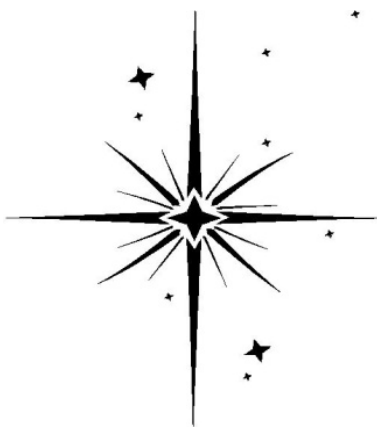


# A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



*Sunday, December 10, 2017*

*4:00 p.m.*

*Rocky Hill Congregational Church*

# Welcome to our annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



*Everyone is invited to join heartily in the singing of the carols.*

## *Let silence be kept*

Please silence your cell phones, pagers, watch alarms, and all other electronic devices prior to the start of the service. Thank you!

## *The Lessons*

are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible and are read by representatives of the ministries and programs of Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

## *Latecomers*

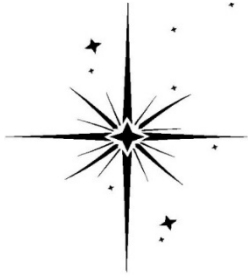
will be seated at the instruction of the ushers, at the time of welcome and during the singing of the congregational carols.

## *Donations*

received at the time of the offering will be given to Rocky Hill Human Services to help our neighbors in need.

## *Following the Festival*

everyone is invited to Chapin Hall for refreshments.



## *About the Service*

This special Christmas service is held by Christians around the world, in many and varied settings. In small churches and in great cathedrals, people gather to celebrate the story of Christ's coming, in word and music.

The original service was held in 1880, in a small wooden church in Truro, England. Bishop E. W. Benson, who later became Archbishop of Canterbury, wanted a small service for Christmas Eve. His son reported, "My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine lessons and nine tiny carols, which were read by the various officers of the church, beginning with a chorister and ending with the Bishop." In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Dean of King's College in England adapted the service to an order close to what we use today, while keeping traditional elements, such as the customary singing of "Once in Royal David's City" as the opening carol. Through the years, and in various settings, the music and the prayers may change, but the spirit remains the same.

The service that we share with you this afternoon reflects our desire to include the entire congregation in the telling of this beautiful story...our readers and musicians are young and old, new members and long-time members, clergy and representatives of the various ministry areas of our church. We hope that the words and music you hear will touch you, remind you of what we celebrate in this season, and deepen your experience of Christmas.

