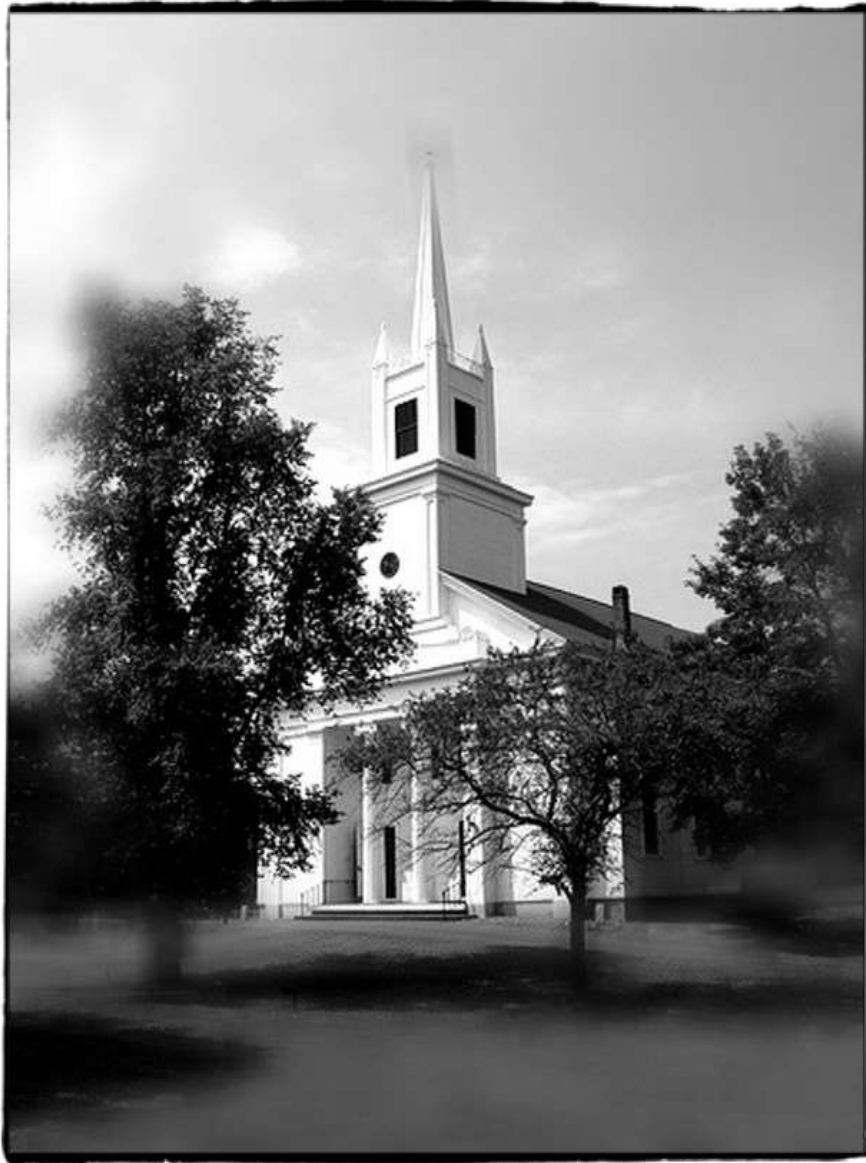


# The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

*An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of  
the United Church of Christ*



The Congregational Church of Topsfield, *An Open and Affirming Congregation of the UCC*  
9 East Common St. Topsfield, MA. 01983 Church Office: 978-887-2101 Website: [www.topsfieldchurch.org](http://www.topsfieldchurch.org)  
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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 22, 2024**  
**9:30 am**

PRELUDE "Si me dan pasteles" Traditional Puerto Rican

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Martin Riekert

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

THE LIGHTING OF THE ANGELS CANDLE Bob and Sheryl Knutsen

OPENING HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN  
HYMN #240 (MH) View page 5, verses 1 and 3

