

**The Church of the Pilgrimage  
United Church of Christ**

Sunday, December 16, 2018

10:00am

Third Sunday of Advent



*Annunciation, Antonello da Messina, 1474*

**Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo, PASTOR**  
**Steve Triffletti, WORSHIP LEADER**  
**Kelley DePasqua, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
**Michael Eaton, ORGANIST**  
**Jenny Healy, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ED**

# Order of Worship

*Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

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## Prelude

Good News from Heaven the Angels Bring  
-Johann Pachelbel 1653-1706

## Welcome and Announcements

## Choral Introit

**Call to Worship** (*responsively*) *from Zephaniah 3:14-20*

Listen to words of promise and hope  
and share the great good news:

God is not distant or uncaring,  
but moves with loving power to meet us as we meet.

**The Living God is in our midst  
to rejoice over us with gladness,  
renew us in love, and lift us up with words of hope.**

I will remove disaster from you.

I will deal with oppressors, rescue the lame, and gather  
the outcast.

I will bring you home forever  
and change your shame into honor and praise.

\*Hymn No. 116      People, Look East

\***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**      Liz, Bill and Kaitlin Kenney

In the gospel of Luke, John the Baptizer points to Jesus:

As the people were filled with expectation...

questioning whether John might be the Messiah,

John answered them by saying,

“I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is  
coming... he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

*(Luke 3:15-16)*

If we follow Jesus Christ, we will get everything we hope for,

and more than we bargained for.  
We light our third candle to praise God,  
whose Spirit comes to us  
with disturbing and wonderful blessings.

*(the third candle is lit)*

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you,  
hope to follow you,  
and love to live for you.

**We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.**

## Advent 3 Light a Candle Bright and Tall

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Light a candle bright and tall, For the joy this season brings. Joy like fountains brimming full, Through our world now let it ring! Shine within our hearts today, Come, O Joy, to us we pray." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

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MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; adapt. William H. Monk, 1864

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### \*The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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

**\*Gloria Patri** No. 36 (*unison*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.

**Anthem**            *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming* by Michael Praetorius  
The Women of the Sanctuary Choir

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming, from tender stem hath sprung. Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.	Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I had in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Saviour, when half spent was the night.
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**The Children's Message**

Jenny Healy

-----*Children Depart for Sunday School*-----

**Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response**

**Scripture Lesson**        Luke 1:26-45

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this

be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

**Sermon**

*Openness Required*

Rev. Helen Nablo

\* **Hymn** No. 123

The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

## **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

by Gustav Holst

Melissa Tompkins & David Tyler, Soloists

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.  
King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture -in the body and the blood.  
He will give to all the faithful. His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.



**A word on sharing prayer concerns:** If there is a concern you would like to have read out loud during the prayer time, please find a prayer slip at the back of the church and place it in the box located there.

**Nametags:** It is helpful to everyone if we make an effort to wear our nametags. Thank you!

**Memorial Poinsettias:** This will be the last Sunday to sign up in the lower vestibule following the service today to purchase a memorial poinsettia. An insert listing the donors and those memorialized or honored will be included in the December 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday bulletin. The suggested donation for a poinsettia is \$15, although a donation of any amount is welcome.

**Pageant Practice** – We continue our one room school house Sunday School in preparation for the Christmas Pageant (which is DURING the regular 10am service on the 23<sup>rd</sup>-just like last year). Children will start in worship as usual then be dismissed to the JRC. After church, we will rehearse in the sanctuary. Please plan on staying; it helps the kids immensely to walk through this a few times. Thank you.

**Music for a Summer Evening:** The choir CD is for sale during coffee hour. It makes a great Christmas gift for family and friends! (includes Christmas music, but has music from the whole church year)

**Have you had your picture taken yet!** Our updated member directory is taking shape and we want to include your photo. Today is our last Sunday! Please come to Allerton Hall during coffee hour in December and have your picture taken by Bill Converse.

**Caregiver Support Group** meets today following worship in the Marks Conference Room of the John Robinson Center.

**Youth group: SAVE the DATE:** December 28 homemade pizza and games at Jenny's 5-9PM. RSVP to Jenny at [jennycotp@gmail.com](mailto:jennycotp@gmail.com)

**Christmastide Service - January 30<sup>th</sup> in the JRC.** We gather together for a simple breakfast provided by the deacons which begins at 9 am. Worship begins at 10am. Come ready to sing lots of carols! PJ Storytime with Jenny for children.

**Youth/Adult Maine Mission Trip** - Save the date, June 23 - June 30th. During the Nativity Open house a number of youth indicated they would go on a Mission Trip to Maine this coming year. Please sign up with Jim Hammond or Jenny Healy this Sunday and next or email Jim at [james.gonfishin@gmail.com](mailto:james.gonfishin@gmail.com) so we can start to make plans. We will hold an

informational meeting and formal sign up in January. We would need to have 4 adults also and this is a great opportunity to give back to an area that needs help.

**Overnights of Hospitality:** This program takes place at two locations: Christ Episcopal and First Baptist Church, with assistance from a paid staff person from Father Bill's. There is a need for meals and particularly for chaperones in the weeks after Christmas. You can sign up for meals by <https://mealtrain.com/k4w5gd> Questions? Call Connie Melahoures at (508) 367-0516.

**Nativities** – there are still some that have not yet been picked up in Pastor Helen's office (this building). Please pick up after the service. Thank you!

### This Week and next

**Dec. 17** Monday Meals, 11am, Allerton Hall.

**Dec 19** Bible Study at Pastor Helen's home, 2 Manters Point. 10:30am. Choir rehearsal, 7:30pm ,Sanctuary.

**Dec.23** Fourth Sunday of Advent; Pageant as part of our worship.

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve Service, Lessons and Carols and Communion Meditation. 9 pm.

**Dec 24 and 25:** Office Closed.

**Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>** Celebration of Life for Dot Lanman, 10 am with collation to follow.



*As an Open and Affirming Congregation we invite all into our faith, to fully share in all church life, including our work, worship, rites, and sacraments, with the assurance that we are all created in God's image, reconciled by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.*

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