# *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*



## ***Preludes***

*"Sleep, Holy Babe"*

*Dykes*

*"God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"*

*English Carol*

*"Good Christian Men Rejoice"*

*German Carol*

*Jared Maynard, guitar*

*"In the Bleak Mid-Winter"*

*Gustav Holst*

*arr. Karen Buckwalter*

*Handbell Choir*

## ***Welcome***

*Rev. Craig L. Cowing*

## ***\*Opening Carol for Congregation and Choir***

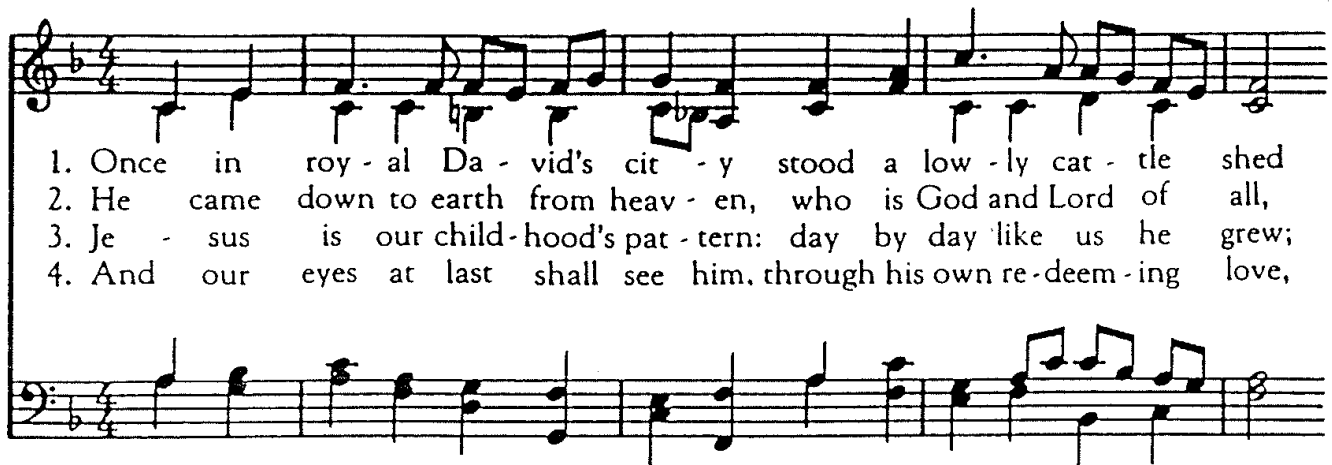
*"Once in Royal David's City"*

*Victoria Bower, soloist*

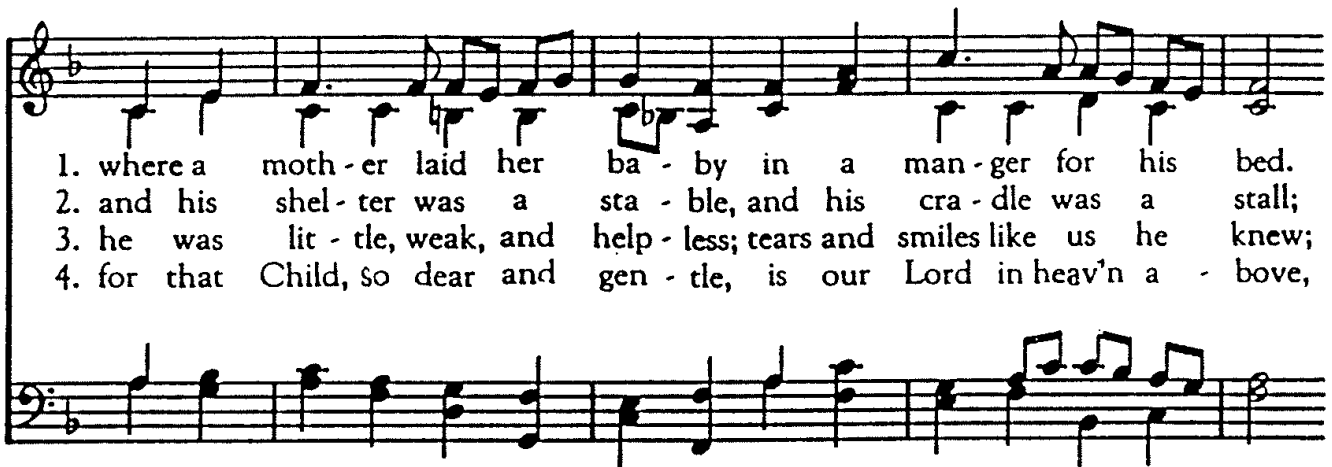
*The congregation joins in singing stanzas three, four, and five*

