



Elijah Kellogg Church, Congregational

917 Harpswell Neck Rd., Harpswell ME 04079 • 207-833-6026 • www.elijahkelloggchurch.org

Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly, Interim Pastor

ELIJAH KELLOGG CHURCH WORSHIP

12/24/2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Sunday in Advent on Which We Commemorate Love

THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION — “Love is what you’ve been through with somebody.” — James Thurber

“Love isn’t a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like struggle. To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, right here, right now.” — (Rev.) Fred Rogers

“Love is the very shape of the universe. God is not a being who whimsically now and then decides to love certain people like Jews, Catholics or Christians. The very nature of God is love. God does not decide to love. There is no deciding. There is only an outflowing that never stops.” — Richard Rohr

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace...

* Call to Worship —

CANTICLE

O God of Joy, be our delight.
Grant us the vision of Your sight.
Help us reach out to all in need,
Shape us in love and word and deed.

ONE: Soon we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus, Who is the Christ. And so we worship God with joy in our hearts as we are reminded of the words an angel said: “Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.”

ALL: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the Light of God into the world. With the coming of this Light there is joy— joy that is ours not only now but always.

INVOCATION

* HYMN — *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* INSERT

OFFERTORY INVITATION

*OFFERING RESPONSE (DOXOLOGY)

Old One-hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM GOSPELS — Luke 1:26-38 (ILV)

[26] Six months later, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, [27] to a young woman named Mary who was engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. [28] Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, “Greetings, rejoice favored one! God is with you. Blessed are you.” [29] But she was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the greeting of the angel meant.

[30] The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. [31] You will conceive and give to this child the name Jesus— deliverance— God saves. [32] The dignity of this One will be great, and this child will be called the Only Begotten of the Most High. God will give to Jesus the Judgment seat of the ancestor David [33] to rule over the house of Jacob forever, and this reign will never end.”

[34] Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have never been with a man?”

[35] The angel said, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Hence, the offspring to be born will be called Holy One of God. [36] Know too that Elizabeth, your kinswoman, in her old age, has also conceived a child. She who was thought to be infertile is now in her sixth month. [37] Nothing is impossible with God.”

[38] Then Mary said, “I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say.” With that the angel left.

* **HYMN** — *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy* INSERT

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS — Luke 1:47-55 (ILV)

[46] And Mary said,
 “My soul proclaims
 Your greatness, O God,
[47] and my spirit rejoices
 in You, my Savior,
[48] for You have looked
 with favor

on Your lowly servant.
Surely, from this day forward
 all generations
 will call me blessed;
[49] for you, the Almighty,
 have done great things for me,
 and holy is Your name.
[50] Your mercy reaches
 from age to age,
 for those who remain
 in awe of You.
[51] You have shown strength
 with Your arm;
 You have scattered the proud
 in their conceit.
[52] You have deposed the powerful
 from their thrones,
 and raised the lowly
 to high places;
[53] You have filled the hungry
 with good things,
 while You have sent
 the rich away, empty.
[54] You have come to the aid
 of Israel,
 Your Servant,
 mindful of Your mercy,
[55] according to the promise
 You made to our ancestors,
to Sarah and to Abraham
 and to their descendants forever.”

SPECIAL MUSIC — *The Day That Christ Was Born On*

Words by John Wheeler Music by William G. James

SERMON — *Proclaiming the Reality of God*

Piano Meditation —

Prayers of the People -

SILENCE

Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)

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.

* **HYMN** — *My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise* INSERT, v. 1, 2

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE —

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise INSERT, v. 3

Postlude

Harpwell Community Radio – WHPW 97.3 FM

Harpwell Community Television – Channel 14

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7960701>



Serving you this morning:	
Interim Minister	Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly
Pianist	Elizabeth Cromwell
Ushers	Becky Gallery & Harry Arnold
Reader	Wendy Van Damme
Advent Liturgy Readers	Herb & Susan Ferris
Coffee Hour	Becky Marcos



Office Hours

Pastor Joe will **NOT** have office hours or Bible Study on
Monday, December 25th, or Monday, January 1st.

