



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 25, 2022

9:55 am

AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE

RINGING OF THE CHIMES ‘Chestnuts Roasting By An Open Fire’

WELCOME

Rev: Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey

All: You are welcome here!

Rev: Whether for this morning, for a year, or for a lifetime

All: You are welcome here!

Rev: Whether answering the call of Christmas, or the call of the Holy Spirit

All: You are welcome here!

Rev: Whether seeking, questioning or secure in your faith

All: You are welcome here!

Rev: All who have come to worship this morning

All: You are welcome here!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ‘Angels From The Realms of Glory’

No. 149

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING **“CHRIST”**

One: Hope looked down and saw an empty vast

All: “I will go there,” said Hope.

One: Peace looked down and saw discord and war.

All: “I will go there,” said Peace.

One: Joy looked down and saw loneliness and despair.

All: “I will go there,” said Joy.

One: Love looked down and saw hatred and apathy.

All: “I will go there,” said Love.

One: Light looked down and saw the lost, searching in darkness

All: “I will go there,” said Jesus.

ADVENT PRAYER *(in unison)*

God of Advent, You have brought us together in eager anticipation of the birth of the baby Jesus. Allow Your spirit to be born anew in our hearts this night. Open our lips that we may too, sing the songs of hope, peace, joy and love. Allow the light of the world, radiating from the manger, to illuminate our lives. May the flame of these candles remind us that You are the light of the world and we shall never walk in darkness; Amen.

***HYMN**

'When God Is A Child'

No. 132

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1: 9-14

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

SERMON

"Opening God's Christmas Presents"

HOPE

Pastor Ann-Marie

HYMN

"What Child Is This?" (vs.1 & 2)

No. 162

PEACE

Pastor Holly

HYMN

"Go Tell It On the Mountain" (vs. 1 & 3)

No. 167

JOY

Pastor Ann-Marie

HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1 & 4)

No. 148

LOVE

Sue Koza

HYMN

"The First Noel" (1 & 2)

No. 151

CHRIST

Pastor Holly

HYMN

"O Thou Joyful"

No. 169

PASTORAL PRAYER

God of angels and starlight, God of shepherds and stables, God of Christmas glory, tonight we gather to hear the story that binds together all humankind. God who lives among us, God who shares our joys and sorrows, God who lives within each and every piece of creation, we listen with eager anticipation for the song of the angels to awakens our lives. For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given. May the light of His birth shine *in* and *for* and *through* us. Glory to God in the Highest! Amen.

Come and Light a Candle...



IMPROVISED MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Anton Faynberg

During this time, we invite you to take a moment for quiet reflection

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN

'O Little Town of Bethlehem' (vs. 1 & 4)

No. 144

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

IMPROVISED MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Anton Faynberg

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'Thank You, Lord'

No. 531

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

'Angels We Have Heard On High' (vs. 1 & 3)

No.155

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participating in Todays Worship Service:

Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick, Bridge Pastor

Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor

Rev. Mary Perry, Guest Pastor

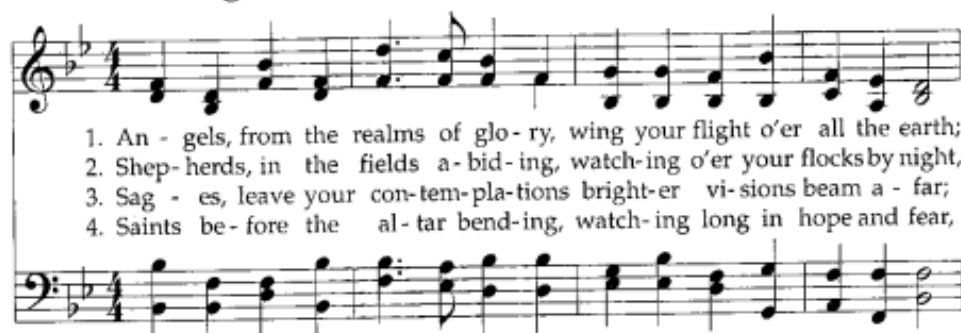
Murray Kidd, Music Director

Anton Faynberg, Organist/Pianist

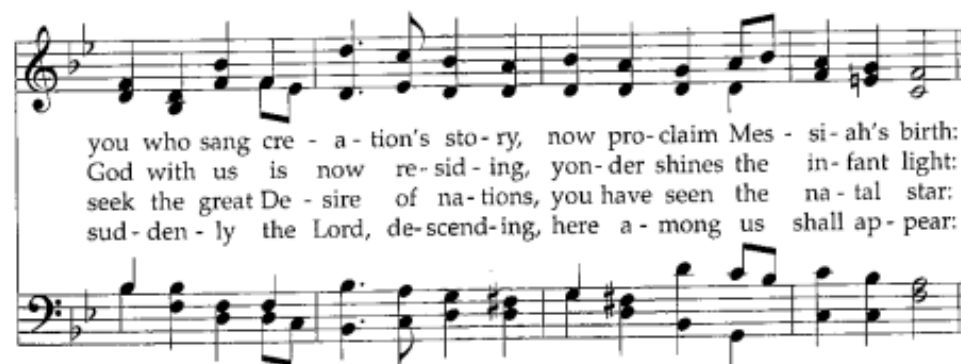
Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Angels, from the Realms of Glory 149

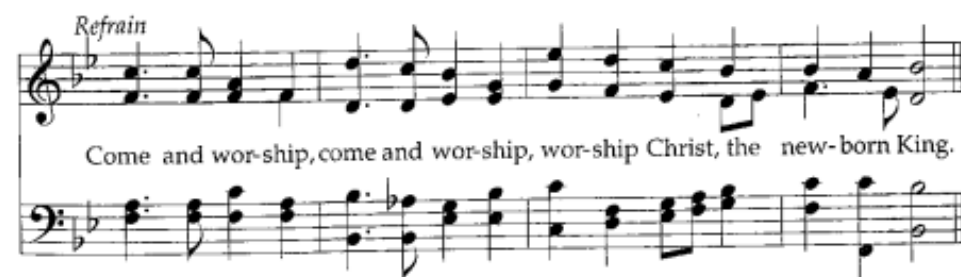


1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,



you who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:
seek the great De - sire of na - tions, you have seen the na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, here a - mong us shall ap - pear:

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

REGENT SQUARE
87.87.87

Unison

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
 2. Peace is a ribbon 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.

