



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 — 11:00 P.M.

The Evening Before the Feast of the Nativity of the Christ

Commonly Called Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION — “Seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand.” — Saint Augustine (A.D. 354-430)

“Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, acceptance. To a friend, your heart. To those in need, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.” — Oren Arnold (1900-1980)

“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace... to make music in the heart.” — Howard Thurman, American author, civil rights leader and theologian (1899-1981)

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace...

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS — John 1:1-5 (ILV)

[1] In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God, in the presence of God and the Word was God. [2] Indeed, the Word was present to God. [3] All things came into being through the Word, and apart from the Word not one thing came into being. The Word was life and [4] and that life was the light of all humanity. [5] The light shines in the deepest night, and the night has never been able to overtake it, to conquer it.

CALL TO WORSHIP — The Lighting of the Christ Candle

ONE: Over the weeks of Advent we have waited and lit candles commemorating hope, peace, love and joy. This evening we will light the Christ Candle which celebrates the light of Christ among us.

MANY: The waiting is over. The dreaming has given birth to a new reality.

ONE: The source of our healing has come near. God's promise has been fulfilled.

MANY: The Advent candles are all lit, forming a circle of light that reminds us of God's never-ending love. And so now we light the Christ candle, remembering that Jesus is in our midst today and always.

(The Christ Candle is lit.)

*HYMN — *Adeste Fideles (O Come All Ye Faithful)*

INSERT

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

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— *Away in a Manger*

INSERT

We Listen For God's Word

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE —

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS — Luke 2:1-7 (ILV)

[1] In those days the Emperor Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the Roman world. [2] This was the first registration and took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3] All went to their own towns to be registered. [4] And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, being a descendant of the house, the family, the lineage of David. [5] Joseph went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was espoused and who was expecting a child.

[6] While they were there, the time came for her to deliver. [7] And she gave birth to her firstborn, whom she wrapped in bands of cloth and laid in a manger, a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*HYMN — *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

INSERT

THE READING CONTINUES— Luke 2:8-14 (ILV)

[8] Now, there were shepherds in that region, living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9] An angel of God suddenly stood before them and the glory of God shone around them— and they were terrified.

[10] But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for you have nothing to fear; I have come to bring you good news, news of great joy for all people: [11] to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah. [12] This will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” [13] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

[14] “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace
among those with
whom God is pleased,
with those who keep the covenant!”

*HYMN — *Hark The Herald Angels Sing*

INSERT

THE READING CONTINUES— Luke 2:15-19 (ILV)

[15] When the angels had left and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this event which has taken place and which God has made known to us.”

[16] So the shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. [17] Once they saw this, they made known what had been told them concerning the child. [18] And all who heard it were amazed, astonished at the report given by the shepherds, amazed at what the shepherds said.

[19] Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart.

*HYMN — *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

INSERT

Christmas Meditation — *Life Changes*

A LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 60:1-3 (ILV)

[1] Arise, shine;
for your light has come,
and the glory of *Yahweh*, God,
has risen upon you.

[2] For though shadows
shall cover the earth,
and thick night
enshrouds the people,
upon you *Yahweh* now dawns,
and the glory of God
will appear over you,
and will be seen among you.

[3] And so, the nations
will come to your light,
and the leaders to the brightness
of your dawn.

*HYMN — *Silent Night, Holy Night*

INSERT

*A READING FROM THE TORAH — Genesis 1:1-3

(Please remain standing for this reading, one adapted from the Jewish Publication Society translation of the Tanakh and the translation by Everett Fox.)

[1] At the beginning of God's creating of the heaven and the earth— [2] when the earth was unformed and void, wild and waste, filled with chaos and emptiness, as night reigned over the surface of the deep, a wind from God, the rushing Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters. [3] And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

* HYMN — *Angels We Have Heard on High*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *Joy to the World* INSERT

Harpswell Community Radio – WHPW 97.3 FM

Harpswell Community Television – Channel 14

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



Serving you this evening:	
Interim Minister	Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly
Pianist	Elizabeth Cromwell
Organist	Jan Davis
Christ Candle Readers	Suzanne Gagne



Adeste Fideles

1 A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae-ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve-
2 O come, all you faith - ful, joy-ful and tri - um - phant, O
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
come now, O come now to Beth - le - hem.
Sing all you mes - sen - gers of heav'n - ly love.

Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lo - rum.
Come and be - hold the light on - to all na - tions.
"Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est":

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.