Stephanie will **NOT** have office hours on
Monday, December 25th or Tuesday, December 26th

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

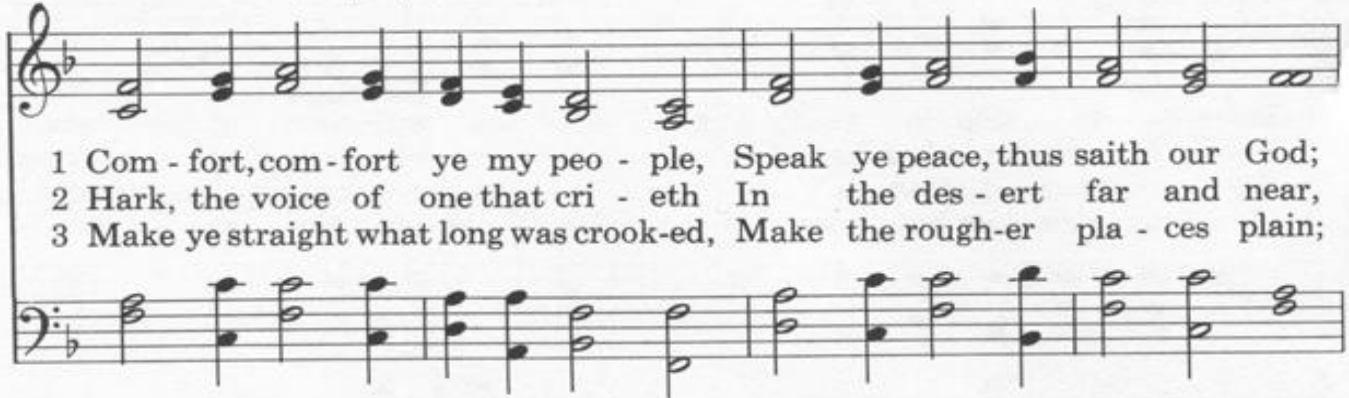
Based on Isaiah 40:1-8

Johann Olearius, 1611-1684

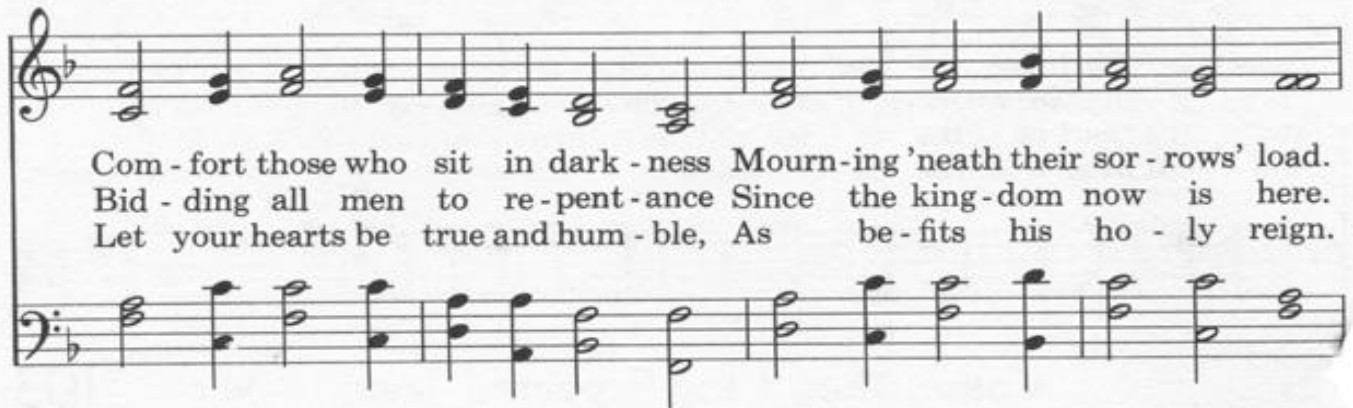
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.

