

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent – JOY
Music Sunday**

A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE *On That Quiet Christmas Night*
Hand Bell Choir

Bill Ingram
based on the tunes STILLE NACHT and AWAY IN A MANGER

WELCOME (Pastor John)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme)

CANTICLE *O God of Love*

Tune: HESPERUS

Words by J. F. Connolly

O God of Joy, be our delight.
Grant us the vision of Your sight.
Help us reach out to all in need,
Shape us in love and word and deed.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES (Jason Handy, Brad Morrison)

Today we light the candle of HOPE, the candle of PEACE, the candle of LOVE, and the candle of JOY.
The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like these. (Galatians 5: 22 - 23)

God, we thank you for the gift of joy. Help us to share it with one another. We wait for Jesus with hope, peace, love, and joy.

**We light these candles as symbols of HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, and JOY as we pray,
Come Lord Jesus, come!**

(The candles of HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, and JOY are lit.)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (Linda Oehme)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

Were You There on that Christmas Night?

A Christmas Musical

by Lloyd Larson

Based on the classic Christmas anthem
of the same title by Natalie Sleeth

Forward (Narrator, Brad Morrison)

1. **A Great Light!** (Narrators, Mary Williams and Jason Handy)

Words and Music by Lloyd Larson based on Isaiah 9:2,6
Quoting *Silent Night! Holy Night!* (STILLE NACHT) by Franz Gruber
On Christmas Night All Christians Sing (SUSSEX CAROL) Trad. English Carol
Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus (HYFRYDOL) by Charles Wesley and Rowland H. Prichard

Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night,
when the world was filled with a holy light?
Were you there to behold when the wonder foretold came to earth?

Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the sight?
Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang all through the night?

The people walking in darkness shall see a great light!
The people living in darkness on them a light will shine!
And the glory of God shall be shown, the will of God made known.
The people walking in darkness shall see a great light!

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and the government shall be on his shoulders,
and the government shall be on his shoulders.
He shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
The people walking in darkness shall see a great light!

2. Bethlehem

(Narrators, Linda and Bob Oehme)
Words by Williams H. Neidlinger and Phillips Brooks.
Music by Lloyd Larson

In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a child one day,
and the sky was bright with a holy light o'er the place where Jesus lay.

'Twas a humble birthplace, but O how much God gave to us that day;
from the manger bed what a path has led, what a perfect, holy way.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet In the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n!
No ear May hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet In the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight, are met in me tonight.

3. Never Been a Night Like This! (Narrators, Ericka and Leona Tyler)

Words and Music by Lloyd Larson based on Luke 2:8-16
Quoting *O Come All ye Faithful* (ADESTE FIDELIS)
Words and music by John F. Wade, translated by Frederick Oakeley

There were shepherds in the field keeping watch at night
when out of the dark, a most unusual sight.
An angel of the Lord came with news of joy,
"The Savior's been born tonight, a baby boy!"

The shepherds rejoiced on that Christmas night
as the heavenly host turned the darkness bright.
There'd never been a night like this before!

There'd never been a night like this before
with the angels around singin' praise to the Lord.
The glory of the lord was revealed that night!

There'd never been a song like this before,
heaven's music proclaimed the birth of Christ, the Lord.
There'd never been a night, a night like this before.

"Do not be afraid," the angel said to them,
"you will find the baby down in Bethlehem.
He's in a manger bed, such a humble birth,
the King of kings has come down to earth."

The shepherds rejoiced and began to run
to the new born King, God's holy Son.
There'd never been a night like this before!

There'd never been a night like this before!
There'd never been a night like this before
with the angels around singin' praise to the Lord.
The glory of the lord was revealed that night!
There'd never been a song like this before,
heaven's music proclaimed the birth of Christ, the Lord.
There'd never been a night, a night like this before.

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
Never been a night, a night like this before.
Never been a song, a song like this before.
Never been a night, a night like this before.
Never been a night like this!

4. All Is Well (Narrator, Miranda Hunter)

Words and Music by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Michael W. Smith.
Arranged by Lloyd Larson.

All is well, all is well.
Angels and men rejoice!
For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light.
Sing al-le, sing alleluia!

All is well, all is well.
Let there be peace on earth.
Sing for Christ is come, go and tell that he is in the manger.
Sing al-le, sing alleluia!

All is well, all is well.
Lift up your voice and sing and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing alleluia! All is well!

Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior
Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia!
All is well, all is well.

