

An Open and Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Christ



Order of Worship for December 26, 2021, 10:30am

Welcome to Worship at Center Church! We are delighted that you are with us today.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It is not over, this birthing. There are always newer skies into which God can throw stars..."
-Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

*Please rise in body or spirit.

CHIMES

PRELUDE

Kyle Brazauski, Guest Organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

If attending in person, we encourage you to greet each other verbally or by a friendly wave of peace.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: Children are precious to God. The child Samuel grew in God's favor and the child Jesus grew likewise.

All: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

Leader: Older adults and elders are precious to God. Young and old together praise God's name.

All: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

Leader: Creation is precious to God: cedars, mountains, snow & frost, shining stars.

All: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

INVOCATION Pastor Donna Cassity

*OPENING CAROL: Angels We Have Heard On High

GLORIA

All carols are printed in the back of the bulletin

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

OLD TESTAMENT READING 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

SERMON: Give Yourself to God Pastor Donna Cassity

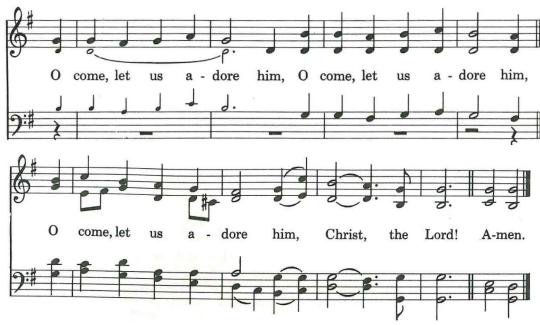
*CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

CALL TO OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY: O Come Let Us Adore Him



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Just as you, Holy God, crossed every conceivable barrier by taking on flesh and teaching on behalf of the outcast and poor, we are called to respond in kind by your grace. May the gifts offered today aid truly your work of reconciliation and peace in our world. Amen.

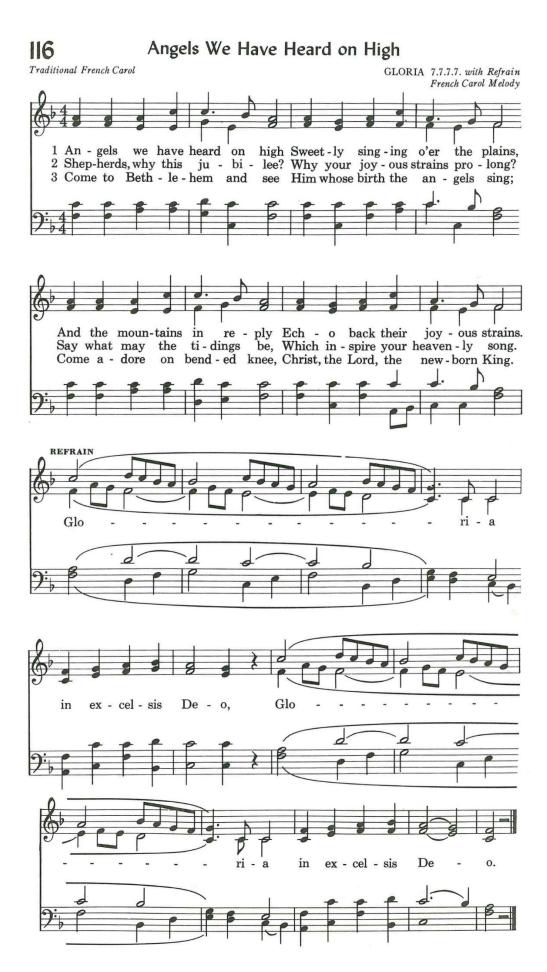
*CLOSING CAROL: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN printed in the back of the bulletin

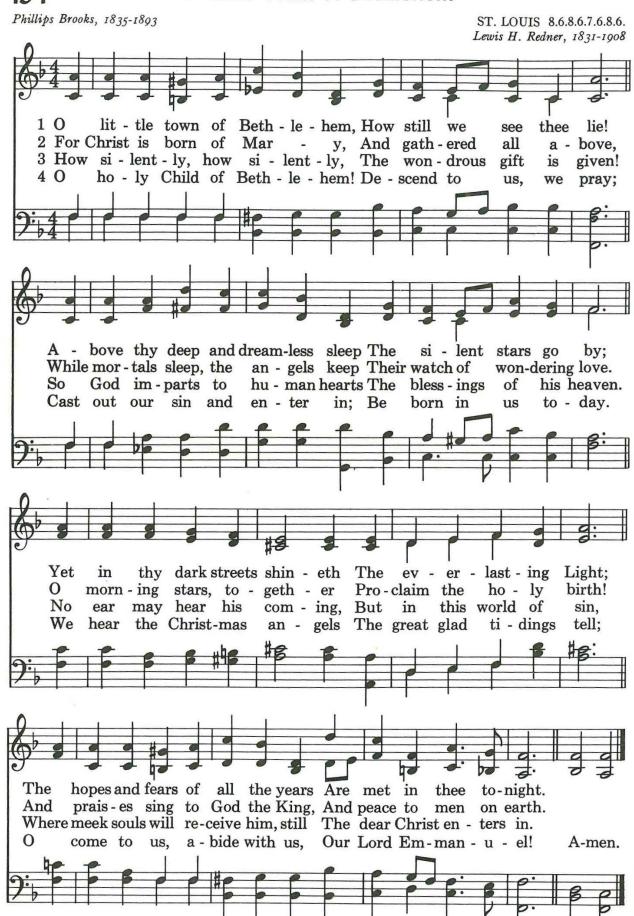
*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Our thanks to everyone who created today's service. Go in peace!