*\*An asterisk indicates for all to please rise in body or in spirit*

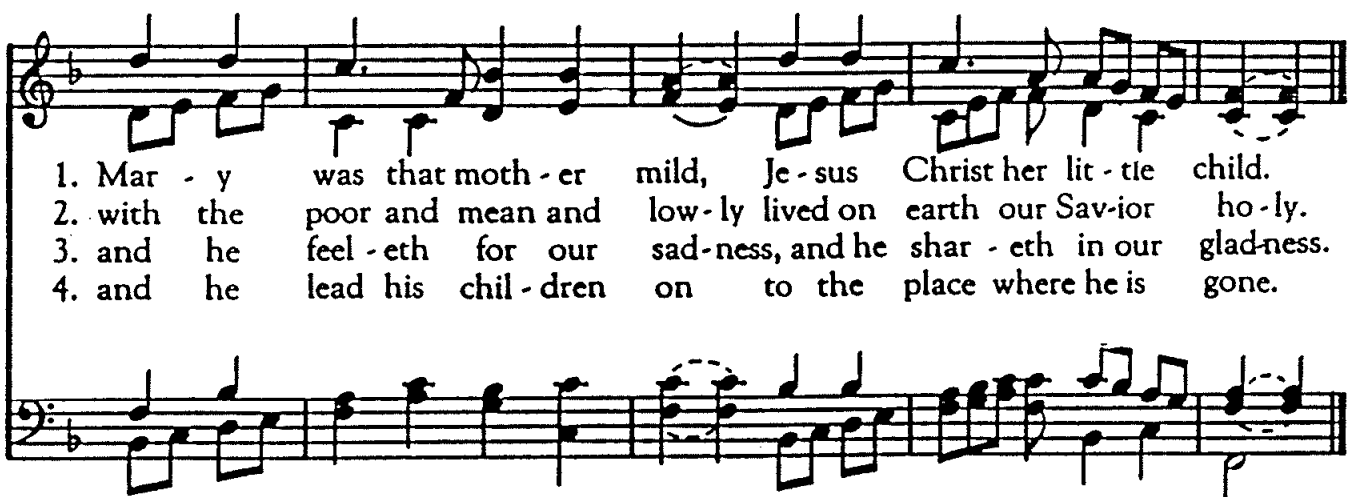
## \*Once in Royal David's City



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed  
2. He came down to earth from heav - en, who is God and Lord of all,  
3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern: day by day like us he grew;  
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love,



1. where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed.  
2. and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
3. he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less; tears and smiles like us he knew;  
4. for that Child, so dear and gen - tle, is our Lord in heav'n a - bove,



1. Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
2. with the poor and mean and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
3. and he feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.  
4. and he lead his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.

5. Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars his children rise  
Singing praises in the skies.

## *\*Bidding Prayer*

Beloved in Christ, this day it is our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe, lying in the manger. Therefore, let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save, for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples. And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not our Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude who no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

## *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.

## *The Blessing*

May the almighty God bless us with divine grace, may Christ give us the joy of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above, may the Spirit of Love bring us all. Amen.

*Invitatory Carol*

*"On Christmas Night"*

*Traditional Carol*

*arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams*

*Choir with the Children and Youth Chorus*

On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the Angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the Angels bring.  
News of great joy, news of great mirth.  
News of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before thy grace,  
Then life and health come in its place  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing tonight.  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing tonight.  
Glory to God and peace to men.  
Now and for evermore. Amen.

# *The First Lesson*

# *Genesis 3:8-15*

*Chris Sheehan*

*God tells Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

*Choir*

*"The Apple Tree"*

*Mark Schweizer*

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree,  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree,  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:  
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree,  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,  
Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be,  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree,  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive,  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree,  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.



## *The Second Lesson*

*The Prophet foretells the coming of a Savior*

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

*Bob Carberry*

*Choir*

*“Loving Shepherd” from Cantata 208  
Katie Hoffman-Fulda and Jillian Maynard, flute*

*J.S. Bach*

Loving Shepherd, comfort and guide us,  
Keep us in thy tender care.  
And in thy mercy stay beside us,  
Safely thy lambs now gather,  
Bring us in faith together,  
And thy pastures now prepare,  
And thy pastures now prepare.

And when I walk with darkness around me,  
Thou art near and I will fear no ill.  
So with thy love and kindness surround me,  
Goodness and mercy bringing,  
From living springing,  
Lord of Love grant me thy comfort still,  
Lord of Love grant me thy comfort still.