Away in a Manger

Anon., United States, 1885; st. 3, 1892; alt.

F B \flat F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the poor ba - by wakes, but
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close

The first system of musical notation for the song 'Away in a Manger'. It consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. Below the treble staff are three lines of lyrics, numbered 1, 2, and 3. Above the treble staff, the chords F, Bb, and F are indicated. Below the treble staff is a bass clef staff with a simple accompaniment consisting of chords and single notes.

C7 F

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The
lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I
by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody from the first system. The treble staff has a C7 chord above the first measure and an F chord above the fifth measure. The lyrics continue with three lines. The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

F B \flat F

stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the
love you, Lord Je - sus; pro - tect me, I pray, and
all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care, and

The third system of musical notation. The treble staff has F, Bb, and F chords indicated above it. The lyrics continue with three lines. The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

C7 F B \flat C7 F

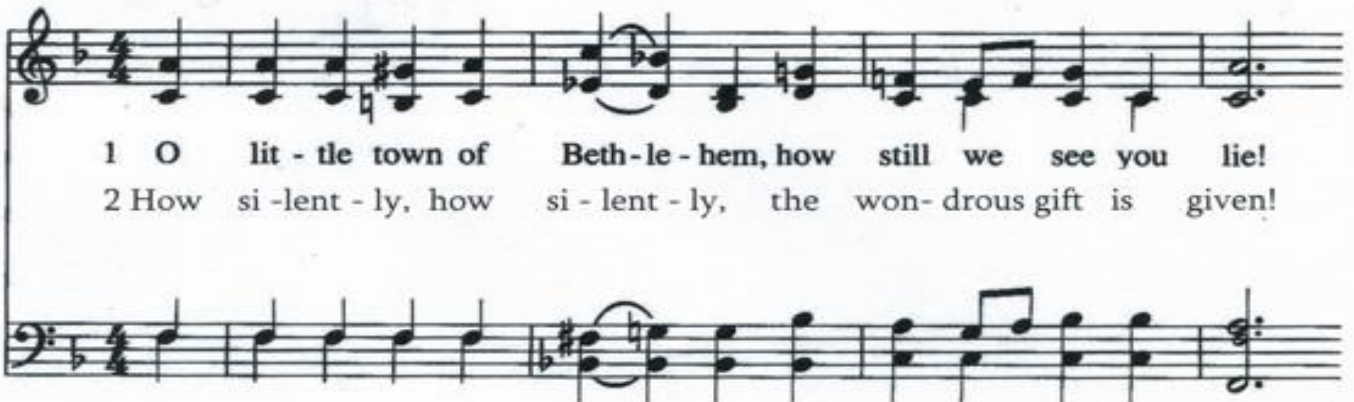
lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
stay by my side un - til night turns to day.
fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

The fourth and final system of musical notation. The treble staff has C7, F, Bb, C7, and F chords indicated above it. The lyrics conclude with three lines. The bass staff concludes the accompaniment.