O Little Town of Bethlehem



Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D. with Refrain Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847 Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1831-1915 "Glo-ry to the 1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, new-born King; 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! right-eous-ness! 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Peace on earth, and mer-cy mild, Vir-gin's womb. Late in time be - hold him Off-spring of the come, in his wings, Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing Joy - ful, all ye Join the tri-umph of the skies; na-tions, rise, Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty, Mild he lays his glo-ry Born that man no more may die, host pro-claim, "Christ is in Beth - le - hem!" With the an-gel - ic born Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man-u-el. give them sec - ond birth. Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to REFRAIN Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry the new-born King!"A-men. to

Center Church News & Announcements

Subscribe to our E-News newsletter for up-to-date news and happenings at Center Church:https://centerchurchhartford.org/ https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/OzymYij/CenterChurch

And, don't forget to follow us on FB!



f FACEBOOK

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

A member of the United Church of Christ (UCC) CENTER CHURCH, 60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT 06103 Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30am to 3:30pm Library Hours by Appointment P 860.249.5631 F 860.246.3915 www.centerchurchhartford.org

Bridge Senior Pastor: The Reverend Donna Cassity (ext. 202)

If you'd like to meet with Pastor Donna, please schedule a time by calling Emily in the office at 860-249-5631 ext. 200

Minister Emeritus: The Reverend J. Alan McLean Director of Music/Organist: Robert F. Gilbert (ext. 204) Coordinator for Justice & Faith Formation Ministries: Dr. Eric Hearst (ext 209)

Church Office Manager: Emily McKenna (ext. 200)

Bookkeeper: Brenda Russell (ext. 201)

Sextons: Thomas St. Amant and Ileia Belton Sunday Meals Program Coordinator: Carrie Howe (ext 205)

Nursery Care: Tina Franklin

Hymns and Service Music reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-708141

Would you like to learn more about Center Church? Email us at info@cchartford.org

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING Congregation. "We include into full participation in the life of this church persons of any age, race, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, marital status andphysical, emotional and mental capacity" (from the statement adopted October 23, 1994.) In recognition of the richness of backgrounds of our congregation, a DIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES will find expression in our worship services. Center Church offers an OPEN COMMUNION. Adults and children from all religious backgrounds are invited to partake. TEXT ALERTS To receive text alerts regarding church activities and cancellations, please textthe word CENTER to (860) 300-3697. (Message and data rates may apply according to your data plan.)

FACEBOOK LIVE We livestream our worship services on Facebook each week, and your presence here constitutes your permission for your image to be shown. If you prefer not to be seen, speak with the minister or whoever is operating the phone up front to determine where a good seat might be to avoid the camera. Our viewership is growing and we are excited to welcome a congregation in cyberspace!

Church Information

ON STREET PARKING is available during Sunday Worship Services on Gold Street and on the west side of Lewis Street, and is FREE on Sundays. The church is maintaining our relationship with the Traveler's Garage which is temporarily closed due to Covid-19. Stay tuned as we partner with other garages in the area.

REST ROOMS are located in the basement of the Meeting House. Please use the stairs in the southeastcorner of the building. For safety, please have an adult accompany your child to the restroom.

CHURCH SCHOOL is held at the Church House (60 Gold Street) for preschool to 12th Grade. Children are to remain with their families in the Meeting House during worship until they depart for Church School following the Children's Moment. Please pick your child up promptly at 12:00pm. For their safety, childrenwill remain with their Church School instructor until an adult picks them up. Church School is not held during the Summer.

CHILDCARE and NURSERY care are provided by trained, capable, and nurturing staff and volunteers, and is available in the Meeting House basement for infants and toddlers (up to two years of age.) A nursery without staff is also located on the second floor of the Church House.

CURRENT SUNDAY ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES Announcements regarding AdultEducation classes are announced in our publications.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS to the sanctuary is via the lift outside at the south end of the portico. If possible, please call the church office in advance for assistance in using the lift.

The latest issue of **CENTER CHURCH** *E-NEWS* is available on our church website. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, please contact us at info@cchartford.org / 860-249-5631