## *The Third Lesson*

*The Prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile*

***Isaiah 40:1-8***

*Max Kainamura*

*Solo*

*“Come Unto Him” from The Messiah  
Melody Hall, soprano; Dave Hall, cello*

*G.F. Handel*

Come unto Him,  
all ye that labour,  
come unto Him that are heavy laden,  
and He will give you rest.  
Take his yoke upon you,  
and learn of Him,  
for He is meek and lowly of heart,  
and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

(Matthew 11: 28-29)



# The Fourth Lesson

*A vision of the peaceable kingdom*

*Isaiah 11:1-6*

*Georgette Huie*

\*Carol for Congregation and Choir

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy  
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is-rael's strength and con - so -  
now thy gra-cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of  
spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.  
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

# ***The Fifth Lesson***

*The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary*

**Luke 1:26-38**

*Will McKenna*

*“Catalonian Carol”*

*Traditional,  
arr. La Plante*

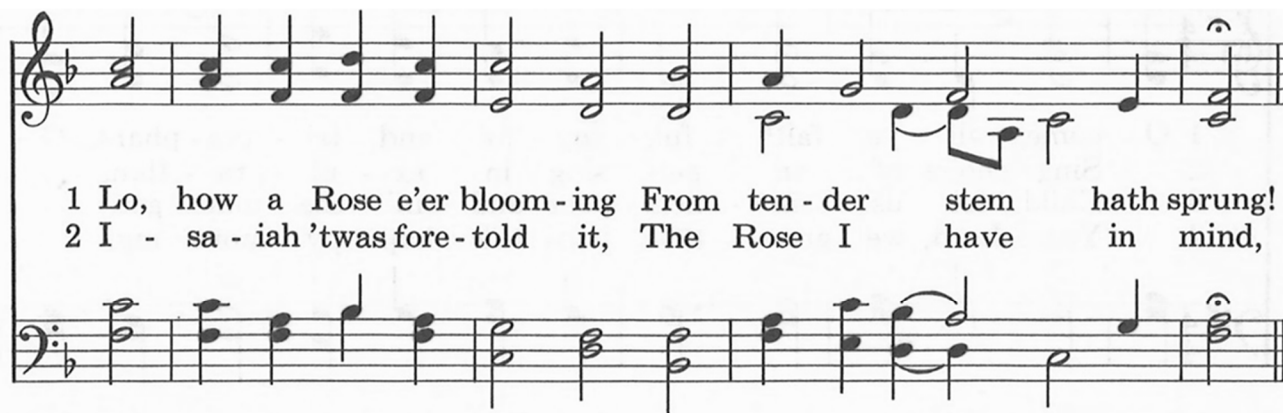
*Woodwind Ensemble:*

*Katie Hoffman-Fulda and Jillian  
Maynard, flute; Gail Hall, clarinet;  
Melody Hall, cello; Dave Hall, cello*

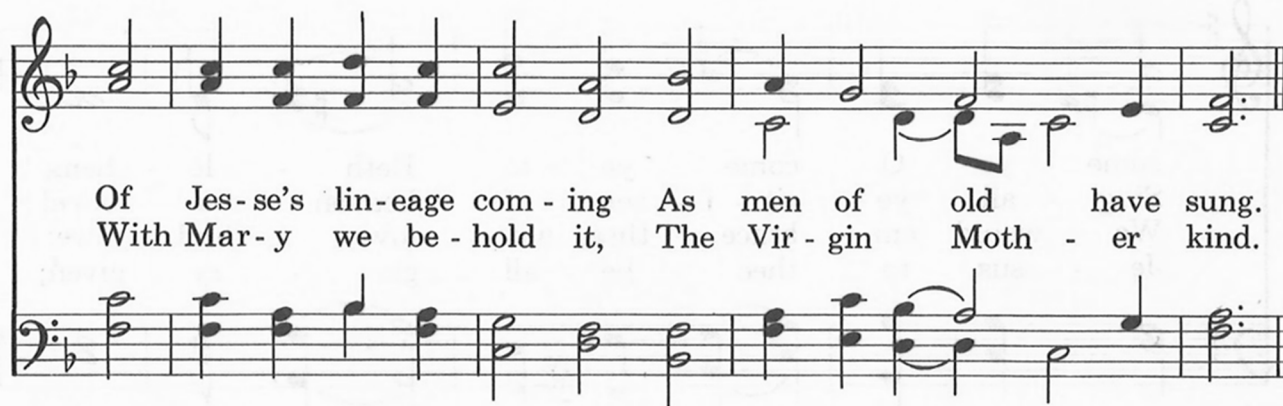


*\*Carol for Congregation and Choir*

*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in mind,



Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As men of old have sung.  
With Mar - y we be - hold it, The Vir - gin Moth - er kind.