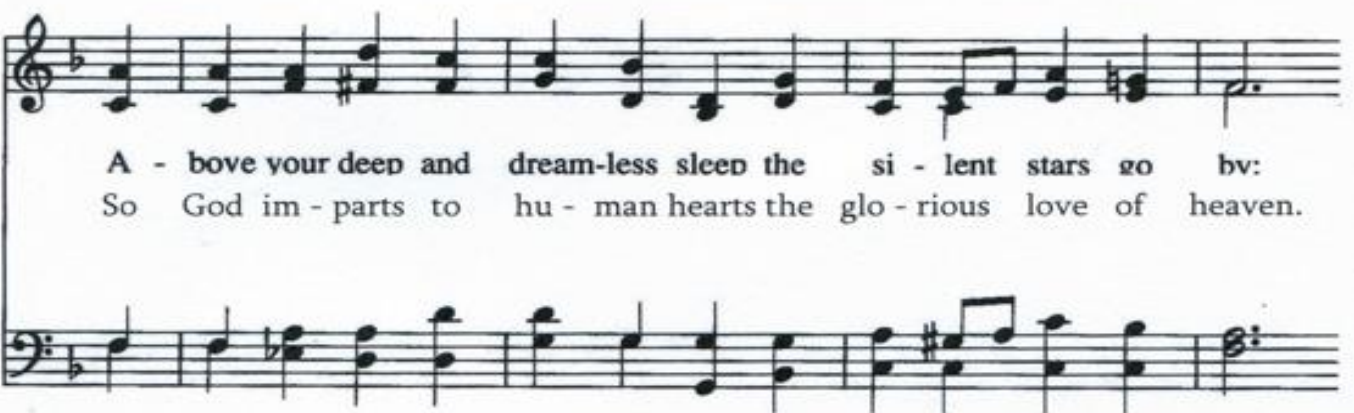
O Little Town of Bethlehem

Mic. 5:2; Luke 2:4-7

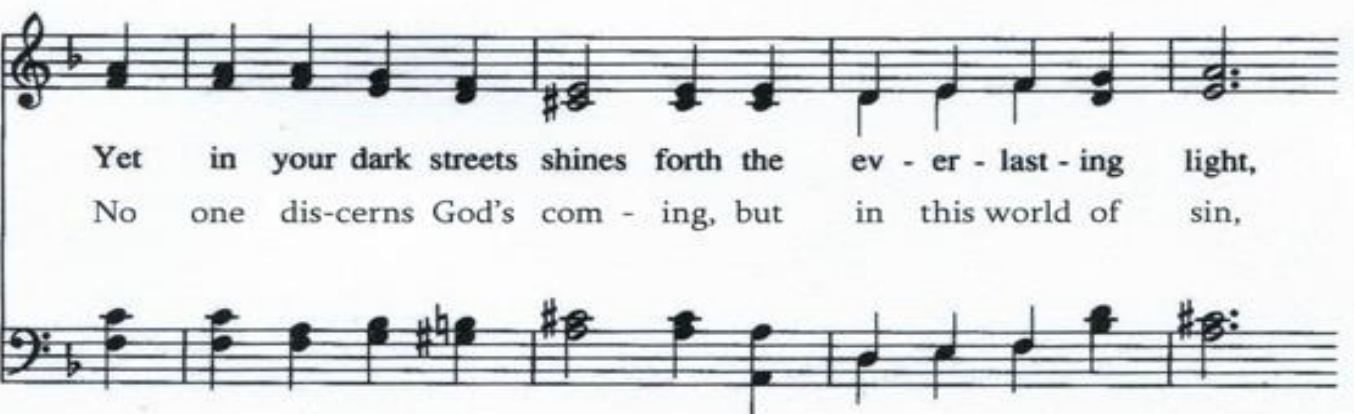
Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.



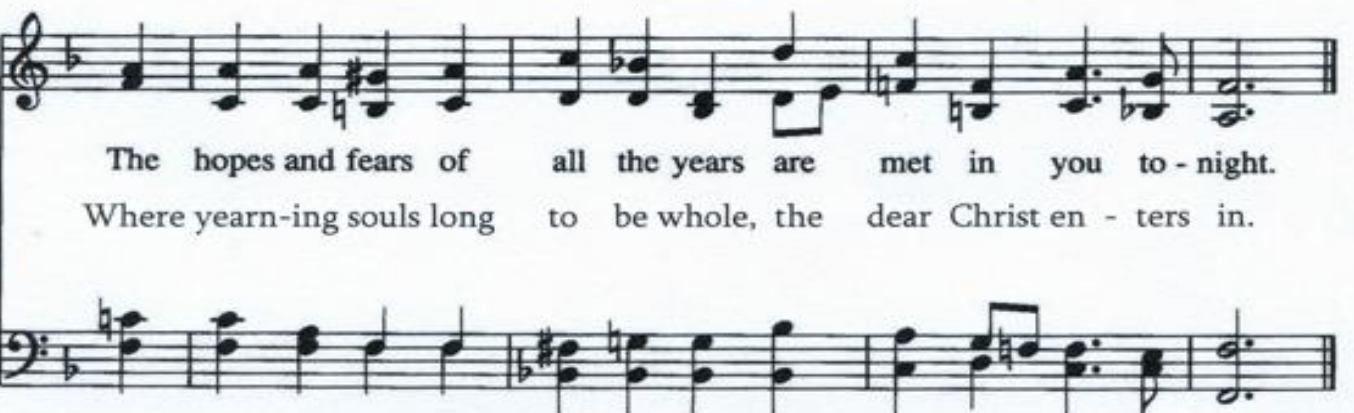
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you lie!
2 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!



A - bove your deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by:
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the glo - rious love of heaven.



Yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,
No one dis - cerns God's com - ing, but in this world of sin,



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you to - night.
Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the dear Christ en - ters in.