5- Sing We Now of Christmas (Narrators, Katie Izzo and Jamie Maholchic)

Arranged by Lloyd Larson.
Quoting NOËL NOUVELET (Traditional French Carol)
and *What Child Is This* (GREENSLEEVE'S) Traditional English Carol;
words by William C. Dix

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, Sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
journey forth to Bethl'hem, find the lambkin blest."

King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!
In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,
seated by the manger, watching the holy child.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, Sing we now Noel!
This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard
and angels sing;
haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
Sing we now Noel!

6. Welcome to Our World (Narrators, Linda Oehme and Ericka Tyler)
Soloists: Leona Tyler, Jason Handy

Words and Music by Chris Rice
Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking,
how we need to hear from God.
You've been promised, we've been waiting;
welcome holy child, welcome holy child.

Hope that you don't mind our manger,
how I wish we could have known.
But long awaited holy Stranger,
make yourself at home, please make yourself at home.

Bring your peace into our violence,
bid our hungry souls be filled.
Word now breaking heaven's silence,
welcome to our world, welcome to our world.

Fragile finger sent to heal us,
tender brow prepared for thorn,
tiny heart whose blood will save us, unto us is born.

So, wrap our injured flesh around you,
breathe our air and walk our sod.
Rob our sin and make us holy,
perfect Son of God, perfect Son of God.
Welcome to our world.

7. Were You There on That Christmas Night? (Narrators, Miranda and Elspeth Hunter)

Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth
Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night,
when the world was filled with a holy light?
Were you there to behold when the wonder foretold came to earth?

Did you see, did you see how they hailed him King,
with the gifts so rare that they chose to bring?
Did you see how they bowed as they praised him aloud at his birth?

Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the sight?
Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang all through the night?
Did you know, did you know it was God's own Son,
the salvation of the world begun?

Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth,
Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth?
Were you there?

8. Glory to the Newborn King! (Narrators, Jason Handy and Braderick Morrison)

Words and Music by LLOYD LARSON

Quoting *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* (SUSSEX CAROL), Traditional English Carol;
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (MENDELSSOHN) by Charles Wesley and Felix Mendelssohn
and *Were You There on That Christmas Night?* By Natalie Sleeth.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Sing Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Glory be to God on high!

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring: On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King.
"Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace on earth!

Joyful all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die;
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the sight?
Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang all through the night?
Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night,
when the world was filled with the holy light?
Were, you there to behold when the wonder foretold came to earth?
Sing Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Glory be to God on high! Amen!

BLESSING (Pastor John)

Bless the Lord with all your soul,
and may the blessing of God be with you.

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Thank you to our musicians and those who shared their talents with us in worship.

Mary Williams, Director
Jason Handy and Bob Oehme, Accompanists
Special vocal assistance provided by Meena Conant, Jason Handy, Michael Moren, and Mary Williams.

Cheri Oakley, Video Editing (using Movavi)
Mary Williams, Audio Editing (using GarageBand)
Video and audio files were recorded using the Acapella App

Cantata Rehearsals were facilitated on ZOOM

Narration Coordinator, Braderick Morrison

Narrators
Jason Handy
Elspeth Hunter
Miranda Hunter
Katie Izzo
Jamie Maholchic
Braderick Morrison
Ericka Tyler
Leona Tyler
Linda and Bob Oehme
Mary Williams

The Cantata Singers are musicians from the Chenango County area as well as members of the choirs at The United Church of Christ, First Congregational of Norwich, NY (Mary Williams, Director) and Broad Street United Methodist Church of Norwich, NY (Michael Moren, Director).

Sopranos
Patricia Burke (UCC)
Meena Conant (UCC)
Kayla Farrell (UCC)
Elspeth Hunter (UCC)
Jessica Hoople (BSUMC)
Kaitlyn Jackson (Norwich)
Samantha Musk (Norwich)
Kacie Turnbull (UCC)
Ericka Tyler (UCC)
Leona Tyler (UCC)

Altos
Mikaela Brown (Oxford)
Megan Carpenter (Norwich)
Stephanie Carpenter (Norwich)
Bonnie Connolly (formerly UCC)
Kelsie Hicks (Norwich)
Miranda Hunter (UCC)
Joyce Lawson (BSUMC)
Linda Oehme (UCC)
Nicole Salazar (Norwich)
Mary Williams (UCC)

Men
Colin Bussing (Norwich)
Jason Handy (UCC)
Craig Lawon (BSUMC)
Michael Moren (BSUMC)
Braderick Morrison (UCC)
Bob Oehme (UCC)
Peter Williams (UCC)