It came, a flower - et bright, A - mid the cold of  
To show God's love a - right, She bore to men a



win - ter, When half spent was the night.  
Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.

# *The Sixth Lesson*

*The birth of Jesus*

*Luke 2:1-7*

*Hannah Fuller*

*Choir*

*“Salvator Mundi Natus Est”*

*Gustav Holst*

*Melody Hall, soprano; Dave Hall, baritone*

*Gail Tanguay, accompanist*

In Bethlehem that noble place  
As by prophecy said it was,  
Of Virgin Mary full of grace,  
Salvator Mundi natus est.

On Christmas Night an angel told,  
To Shepherds watching o’er their fold,  
“In Bethlehem with beasties wolde,  
Salvator mundi natus est”.  
Be we merry in this feast,  
In quo Salvator natus est.

Behold to you we bring great joy  
For why? Jesus is born today  
To us of Mary that holy May,  
Salvator Mundi natus est.  
Be we merry in this feast,  
In quo Salvator natus est.

Then compassed were the shepherds quite,  
Around them shone a great light  
“Dread ye naught,” said the angel bright,  
Salvator Mundi natus est.  
Be we merry in this feast,  
In quo Salvator natus est.

“And thus in faith find him ye shall,  
Lying poorly in oxen stall”  
The shepherds lauded God for all,  
Salvator Mundi natus est.  
Be we merry in this feast,  
In quo Salvator natus est.

## *The Seventh Lesson*

*The shepherds go to the manger*

***Luke 2:8-20***

*Anita Hawkins*

*Choir*

*“Shepherds Come-a-Running”*

*Polish Carol*

Shepherds come a running into Bethlehem.  
Merrily they sing and play their pipes in hand.  
Sweetly now they bow to Mary,  
Wond’ring how to greet the child.  
Jesus mild.



## ***The Eighth Lesson***

*The magi follow the star to Jesus*

***Matthew 2:1-11***

*Ruth Fitzgerald*

*Duet*

*“The Virgin’s Slumber Song”*

*Max Reger*

*Melody Hall, soprano; Jillian Maynard, mezzo-soprano*

Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus-Child  
While amid the treetops sighs the breeze so warm and mild  
And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon the bough  
Ah, Baby, dear one  
Slumber now.

Happy is Thy laughter; holy is Thy silent rest  
Lay Thy head in slumber fondly on Thy mother's breast  
Ah, Baby, dear one  
Slumber now.