Inspired by a visit to Bethlehem, Phillips Brooks, minister of Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia, wrote this hymn for the Sunday School's Christmas service. The tune was hastily sketched by the church organist in time for the service.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.
Lewis H. Redner, 1868
Alternate tune: FOREST GREEN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7 D with refrain

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

Arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King.
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
*3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

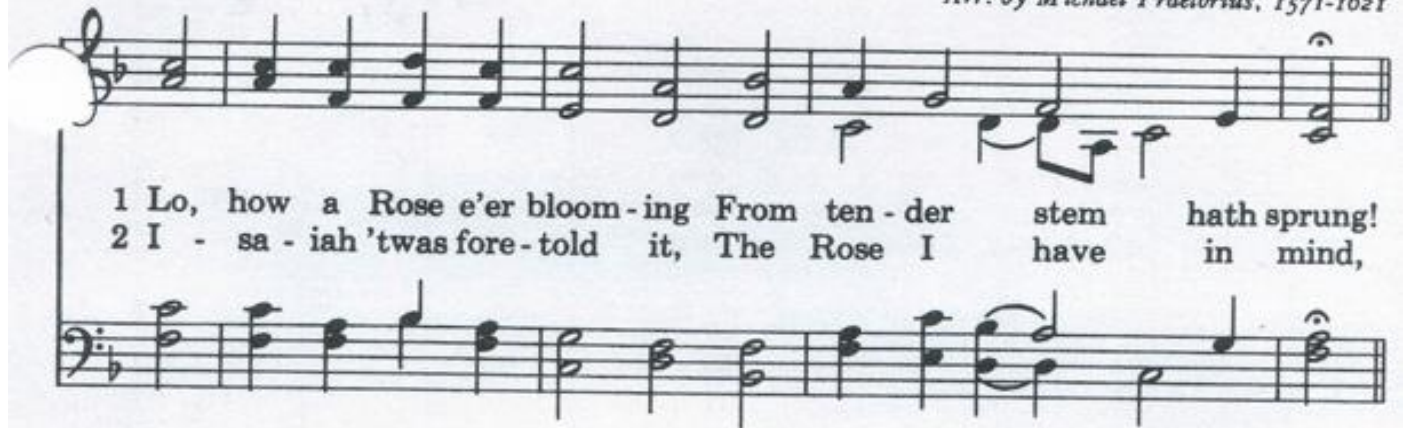
With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

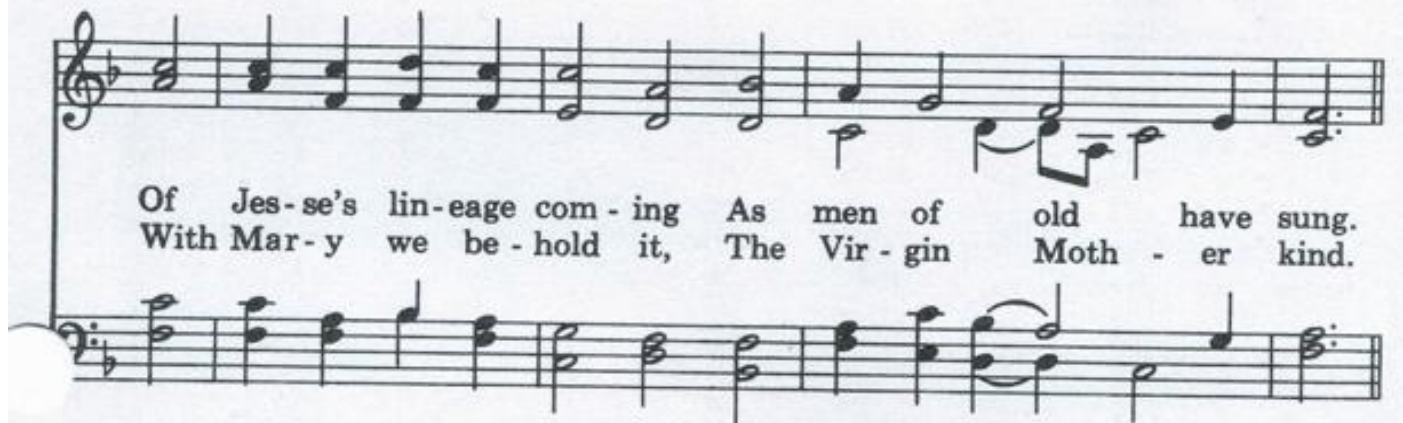
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

German: anon., 15th century
Tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934

