

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ*

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

December 16, 2018

10:30 AM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTER CHURCH. We are glad you have joined us for this service of worship and the fellowship of this congregation. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by the Word of God for us today. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Any of our worship leaders or ushers will be able to help with your questions. If you are already a member, be sure to extend a friendly greeting to those around you, starting with someone you don't know...yet.

*Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices
before the service of Worship begins.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*"Why do the nations rage and imagine vain and foolish things?"
~ Psalm 2*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

COMING BEFORE GOD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

PRELUDE

Away In A Manger

Jaroslav Lis and Virginia Kramer, Violins

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Amanda Evans Carabase, Harpist

O Holy Night

Jaroslav Lis and Virginia Kramer, Violins

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

15th -century French Melody

PLEASE STAND.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Zechariah sings! Mary sings! Angels sing!
We cannot tell the story of Jesus' coming without music.

**People: "And still through cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled.
And still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world."**

Leader: "Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing."

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 125

GLORIA

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

(The candle of Joy is lighted.)

HYMN

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child

No. 136

WONDERFUL CHILD

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
New light, new hope the Child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing, "Glory, glory, glory,"
Let the heavens ring!

THE PASSING OF PEACE

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us bless each other with the peace of Christ.

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

Please be seated.

(Tenor) There were shepherds at night in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, and silently keeping their watch by night over the sleeping flocks around them. *(Alto)* And, lo! An angel of the Lord appeared, standing there beside them: and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid at His coming. *(Tenor)* And unto them the angel said: *(Soprano)* Fear not: oh ye shepherds. For, behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born today a Saviour. Christ, the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be the sign be; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger low. *(Baritone)* And suddenly there was with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:
(Chorus) Glory be unto God in the highest! And on earth peace, good will unto all men.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:1-14

NRSV: New Testament, pg. 933

(Mezzo-Soprano Solo) Patiently have I waited for the Lord. And lo, he heard my cry.
(Tenor Solo with Women's Chorus) In my heart I believe, O Lord that Thou indeed art Christ, Son of the Living God. He who was to come into this world.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:24-25, 57-58

NRSV: New Testament, pg. 933

(Soprano and Baritone Duet) Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord. God, the Lord of Light, He hath shined upon us. and he has given us light. Thou alone my God art; and all my trust is in thee. Oh Lord Thou art my God, I will exalt thee and praise Thy name.
(Chorus) Wherefore do the heathen clamor? Why do the nations imagine vain and foolish things? Glory unto to the Father and to the Son and Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-32, 39-46a

NRSV: New Testament, pg. 933

(Soprano, Tenor and Baritone Trio) My soul doth magnify the Lord; my spirit hath rejoiced in God. For mine eyes have seen Thy glory.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

(= traditional wording but you may use alternative wording, such as "God," "Creator," or "Mother," as seems fitting.)*

(Quartet) Alleluia. Ye heavens sing praises. Be joyful on earth. For the Lord hath poured his consolation upon his people, and He to His afflicted.

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

(We encourage you to use offering envelopes when giving.)

Offertory Music

What Child is This?

16th -century English Melody

Amanda Evans Carabase, Harpist

PLEASE STAND AS THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD.

Hymn of Presentation

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

ADESTE FIDELIS (ENGLISH MELODY)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O Mighty One, you have done and are doing great things for and through us, and you are holy and amazing. Bless all we offer you – time, possessions, passions-that your grace and favor may be made known in all the world. In Jesus' name; amen.

GOING FORTH

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.

CLOSING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 144

MENDELSSOHN

BENEDICTION

PLEASE BE SEATED.

CHORAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

(Chorus) Praise ye the Lord of Hosts, Sing His salvation. Bless His Name, show forth His praise, In His holy house! Rejoice, ye heavens and be joyful on earth, rejoice in the face of the Lord, for He cometh. Alleuia!