## ***The Offertory***

*Invitation*

*Offering of Gifts*

## ***Carols for Congregation and Choir***

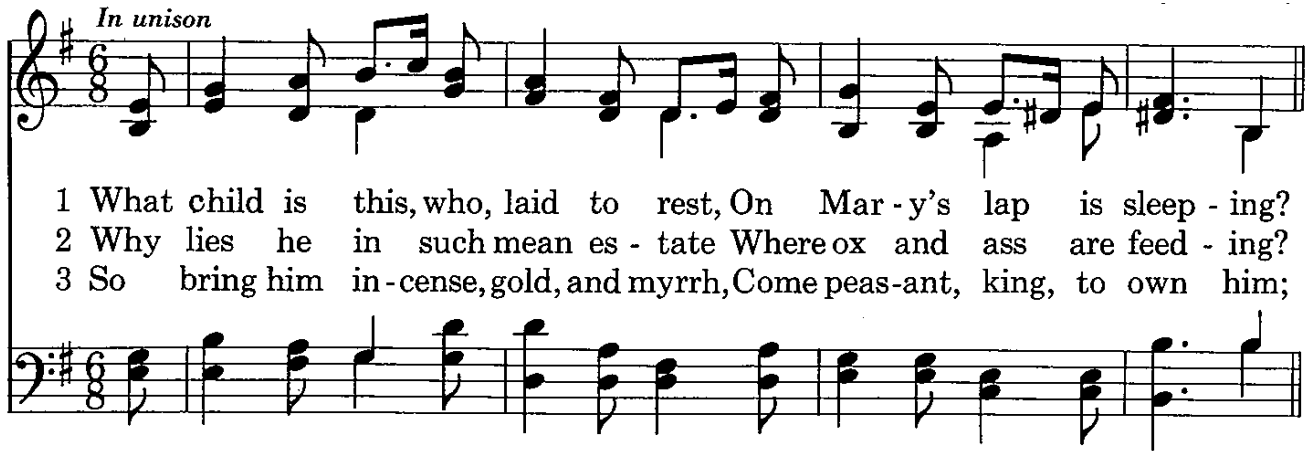
*“What Child is This Who Lay to Rest”*

*“Angels We Have Heard on High”*



*"What Child is This, Who Laid to Rest"*

*In unison*

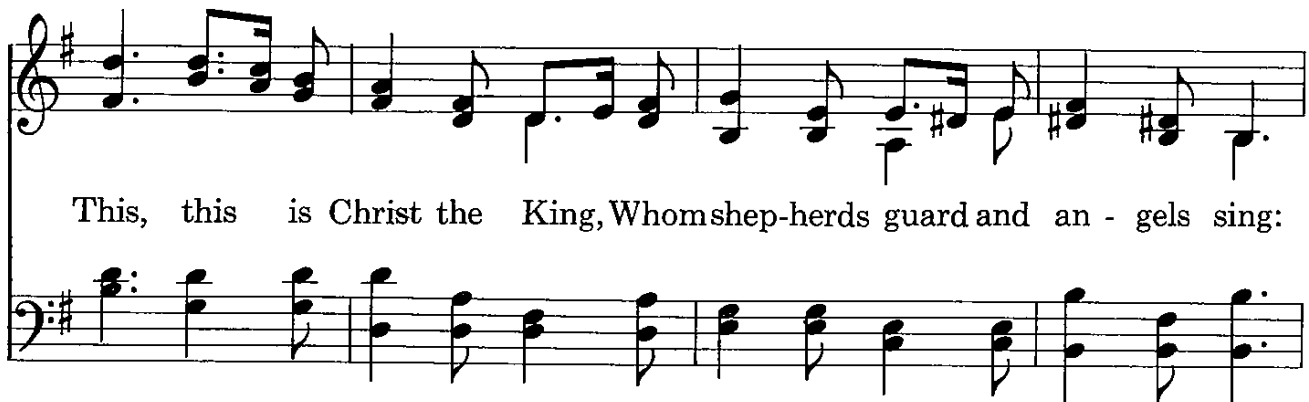


1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas - ant, king, to own him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, 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 Mar - y.

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

1 An - gels we have heard on high Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
Say what may the ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heaven - ly song.  
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## *Prayer of Dedication*

*Rev. Craig L. Cowing*

## *The Ninth Lesson*

*The Word becomes flesh*

***John 1:1-14***

*Rev. Craig L. Cowing*

*Choir*

*“A Christmas Blessing”  
Gail Tanguay, accompanist*

*Philip Stopford*

May the joy of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
The worship of the wise men and  
the peace of the Christ child be yours  
Be yours this Christmas.

May Christ who by his incarnation  
Gathered into one all things earthly,  
All things heavenly, and fill you with joy.  
Fill you with joy and peace.

And the blessing of God the Father  
and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you  
And remain with you always,  
with you always,  
and remain with you always.  
Amen. Amen.

