

December 18, 2011 – 10:00AM

4th Sunday in Advent – Music Sunday – A Service of Lessons and Carols

*Love came down at Christmas;
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Stars and angels gave the sign.
- Christina Rossetti*

CHIMES

INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (**responsively**)

Here, in this place,
we discover the great things God has done.
In story and song, in silence and sacrament,
we are reminded that God's relationship with us
lasts forever.
Here, with these people, we find our true home.
where we can run home laughing,
after being lost for so long.
Here, during this holy season,
we hear those promises made so long ago.
Of the One who repairs all our mistakes,
of the One who reshapes our brokenness.

*HYMN **142** (*Chalice*) People, Look East

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: **LOVE**

Candle Lighters: The Griffin Family

We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

HYMN (seated) "A Candle is Burning"

**A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above,
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these
candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the
creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be
shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be
transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

*HYMN 165 (*Chalice*) Once in Royal David's City

**The church school children may pass to the Parish Hall
when the congregation begins singing**

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 1: 26 – 31(God blesses humankind)

ANTHEM *Carol of the Bells*
Cherry Brook Chimes

SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6 – 7 (Christ's birth is foretold)

ANTHEM *A Manger Gloria*
Senior Choir

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 11: 1 – 4, 6 – 9 (The Peace Christ will bring is
foretold)

ANTHEM *What Child is This?*
Cherry Brook Chimes

FOURTH LESSON: Micah 5:2 - 4 (The coming of a ruler from Bethlehem
is foretold)

ANTHEM *Hush, the Holy Child is Sleeping*
Senior Choir

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2: 1, 3 – 7 (The Birth of Jesus)

ANTHEM *The Shepherd's Carol*
Senior Choir

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:8 – 16 (The shepherds go to the manger)

OFFERTORY *We Three Kings*
Cherry Brook Chimes

*DOXOLOGY (Chalice #46)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**We offer to you, O God, these gifts of our lives and service.
Keep us close Lord, to all who need your love, justice, compassion, and
healing; help us to show them
that you are known in Jesus Christ, whose compassion lives in all of us.**

ANTHEM *Celtic Christmas Lullaby*
Senior Choir

NINTH LESSON: John 1: 1 – 14 (The mystery of incarnation)

*HYMN **120** (*Pilgrim*) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*BENEDICTION

Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge
That God is always coming into the world.

**We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger,
But in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.**

May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;
May the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

We will welcome the challenge of discipleship.

We will offer ourselves as God's ministers.

We will go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.

*RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

FROM THE PASTOR

Peace

Rev. Rushan

CALENDAR

TODAY: 4th Sunday of Advent

Music Sunday

Cherub Choir rehearsal 11:15 am

Junior Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am

Congregational Meeting after
worship today to vote on
budget.

Trustee meeting after church
Wrapped gifts from the Giving
Tree are due back today!

Service of Compassion – 5:30 pm

Mon. Dec. 19th:

Senior Choir 7:00 pm

Thurs. Dec. 22nd:

Bells Choir 7:00 pm

Sat. Dec. 24th:

Christmas Eve Worship Services

6:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Sun. Dec. 25th:

Christmas Day Worship Service
10:00 am

SERVICE OF COMPASSION & HOPE 5:30 PM DEC. 18TH

We invite you to come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, readings, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who struggle during this season - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of age, regardless of what you are dealing with this holiday season, regardless of church background is welcome to join us. You may have friends or relatives who need a little bit of hope and light in this season, please invite them to join us.

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING 2011

This year our church will be receiving the Christmas Fund offering which benefits the **Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund** of the Pension Boards of the UCC on **Sunday, December 18.**

Christmas Services

Sunday, December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

Service of Compassion &
Hope, 5:00 pm

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Worship Service 6:00 pm &
7:30 pm

Sunday, December 25 -

Christmas Day

Worship service 10:00 am

Our church tree is a giving tree. We are grateful to the **Humphrey Family** who donates the tree in memory of **Harry Humphrey.** Thanks to **Jim and Kathy Koplak** for setting up the tree.

WELCOME

Thank you for joining us in worship today. Thank you for the gifts and the spirit you have brought to our time together and to our time of worship. Your presence and participation are an important part of shaping this experience of worship. Know that whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey of life and faith, you are welcome here!

If you are a guest here today, we would love for you to become a regular part of what God is doing in and through this church community. If you have any questions about this community, please ask the Pastor. Also, please let us know you were here by filling in the friendship card in your pew and placing it in the offering basket, or give it to a greeter.

Nursery Care is available in the lower level of the Parish House.

Large print editions of the worship bulletin are available on the Ushers' tables. Large print copies of the *Chalice* hymnal are also available for use during worship.

After Worship: Please join us for refreshments in the fellowship hall, stay around, visit with friends and meet someone new!



The flowers today are poinsettias given in memory, celebration and honor of family and friends as listed in the enclosed brochure.

Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray
Director of Christian Education & Youth	Sarah W. LeGeyt
Organist, Director of Music	Mary Lou Keefe
Duty Deacons	Donna Hammond and Larry Minichiello
Duty Trustee	Beth Lingenheld
Greeters	Kathy and Jeff Smith
Coffee Hour Hosts	Music Department

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