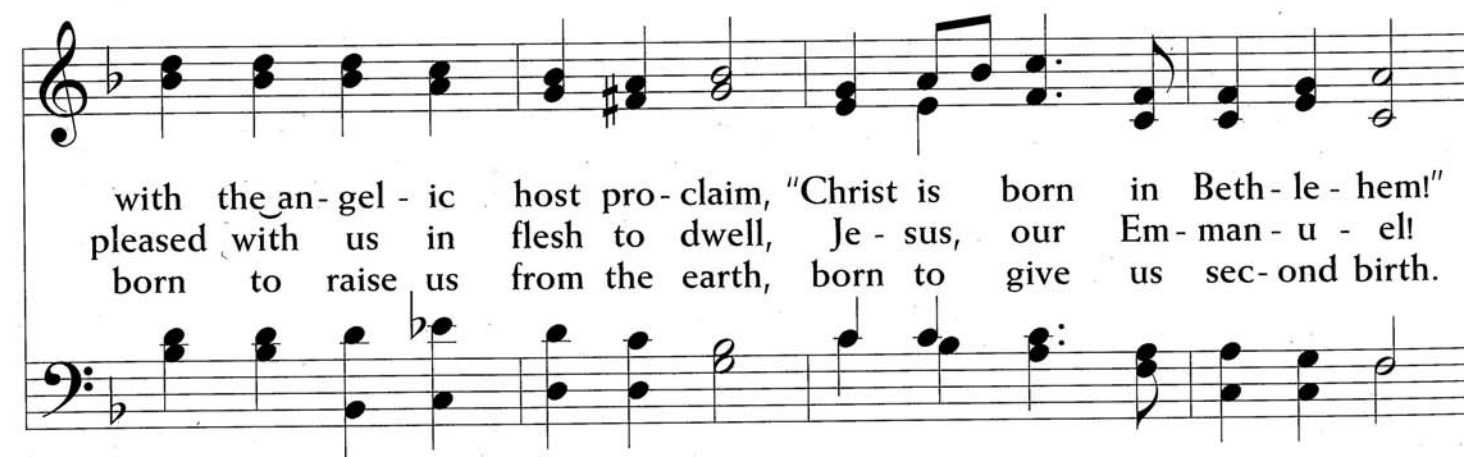
1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King,  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



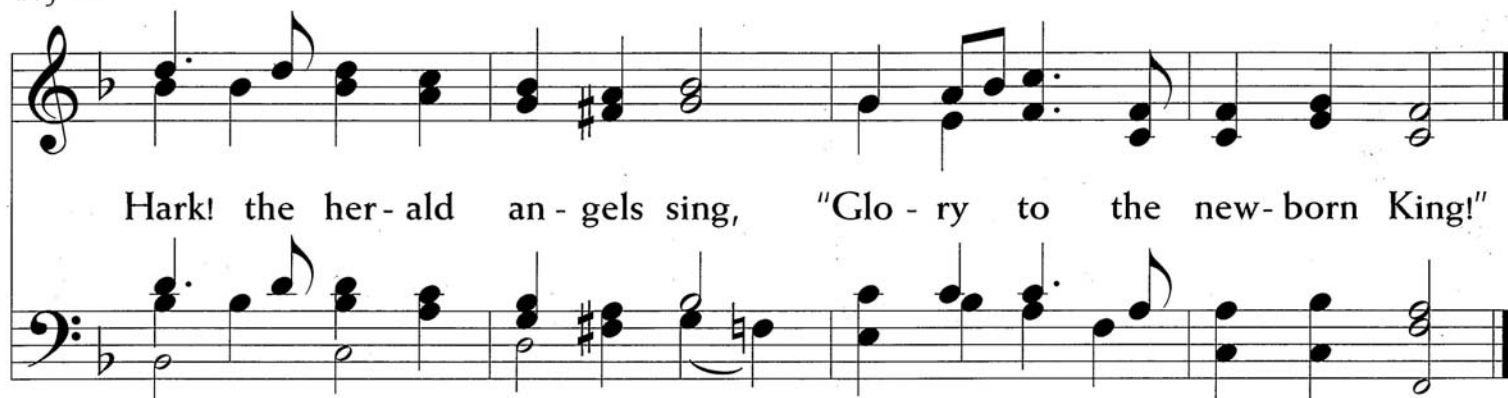
Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail, the in - car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

CHRISTMAS

Refrain



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



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth! the Sa - viour reigns: let all their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions



King! Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him  
ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and  
ground: he comes to make his bless - ings  
prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room, and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,





**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