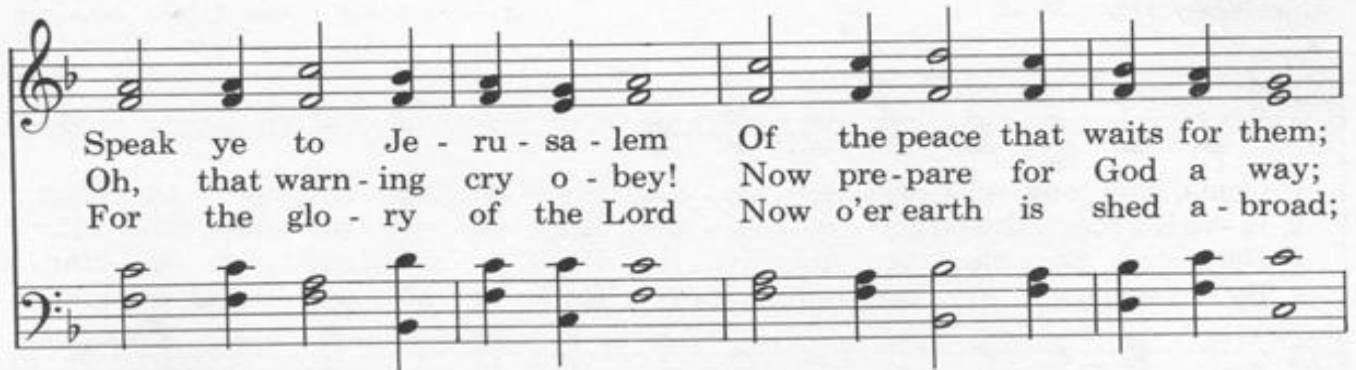
"Genevan Psalter," 1551



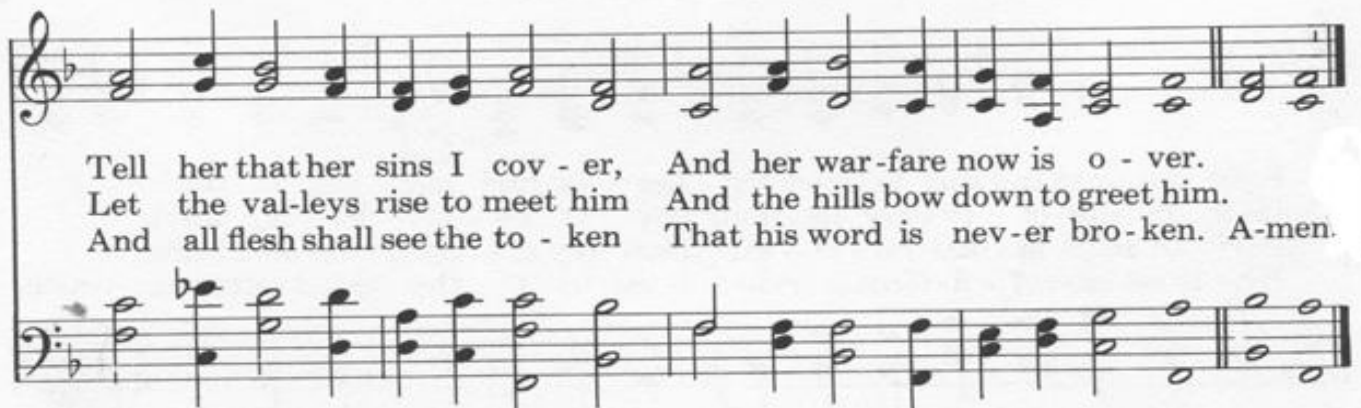
1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth In the des - ert far and near,
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er pla - ces plain;



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.
Bid - ding all men to re - pent - ance Since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits his ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



Tell her that her sins I cov - er, And her war - fare now is o - ver.
Let the val - leys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken That his word is nev - er bro - ken. A - men.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

Second Tune

WELLESLEY 8.7.8.7.

