

South Church in Andover

United Church of Christ

December 24, 2011

10:30pm

Order of Worship

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10a)

Prelude

Alman in C [McDermott] ~ Charlotte Hallett, Harp
Coventry Carol [Arr. By Shaw] ~ Sanctuary Choir
Largo from the Concerto Grosso Op. 6 #8 (the "Christmas Concerto")
~ Recorder Ensemble
In the Bleak Midwinter [Rossetti and Darke] ~ Sanctuary Choir
Still, Still, Still [Words and Music by Keith, Berman, Luboff] ~ Harmonic Regression
Sussex Carol [Arr. Willcocks] ~ Sanctuary Choir
Variations on Greensleeves [Cutting],
Peal of Bells [Bell Pattern from St. Patrick, Dublin],
Transemus "Let us Travel to Bethlehem" (Latin Hymn) ~ Charlotte Hallett, Harp

Opening Psalm & Welcome

THIS is the day that the LORD has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Introit

Once in Royal David's City [Arr. by Mann, Wells]
~ Soprano soloists Hannah & Sarah Leinbach

Responsive Call to Worship

Come! Hear the news of great joy! ~ John Zehring
A child is born to us this day!
Great joy for all people of the earth.
A child is born to us this day!
A Savior, the Messiah, the Lord!
Glory to God in the highest!

*Hymn #132 Blue

O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1, 2 & 4)

*Responsive Invocation

Emmanuel: God, you are with us. ~ Donna Zehring
We have heard the promise of the prophets;
We have caught the notes of an angel's song;
We have seen a star in the heavens, and we have believed.
Tonight we have come to be with you because you have come to be with us.
We seek an innocent, helpless baby in a crude manger;
We seek a Messiah who will reign with justice;
**And you, who are the weakest and the strongest, the most humble
and the most mighty, have found us.**
Now we may find ourselves.
**Now we may love each other, now we may truly worship you,
Crying aloud with the heavenly host: Glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill among all people. Amen.**

*Prayer Response #116 Blue

Angels We Have Heard on High (verse 1)

~ Ron & Candy Dann, Becky & Matt Hewitt

Lighting of the Advent Christ Candle

Offering our Gifts in Thanksgiving

Invitation
Offertory *What Sweeter Music* [John Rutter] ~ Sanctuary Choir

*Offertory Response

**We give you but your own, what e'er the gift may be,
All that we have is yours alone, We give it gratefully.**

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

~ Donna Zehring

**Loving God, may our thoughts, our lives, our caring and our gifts
magnify You and be a reflection of our love and devotion to You. Amen.**

Meditation

He came to bring you enough ~ John Zehring

Musical Response

Pie Jesu, From Requiem [Arr. by Leavitt]
~ Soprano Duet: Missy Cronin and Melanie Long

The Promise of His Coming

Scripture: Micah 5:2, Isaiah 9:2-7 ~ Jane Ingram

Hymn #129 Blue: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (verse 1)

The Announcement to Mary

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 ~ Rebecca Hoerner

Anthem: *Cantique De Noël* [Adam] ~ Soprano Duet April Foley and Jacqueline Foley

The Journey to Bethlehem

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 ~ David Williams

Hymn #134 Blue: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verse 1)

Good News for Humankind

Scripture: Luke 2:8-14 ~ Janet Clarke

Hymn #120 Blue: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (verse 1)

A Visit to the Manger

Scripture: Luke 2:15-20 ~ Ted Nowell

Anthem: *Away in a Manger* [Arr. by Llewellyn] ~ Sanctuary Choir

And the Word became Flesh and Dwelt among Us

Scripture: John 1:1-14 ~ Candy Dann

*Responsive Christmas
Eve Prayer
& Lord's Prayer
("debts")*

It is near time, Lord. Christmas is almost here.

It can't come too soon, O God, for our troubled and weary world. We need to hear the song of the angels again, and know that your spirit is still here in spite of tragedy, war, crime, and human failure.

We pray that we won't be too tired and busy to recognize your spirit when we see it, or to hear the song of the angels when it is being sung.