***\*Passing of the Peace***

*\*Carol for Congregation and Choir*

*"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"*

*Dave Hall, trumpet*

1 On this day earth shall ring With the song  
2 His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came  
3 God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise men three  
4 On this day an-gels sing; With their song

chil-dren sing To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to  
down to earth, Beth-le-hem saw his birth; Ox and ass be-  
to him led, Kneel-ing low by his bed, Lay their gifts be-  
earth shall ring, Prais-ing Christ, heav-en's King, Born on earth to

## REFRAIN

save us; Him the Fa - ther gave us.  
 side him From the cold would hide him. Id - e - o - o - o,  
 fore him, Praise him and a - dore him.  
 save us. Peace and love he gave us.

R.H.

R.H. L.H.

## BIRTH

Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

***\*Benediction***

*Rev. Craig L. Cowing*

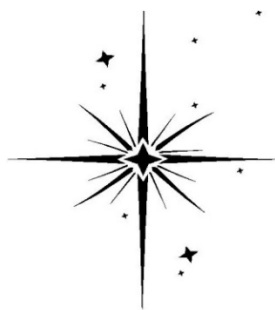
*(please be seated for the Postlude)*

***Postlude***

*"Westminster Carillon"*

*Michael Bedford*

*Handbell Choir*



*Thank you all for coming this afternoon.  
Please join us downstairs in Chapin Hall for refreshments  
following the service.*

*May you have a blessed and joyous  
Christmas Season!*

# **The Choirs of Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**

*Mary DeLibero, Minister of Music*

## **Choir**

### **Soprano**

Holli Bacon  
Victoria Bower  
Melody Hall  
Cynthia Hunt  
Marsha Hoffman  
Hilaire Leavitt  
Jackie Little  
Linda Tokarski

### **Alto**

Sarah DeGiovanni  
Ruth Fitzgerald  
Gail Hall  
Katie Hoffman-Fulda  
Jennifer Martin  
Jillian Maynard

### **Tenor**

Dave Hall  
Bob Inderbitzen  
Frank Vann

### **Bass**

Michael Bower  
Tom Fulda  
Bill Hoffman  
Jared Maynard  
Steve Ware

Guest Accompanist: Gail Tanguay

Woodwind Ensemble Director: Dave Hall

### **Instrumentalists**

Dave Hall, trumpet, cello  
Gail Hall, clarinet  
Melody Hall, cello  
Katie Hoffman-Fulda, flute  
Jillian Maynard, flute  
Jared Maynard, guitar

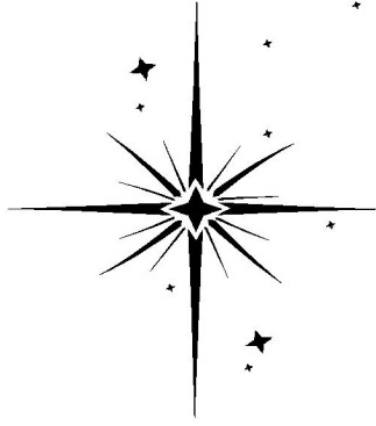
### **Jubilate Handbell Choir**

Doretta Andonucci  
Michael Andonucci  
Michael Bower  
Deb Copes  
Tom Fulda  
Anita Hawkins  
Katie Hoffman-Fulda  
Hilaire Leavitt  
Jackie Little  
Jared Maynard  
Debra Peterson  
Kristy Solie

### **Children's Choir**

Victoria Bower, Assistant  
Carolyn Andonucci  
Violet Collins  
Anna Gau  
Alex Gau  
Alyssa Gau  
Grace Hoffman  
Alexander Wolfe





Minister: The Rev. Craig L. Cowing  
Scripture Readers: Bob Carberry, Craig Cowing, Georgette Huie, Anita Hawkins  
Max Kainamura, Hannah Fuller, Ruth Fitzgerald  
William McKenna, Chris Sheehan  
Ushers: Dave Sageman, Steve Smith, Wendy Ware and Ed Bacon  
Cover Artwork: Michael Bower  
Program: Theresa Cleary  
Reception Coordinators: The In-Reach and Music Committees

*Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24*  
*10:00 a.m. Advent 4 Worship Service*  
*5:00 p.m. Service of Candlelight, Scripture and Music*

Rocky Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
805 Old Main Street  
*An Open and Affirming Community of Faith*