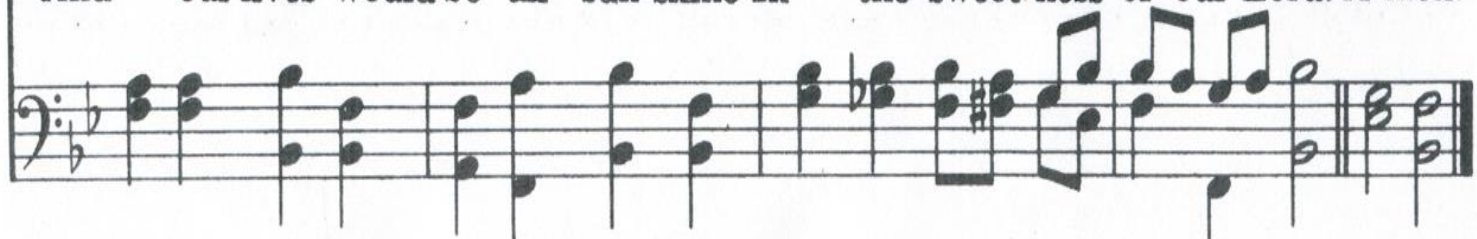
Lizzie S. Tourjée, 1858-1913



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
3 For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas-ure of man's mind;
4 If our love were but more sim-ple, We should take him at his word;



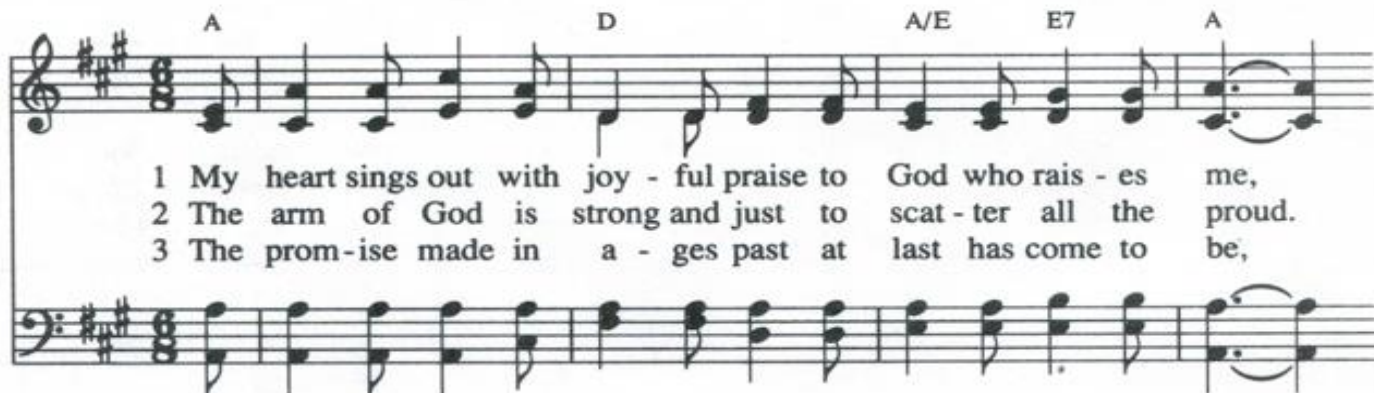
There's a kind-ness in his jus-tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind - ly judg-ment given.
And the heart of the E - ter-nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord. A-men.



