

United Church of Northfield

Christmas Eve, 2011~~~7:00 p.m.

A Service of Lessons and Carols and Candle Lighting.

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Prelude and Candle Lighting: Alison Cerutti

Words of Welcome and Reading of the Names:

Rev. Jennifer Kimball and Beverly Knox

Prayer of Invocation: (by Rev. Penny L. Lowes, at UCC Worship Ways):

**All: O God of the Baby of Bethlehem,
We come into your presence with praise and
thanksgiving.**

**We hear the glad tidings of the angel voices,
We come to experience this good news of great joy for
all the people.**

**As the shepherds traveled to Bethlehem,
We have traveled here – excited, expectant, hopeful; a
bit skeptical.**

**Let the words of sacred scripture seep into our hearts,
to be treasured and pondered anew.**

We are here; we are ready, O God!

Let the light of your love break forth! Amen.

Carol of Praise: "O Come All Ye Faithful" #132 PH

All carols will be sung from the red Pilgrim Hymnal

Christmas Prayer

**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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath with the Christ

Candle: (from the UCC Book of Worship): Kunkel family

**Reader 1: Tonight we relight the four Advent Candles
and recall what the good news means.**

**Reader 2: Jesus Christ is the greatest gift who makes
all these other gifts possible. So, we light the Christ
candle now, as we think about what Christ's coming
means to each one of us.**

Reader 1: Please join me in prayer:

**All: We thank you, God, for your gift of Jesus Christ to
the entire world. We thank you that Christ's coming
makes hope, peace, love, and joy possible for every
person in every nation. Encourage us to do our part to
bring goodwill and peace to our families, our churches,
our neighborhoods, and the world. Now let your Spirit
put us in touch with you, the living God, through the
words and music we hear tonight. In the name of
Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Choral Offering: "Comfort Ye" from Handel's Messiah Neil Cerutti

Lessons and Carols:

1st Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Karen Taylor

Carol: "Every Valley" from Handel's Messiah Neil Cerutti

2nd Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a John Kimball

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" PH 134 vs 1 & 4

3rd Lesson: Luke 1:26-38 Owen Kunkel

Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High" PH 116 vs 1 & 3

4th Lesson: Matthew 1:18-23 Nathan Ranker

Choral Offering: "Psalmite" by Michael Praetorius UCN CHOIR

5th Lesson: Luke 2:1-7 Ayrin Southworth

Carol: "What Child Is This" PH 140 vs 1 & 2

6th Lesson: Luke 2:8-20 Dale Kunkel

Carol: "The First Nowell" PH 141 verses 1 & 2

7th Lesson: John 1:1-14 Rev. Kimball

A Christmas Meditation: Sun and Candles Rev. Kimball

Choral Offering: "Only a Baby Came" UCN Choir
by Natallie Sleeth

Ceremony of Candle Lighting from the Christ Candle:

If you are able, please leave your pew, exiting towards the outer aisle. Form a circle with your neighbors. Please be sure that the circle extends to the front of the sanctuary. If necessary, use the center aisle also. All candles should be extinguished at the conclusion of the carol "Joy to the World". *PLEASE HOLD LIT CANDLES IN UPRIGHT POSTION AT ALL TIMES.*

***Silent Night:** "Silent Night" (see insert)

***Carol of Proclamation:** "Joy to the World" (see insert)

The Blessing

Postlude: Alison Cerutti

We wish you and your loved ones a Blessed Christmas!

You are invited to give an offering in the basket in the doorway. This year our collection will benefit the OCWM (Our Churches Wider Mission). Thank you!

A Special Word of Thanks:

Choir Director: Alison Cerutti

Pianist/Organist: Alison Cerutti

Soloist: Neil Cerutti

Church Secretary: Laura Ranker

Luminaries: The Crain Family

Ushers: Terry and Dean Howe,

Frank Plumley and Jim Ranker

Childcare: Julia Hatch

The Deacons

To the many persons who donated poinsettias and to Beverly Knox, Coordinator of flowers for special occasions.

To learn more about our faith community and what we can offer you:

For Pastoral Care needs contact: Pastor and Teacher -

Reverend Jennifer Kimball: matisationjm@yahoo.com or home phone number (802) 778-0813; cell (607) 434-5632.

For information or to leave messages:

Church office 485-4431; email: uccnorthfield@trans-video.net

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