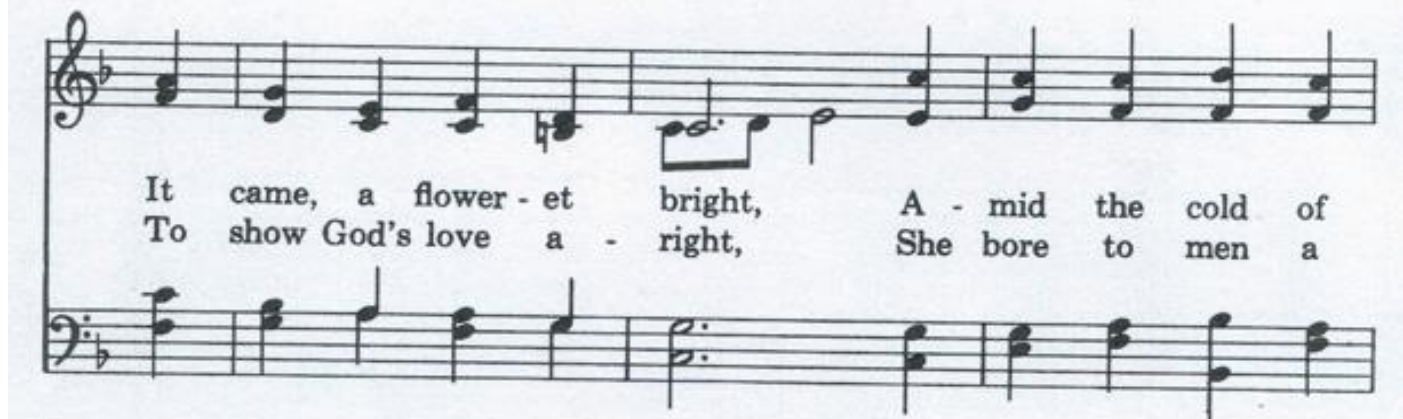
ES IST EIN' ROS' 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.
German: Melody, 16th century
Arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621



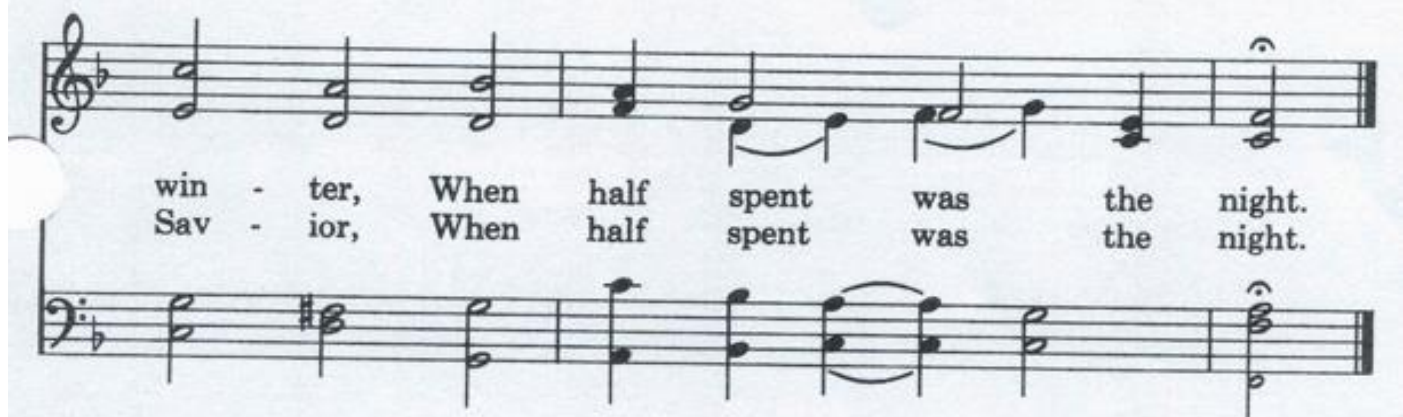
1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in mind,



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.

Silent Night, Holy Night

Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848
Tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

STILLE NACHT *Irregular*
Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep-herds quake at the sight,
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,
Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, Heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
Ra - diant beams from thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
Christ, the Sav-ior, is born! Christ, the Sav-ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

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 Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re- ply, ech - o back their joy- ous strains.
Say what may the tid- ings be, which in- spire Your heav- en- ly song.
Come a- dore on bend- ed knee, God, our world now al - ter - ing.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

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

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

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