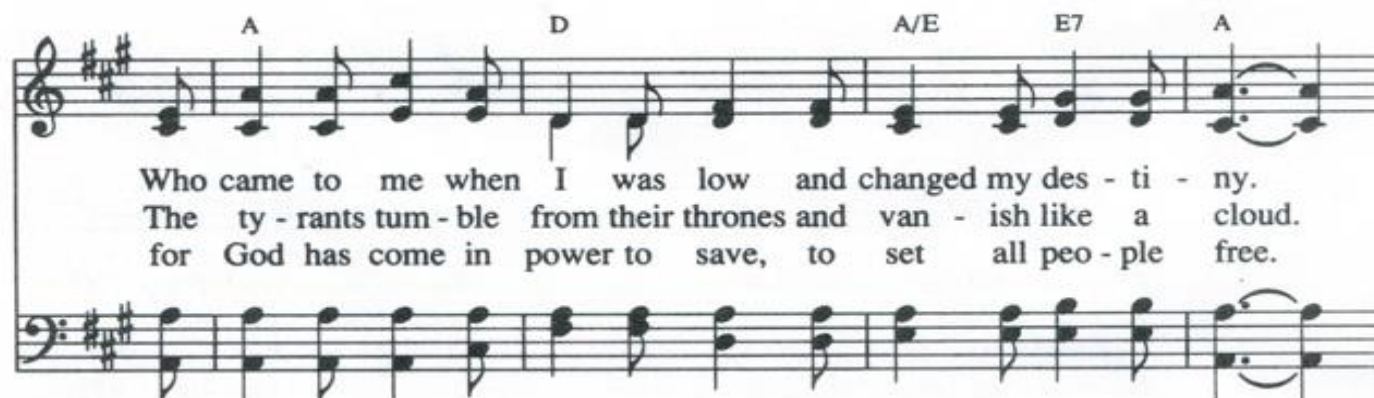
My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

Ruth Duck, 1985

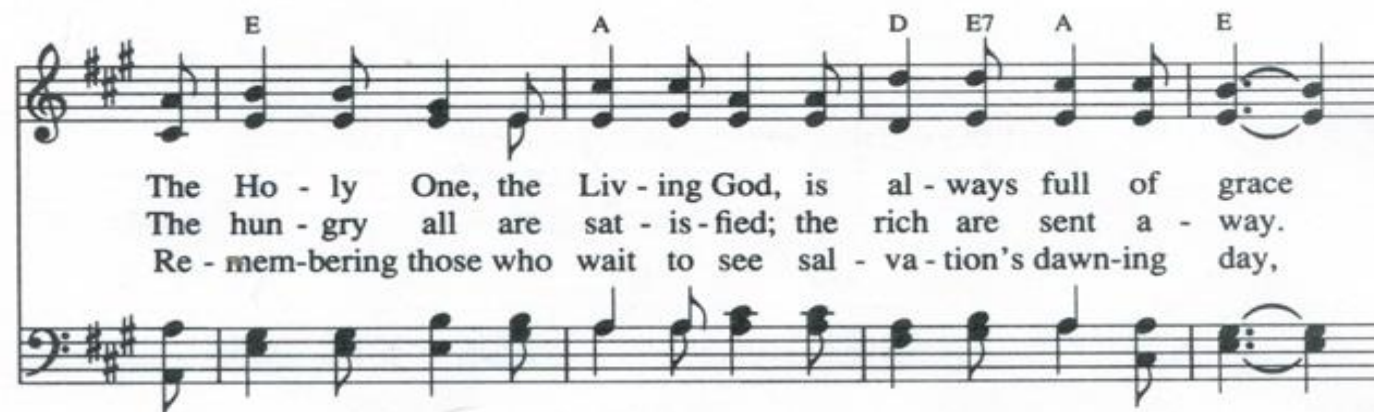
Luke 1:46-55



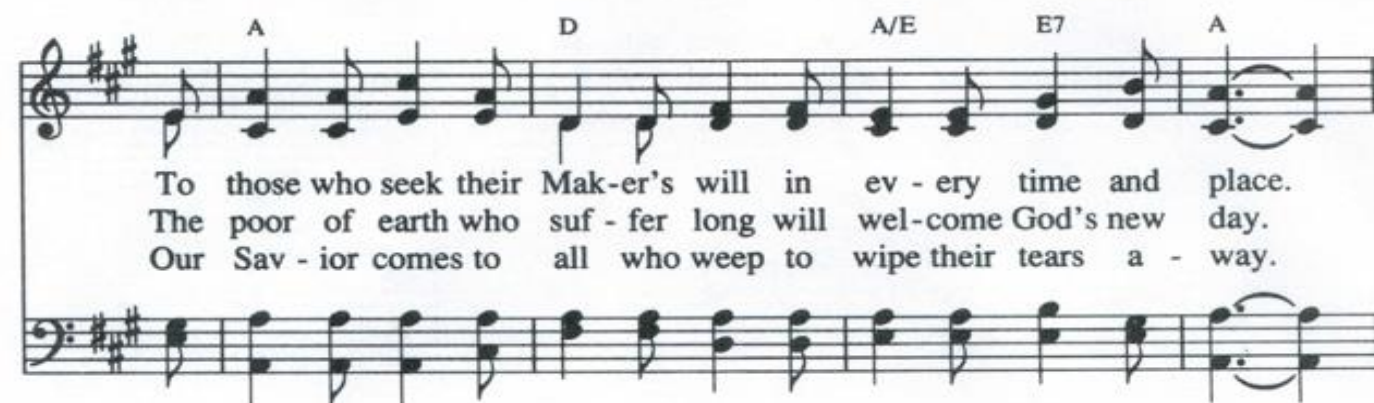
1 My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es me,
2 The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the proud.
3 The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to be,