Give us hearts that are sensitive – to the cries of hungry children, the despair of jobless people, the rebellion of teenagers, the anger of terrorists, the indifference of politicians, the hopeless plodding of millions. Let us weep over the suffering of the masses and identify with the disappointments of children. And help us to resolve to become a part of your solution to the world's problems by joining in the movement of love that began with the birth of the Child of Bethlehem.

Let love be the greatest ingredient in our Christmas this year, and let it fill our hearts to overflowing from this hour forward. We shall pay our homage to Christ by seeing each person as a child of blessing, a child of promise, and a child of yours, whom you love with all your heart. This we pray in the name of the Christ child, saying "*Our Father... (debts).*"

*Candlelight
Service*

Symbolizing Christ, the Light of the World. John and Donna will give the light to the Deacons, and they in turn will share it with the congregation. To receive the light, dip your unlit candle into the flame of the lit candle of your neighbor to prevent damage from dripped wax.

Candlelight Music

Midnight [John Dowland]

~ Charlotte Hallett, Harp

Hymn #138 Blue

Silent Night (please remain seated)

Extinguish candles following the lead of John and Donna.

Benediction

**Closing Hymn
#130 Blue*

Joy to the World

Postlude

Ex Te Lux Oritur (12th Century Scottish Melody)

~ Charlotte Hallett, Harp

* All who are able, please stand

Tomorrow, on Christmas Morning, there will be a brief service. Come casual. No need to dress up. **10:30am in the Chapel.**

*Biography of
Charlotte Hallett*

Music and the visual arts have always followed a twin course in my life since early childhood. My stepfather, a restoration and ornament specialist, taught me historical painting and restoration techniques while private teachers were engaged for drawing and music. I studied keyboard and voice with Doris Paar and elementary harp technique with Elizabeth Provost in Manhattan as a child and teenager. These interests continued through my undergraduate years at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut where I majored in history while participating in musical groups such as the County Chamber Players and various other groups and choirs and pursued design and painting as minors for a B.A.

I design silver, crystal and porcelain for major corporations such as Steuben Glass, Wallace International Silversmiths and Hutschenreuther in Germany. As Hallett Associates, my husband William and I continue to design for corporate clients and ecclesiastical institutions. Numerous examples of sculpture, paintings, carvings and vestments are in the collections of such churches as The Old North Church, Boston, Transfiguration Episcopal Church, Dallas, The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York as well as museums and royal collections at home and abroad.

In music, I am interested in historical instruments, their construction, decoration and playing techniques—especially the historical harp of Ireland. The instrument remains rather a rarity; although the Historical Harp Society of Ireland conducts a summer school that attracts international students and promotes our harp through concerts and recitals in Ireland and abroad. Repertoire ranges from the middle ages through to the baroque with a wealth of recent discoveries from the renaissance that expand the range dramatically.

It is a joy to play and to share this unique instrument with its bell-like sound and haunting sustain—an enchantment from a distant time.

*Participating
In the Service*

South Church Sanctuary Choir

Sopranos: Heather Bond, Missy Cronin, Jolie Drury, April Foley, Jacqueline Foley, Susan Henke, Hannah Leinbach, Heidi Leinbach, Sarah Leinbach, Melanie Long, Donna Schroeder, Laurie Sorota, Clara Wade, Clare Wood

Altos: Anne Clough, Sharon Coon, Marianne Knowles, Annie Long, Barbara Mandell, Nancy Miller, Sherry Tupper

Tenors: Beth Kiker, Ned Martin, Glenn Rogers, Mark VanDoran, William Wood, Michael Woods

Basses: Clark Benson, Ron Dann, Steve Longo, Marty Mason, Don Miller, David Penner, John Shaw, Ron Smith, Gary Van Doran

Recorder Ensemble: Candy Dann, Ginger Gatewood, Marianne Knowles

Harmonic Regression: Jeff Cutts, Ron Dann, Jonathan Drury, Scott Helmers, Marty Mason, Don Miller, Donna Schroeder, William Wood

Head Usher: Margaret Crockett