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 - ior is born.
 Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

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 a - fraid.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985
 MUSIC: Joan Collier Fogg, 1987

MOON BEAMS
 Irr. w. refrain

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♩=112

1. What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3. So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,

Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Christ-ian, fear: for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.
 the King of kings sal-va-tion brings, let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma-ry.

WORDS: William C. Dix, c. 1865
 MUSIC: English melody (16th century)

GREENSLEEVES
 87.87 w. refrain

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain F B \flat F Dm C Dm C F Am C7

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;

F B \flat F Dm F7 Gm F C7 F *Fine*

go, tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born.

F B \flat F Dm C7 Dm C7 F

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo! a-bove the earth,
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

F B \flat F G G7 C7 *D.C.*

be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed the Sav-ior's birth.
and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

WORDS: African-American spiritual; adapt. John W. Work, Jr., 1907
MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, 1986

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
Irr. w. refrain

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful, and tri - um - phant,
 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 for our sal - va - tion,

O 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;

Descant
 3, 4. O come, O come,

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

WORDS: John Francis Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakley, 1841, and others
 MUSIC: John Francis Wade, 1743; desc. David Willcocks, 1961

ADESTE FIDELES
 1st. w. refrain

Desc. © 1961 Oxford University Press

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

The First Noel

1. The first No - el, the an - gel did say, was to
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing
 3. And by the light of that same star three
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, full

1. cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 2. in the east, be - yond them far, and to the
 3. wise men came from coun - try far; to seek for a
 4. Beth - le - hem it took its rest, and there it
 5. rev - erent - ly up - on their knee, and of - fered

1. they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 2. earth it gave great light, and so it con -
 3. king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the
 4. did both stop and stay, right ov - er the
 5. there, in his pres - ence, their gold and

WORDS: Traditional English carol (17th century)
 MUSIC: Traditional English melody; desc. Healey Willan, 1926

THE FIRST NOEL
 Irr. w. refrain

Desc. used by permission of Oxford University Press

Descant
 No - el, No - el, No -

Refrain
 1. night that was so deep,
 2. tin - ued both day and night.
 3. star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 4. place where Je - sus lay.
 5. myrrh and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.
 el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

O Thou Joyful (¡Oh Santísimo!)

1. O thou joy - ful, O thou won - der - ful grace - re - veal - ing
 2. O thou joy - ful, O thou won - der - ful love - re - veal - ing

1. ¡Oh san - tí - si - mo, fe - li - cí - si - mo, Gra - to tiem - po de
 2. ¡Oh san - tí - si - mo, fe - li - cí - si - mo, Gra - to tiem - po de

Christ - mas - tide! Je - sus came to win us from all sin with -
 Christ - mas - tide! Loud ho - san - nas sing - ing and all prais - es

Na - vi - dad! A es - te mun - do he - ri - do, Cris - to le ha na -
 Na - vi - dad! Co - ros ce - les - tia - les O - yen los mor -

in us; glo - ri - fy the ho - ly child!
 bring - ing; may Thy love with us a - bide!

ci - do: ¡A - le - grí - a, a - le - grí - a, cris - tian - dad!
 ta - les: ¡A - le - grí - a, a - le - grí - a, cris - tian - dad!

WORDS: Johannes D. Falk; Eng. tr. Henry Katterjohn, 1919;
 Span. tr. Federico Fliedner
 MUSIC: Tattersall's *Psalmody*, 1794

O SANCTISSIMA
 457.667

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is - given!
 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.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the joys of high - est heaven.
 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.
 No ear may hear Christ com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 Your voic - es raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our God, Em - man - u - el.

1. Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you,
 2. Been so good, been so good, been so
 3. Been my friend, been my friend, been my

Lord,
 good,
 friend,
 I just want to thank you,
 I just want to thank you,
 I just want to thank you,
 Lord.
 Lord.
 Lord.

WORDS: Traditional African-American song
 MUSIC: Traditional African-American melody; harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland and
 Verolga Nix, alt.

THANK YOU, LORD
 333.7

155 Angels We Have Heard on High

Descant

4. See with - in a man - ger laid, Christ, whom choirs of

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ, who comes in
 4. See with - in a man - ger laid, Christ, whom choirs of

an - gels praise; Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,
 o'er the plains, and the moun - tains in re - ply
 strains pro - long? What the glad - some tid - ings be
 low - ly birth. Come a - dore on bend - ed knee
 an - gels praise; Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,

Refrain

while our hearts in love we raise. Ah!

ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Je - sus, joy of heav'n and earth. Glo - - -
 while our hearts in love we raise.

WORDS: Traditional French carol; tr. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt.
 MUSIC: French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937;
 harm. Austin C. Lovelace, 1964, alt.; desc. Richard E. Gerig, 1956

GLORIA
 77.77 w. refrain

Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House; desc. © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.

Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o! Ah!

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!