Who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny.
The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a cloud.
for God has come in power to save, to set all peo - ple free.



The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace
The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way.
Re - mem - bering those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawning day,



To those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - ery time and place.
The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.
Our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.

Prayer Requests for December 24, 2023

At home...

Pat Moody
Connie Henry

Bill Menz

Mark Wilson

In nursing homes...

Sam Wright
David Ferris

In assisted living...

Gary Anderson
Ernestine Machesney

Tom Jones
Joan Phillips

Away...

Richard Haley

C V Noyes

George Patterson

Sick, in the hospital or rehabilitation...

Hope Tanguay

Recovering from illness or surgery...

Dana Porter Carson

George Perkins

Grieving...

Family of Ellie Patterson

Thanksgivings...

The Pastoral Search Committee

Special concerns...

The School House 1913 fire victims Joseph Arena & Caroline Daniel

For the people in the paths of storms and fires

Emergency responders / Health care workers / Essential workers...

Praise God for our partnership with WHPW and Channel 14!

Please keep those named above in your prayers. If you have any questions, or would like others to be prayed for, please contact Susan Ferris, Chairperson of our Prayer Circle.

Susan can be reached at 666-3247 or sueherb@myfairpoint.net.

Thank You

Poinsettias and Wreaths



Given by:	In Loving Memory of:
Karin Soderberg	my parents
Pat Moody & family	Henry & Louise Barnes
Nancy Bennett	Mr. Clair Simmons Manchester
Wayne & Nancy Hurst	Robin Hurst
Becky Marcos	Joan Haley
Sue, Ron & Erica	Jane & Dick Collins
Chet & Carrie Bubier	Tim Rowe
Linda Clement	Mom, Dad, Sue, Nellie & Deane
Linda Clement	Weston
Rob Porter	Robert & Elizabeth Porter
daughters Sally Moulton & Beth Muldoon	Mom & Dad Dunlap
Win & Linda Gillis	Robin Hurst
Bonnie & Joe Connolly	Harry & Ruth Scott & Joseph Sr. & Mary Laura Connolly
Jim & Ruth Smith	our parents & Jim's brothers
Eric & Joy Wohltjen	Howard & Margaret Wohltjen
Martha Richardson	John & Elise Richardson & John & Susan Murdoch
Hub & Kathy Goodrich	our parents Kay & Currier McEwen & Ann & Carrington Goodrich
Charlotte Clive	my sweet sister Carole Quimby
Kay & Bill Hunter	Bill & Helen Hunter
Dana & Robert Porter & Becky Carson	Elizabeth Porter, Robert Porter & Jean Lum
the Braley Family	the Minot Quartet
Carolyn Gibson	The Rev. Brick Gibson
Gordon Kaufman	Lorna Kaufman
Given by:	In Honor of:
Aldie Laird	my daughters Wendy Van Damme & Molly Davidson
Allen & Meg Tucker	Doc & Joan Phillips
Becky Marcos	our military
Eric & Joy Wohltjen	Peter & Sylvia Gaudet
Chris & Christal Ellis	our Harspwell community

Christmas Service Schedule

Sunday, December 24th

7:PM – Christmas Eve Service

11:PM – Christmas Eve Service



*Unto Us
a Child is Born*

