

**The United Church of Northfield
Christmas Sunday
December 25, 2011**

Prelude & Candle Lighting:

Alison Cerutti

Gathering Song: Congregational Choice

Words Of Welcome

Call to Worship: (by Andrea LaSondeAnastos)

Leader: In the beginning was Word.

People: Word spoke Life.

Leader: Life burst into Light.

People: Light revealed Truth.

Leader: Truth affirmed Word.

People: Word became Flesh.

Hymn of Praise: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

PH 120

Morning Prayer: (seated, in unison): (by Lois Rock in *Prayers for Each and Every Day*):

Let us travel to Christmas by the light of a star. Let us go to the hillside right where the shepherds are. Let us see shining angels singing from heaven above. Let us see Mary cradling God's holy child with love.

Amen.

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

Come just as you are. Come to meet Jesus. As Mary and Joseph welcomed strangers and a host of heavenly guests to the stable, so God welcomes us with open arms. In these silent moments, give yourself over to the counsel of God as you confess your failings and shortcomings. God loves you. God is listening...

Silent Prayer

Prayer of Confession: (Silent prayer)

Words of Assurance: (Worship Ways):

God is faithful and just. God judges all people with equity. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep

darkness -- on them light has shined. In the glow of God's grace, you are forgiven! Let this revelation brighten your soul! Forgiven and forgiving, carry the light of Christ's love to an aching and ailing world. **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.

Music Offering:

Alison Cerutti

A Time with Children: "The Moon Shines Down" by Margaret Wise Brown

Scripture, Reflection, and Song:

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reflection

Song: "See the Little Baby" NCH 147 (refrain only)

Hebrews 1:1-4

Reflection

Song: "See the Little Baby" NCH 147 (refrain only)

John 1:1-14

Reflection

Song: "See the Little Baby" NCH 147 (refrain only)

Prayers of the People

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.

The Offering: (The Christmas Fund offering): (From Rev. Dr. Robert George at UCC Worship Ways):

God, you call us to give as we have received. On this Christmas morning, when our blessings are great, when you have shared your Child with us, help us to share our blessing with those in need.

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication: (standing, in unison):

Gracious God, let your face shine on us with a light that does not dim when the calendar day of Christmas passes. We give you thanks for the shepherds in our midst—who have been faithful in keeping watch, alert to angels, welcoming to strangers, willing to seek and share your story in season and out of season. Bless these Christmas Funds gifts that they may express our gratitude to retired and active clergy and lay employees, as well as our commitment, each one of us, to become shepherds of your grace. Bless also the morning offering of this church, so these gifts may reveal the greatest Gift of your love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Response: “And also with you.”

Closing Hymn: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

PH 488

Brief Announcements

Benediction:

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 18, 2011: Pledge Income: \$912; Pledge offering for 2012: \$9,000; Plate Offering: \$29.48; Heifer Offering: \$5.32, Total Heifer \$124.25, Goal: Tree Seedlings \$180; Other: SOS: \$1.020; Christmas Fund: \$229. Thank you for your faithful giving.

Please return your Stewardship pledge with Time & Talent sheets.

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: Annalill & Anita Crain

Ushers: Barbara & Kayla Barrows

Choir Leadership and Pianist/Organist: Alison Cerutti

Childcare: Julia Hatch

CONTACT INFORMATION: Reverend Jennifer Kimball
mationjm@yahoo.com or home phone number (802) 778-0813
or 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

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy families in need, and Christmas checks to hundreds of annuitants; administered by the Pension Boards. This special mission offering of the UCC is part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM).

The United Church of Northfield is a member of Vermont Conference, The United Church of Christ and is 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.



THIS WEEK AT THE UNITED CHURCH

December 26, 2011 to January 1, 2012

Meetings occur in Howe's Hall unless otherwise noted.

- Mon.:** NO Bible Study this week (26th) or next week (Jan. 2nd). Bible Study will resume January 9th at the home of Bev Knox from 9-11. We will be studying Mark 1:4-11, Genesis 1:1-5, and Psalm 29.
7:00 P.M. Men's AA Meeting
- 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.:** NO Boy Scout Meeting; resumes January 5th.

Pastor Jennifer Kimball will be on vacation from December 26th through January 2nd. Please contact Deacon Bev Knox at 485-4101 in case of pastoral emergencies. Chris Southworth will lead worship on January 1st. Communion will be held on January 8th.

On January 8, 2012 Pastor Jennifer Kimball and John Kimball will join the United Church of Northfield.

Annual Meeting of the United Church of Northfield is January 22, 2012 immediately following the morning worship service. Budget Informational meeting will be held January 15th immediately following the morning worship service.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TO THE SECRETARY ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 10TH. EMAIL TO laura.ranker@racdc.com or uccnorthfield@trans-video.net
THANK YOU!!!!