

The United Church of Northfield
Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2011

Prelude & Candle Lighting:

Alison Cerutti

Choral Introit:

UCN Choir

Words Of Welcome

Processional Drama

Call To Worship: (by Rev. Penny L. Lowes at UCC Worship Ways):

Leader: We gather to worship with expectations:
God revealed in new and astonishing ways.

People: God comes to us in real time. God comes to us in dreams.

Leader: Sometimes God's presence is hard to take in – difficult to believe.

People: Oh God, we long to believe. Help our unbelief!

Leader: God is present here. God is working in our midst.

People: Then our mouths are filled with laughter, our tongues shout out with joy!

Hymn Of Praise: "With Joy Draw Water"

NCH 109

Invocation: (seated, in unison): (Worship Ways):

Holy God of Advent, the world in which we live is as terrifying as it is wonderful. We need Jesus as much today as in times of old. Many sow in tears, and go out weeping. Replenish our lands, fill our hearts with gladness, restore our faith in you and each other, wipe away the tears of despair. As we worship today, we tilt an ear to listen close.

Let the voice of your angel fill our minds with new understandings.

We are waiting for you. Speak to us today. Amen.

Lighting Of The Advent Candle: (Worship Ways): Bonnie Gayle & Harriet Hirst

One: The words of the angel were frightening to Mary.

Two: *She didn't know what to imagine. I can't blame her, can you?*

Three: **When she realized the truth of Gabriel's words;**

Mary sang, Mary danced,

Mary praised God for the Holy Spirit blooming within her.

One: We rekindle the candles of paz, peace and amor, love.

Today we also light the candle of espiritu, spirit.

May this light brighten the Advent season reminding us that God is peace,
God is love and God is Spirit.

In the spirit of Jesus Christ we pray, **Amen.**

Call To Confession: (Worship Ways):

God loves justice and despises wrongdoing, yet God is faithful in recompense and has made an everlasting covenant with those who turn from sinful ways and strive earnestly for righteousness. May the whispers of our hearts be pleasing to God.

Prayer Of Confession: (seated, in unison): (Worship Ways):

We bow our heads in holy reverence. Oh God, we long to be free of burdens that hold us captive. We long to be bearers of good news to the oppressed. We long to return to your favor. Forgive us our transgressions; loosen the chains of doubt that bind us. Hear our prayers...

Silent Prayer

Affirmation Of Forgiveness: (Worship Ways):

You are forgiven! God loves you. God blesses you with new beginnings and new life. Put aside your old ways and become new! God gives a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning. Sing, dance, rejoice! Never forget the gift of God's redeeming grace. **Amen.**

The Congregation's Response:

Page 793 NCH

Holy, Holy, Holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.

Choral Anthem:

UCN Choir

A Time With Children:

Rev. Jennifer Kimball

Sermon Hymn: "All the Earth is Waiting"

NCH 121

Scripture Readings:

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 126 (NCH pp. 707-708)

Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (Bev Knox)

New Testament: Luke 1:46-55

Sermon: "An Upside Down, Inside Out Song"

Rev. Jennifer Kimball

Joys and Concerns: These are the joys and concerns of the people. Please share what you would like us to be praying for including a person's *name if appropriate.*

Silent Prayer: We take a minute to be in silence to await God's peace

Pastoral Prayer: (I will pause during this prayer for those who would like to lift up loved ones by name, or other thoughts.)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Call To Offering: (Worship Ways):

As Mary moved from tears to acceptance she sang, “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior... surely from now on all generations will call me blessed.” Mary said yes to God. Mary accepted the burden and the responsibility of being God’s chosen. She gave her whole self over to God. God calls to each of us. How do we respond? What do we bring? In the spirit of Mary’s “yes,” let us bring forth our offerings and gifts.

The Offertory:

Alison Cerutti

Doxology:

780 NCH

Dedication: (standing, in unison): (Worship Ways):

Holy God, our answer too, is “Yes!”

Yes, we will serve only you.

Yes, we will bring our whole selves to the effort.

Yes, we will sing your praises to the universe.

Accept these offerings as tangible proof of our collective “yes.”

May they be magnified for your use in our time. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace of Christ:** “May the peace of Christ be with you.”

Response: “And also with you.”

Closing Hymn: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

PH 129

Brief Announcements

Benediction: (Worship Ways):

Rev. Jennifer Kimball

Leader: Go from this place to spread God’s peace.

People: We go planting seeds of peace in the world.

Leader: Go from this place to share God’s love.

People: We go laughing and shouting Good News.

Leader: Go from this place to live God’s spirit.

People: We proclaim God’s liberty; God’s spirit set free in the world!

All: Amen!

Choral Benediction: "Amen"

UCN Choir

Postlude:

Alison Cerutti

** Denotes standing if you are able. NCH is the New Century Hymnal with a black cover. PH is the Pilgrim Hymnal with a red cover.*

Giving for December 4, 2011: Pledge Income: \$733; Plate Offering: \$30.21;

Dolma Offering: \$31; Heifer Offering: \$6.43, Total Heifer \$105.73, Goal: Tree

Seedlings \$180; Other: SOS: \$2,268.50; SERRV: \$936.90; OCWM: \$96.80.

Thank you for your faithful giving.

Please return your Stewardship pledge with Time & Talent sheets. Thank you.

Ministry of The United Church of Northfield

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Jennifer Kimball

Secretary: Laura Ranker **Sexton:** Arnold Nichols

Greeters: Audrey Avery & Harriet Hirst

Ushers: Ray & Ginny Kunkel

Choir Leadership and Pianist/Organist: Alison Cerutti

We are a member of Vermont Conference, The United Church of Christ and are affiliated with the National Unitarian Universalist Association and the Northern New England District of the UUA. Historically we are united from Congregational and Universalist roots.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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cell (607) 434-5632.

OFFICE HOURS: Pastor's study is located in Howe's Hall

WEDNESDAY 9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Other Hours available by appointment.

FRIDAY - PASTOR'S DAY OFF

Church Office Phone: 485-4431

Church e-mail: uccnorthfield@trans-video.net

Visit us at our website: www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org.

SOS webpage-Visit us at: www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org/sos.



THIS WEEK AT THE UNITED CHURCH

December 11th to December 18th

Meetings occur in Howe's Hall unless otherwise noted.

Mon.: Bible Study 9:00-11:00 at home of Judy Plumley. We will be studying Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Luke 1:26-38; and 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16.

7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. Men's AA.

Tue.: 7:00 P.M. **Church Council Meeting** (note date change)

Wed.: 9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. CV Building Bright Futures (play group) ages birth to 6 years.

7:00 P.M. Women's 12 Step AA Meeting.

7:00 P.M. Choir rehearsal in the church Sanctuary.

Thur.: 7:00 P.M. BSA Troop 759.

Fri.: **Advent Presentation and Pot Luck dinner.** See back for details.

Sun.: December 18th at 2:00 P.M. The Churches of Northfield are going Christmas Caroling at Mayo Manor Please meet in the dining hall. All are invited.

Sunday, December 18th is the United Church of Northfield TREE TRIMMING during morning worship!!

Advent Presentation and Pot Luck Dinner

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH



Christ's Nativity - The story of God's incredible love told in images by Dr. Virginia M. Kimball, Theology Professor. The program will offer a Power Point presentation of 30 images, all which touch the tenderness motif of mother and child as well as the burst of God's glory in the time-changing moment of Christmas. Explanation of the power of Christian liturgical art will form the background for the presentation.

Dinner at 6:00 P.M

Presentation at 7:00 P.M.

Child care provided during presentation

Free Will Offering.