GATHERING PRAYER (UNISON): Lay Reader, Cathy Szymanski

**God of mystery and all-encompassing presence, gather us anew into covenantal community. Guide us through our worship to seek new grounding in your love and compassion. Renew us in this worship service with longing to grow in our embodiment of the Christ spirit. Reshape and reform us so that our discipleship will be evident in our worship, clear in our witness, and characteristic of our service. On this Sunday, as we contemplate the angels' message in Luke's story, may we find your peace so that we may look towards Christmas and beyond with inspired anticipation and with defiant hope. Amen**

SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY *Prélude pour orgue sur "In dulci jubilo"* Yuri Dimmik

†THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him\* all creatures here below; praise Him\* above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost\*\* Amen**

\*You may substitute God/Her \*\*You may substitute Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\*CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL- (MEET IN THE NARTHEX TO BE BROUGHT OVER)**

ANTHEM "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" British Carol, Arr. David Willcocks

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-30 and Luke 2:15 Lay Reader, Cathy Szymanski  
View page 4

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS  
 SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION  
 PASTORAL PRAYER  
 THE LORD’S PRAYER (Debts)

**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.**

\*You may substitute Creator/Mother/Maker, etc. as you choose in saying the prayer.

CLOSING HYMN  
 HYMN #218 (MH)

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”  
 View page 6, verses 1, 3 and 4

CAROL

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

Traditional West Indies

### Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-30 and Luke 2:15 (NRSVUE)

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

# VERSES 1 and 3

CHRIST'S GRACIOUS LIFE

## 240 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!"  
late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

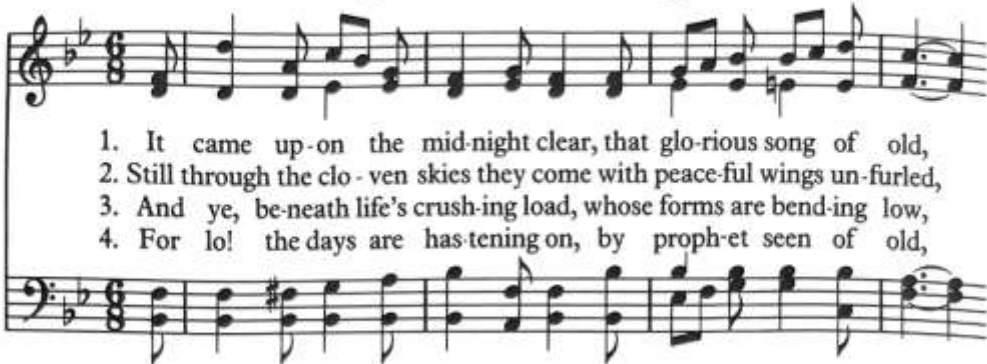
with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*  
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

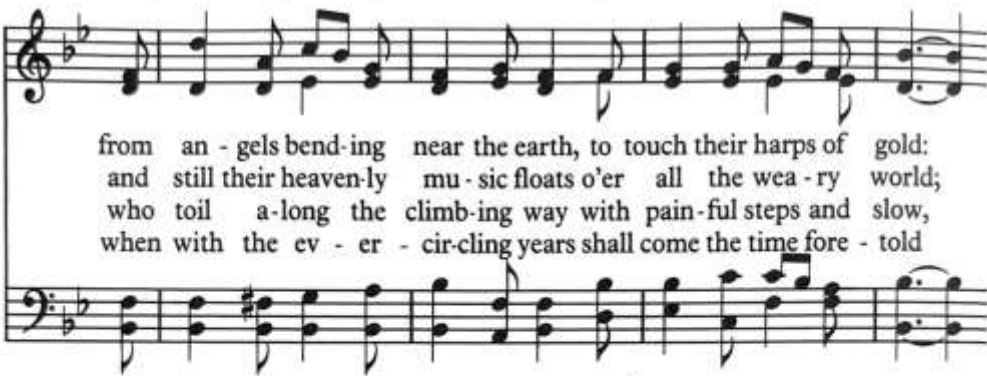
## VERSES 1, 3 and 4

CHRIST'S GRACIOUS LIFE

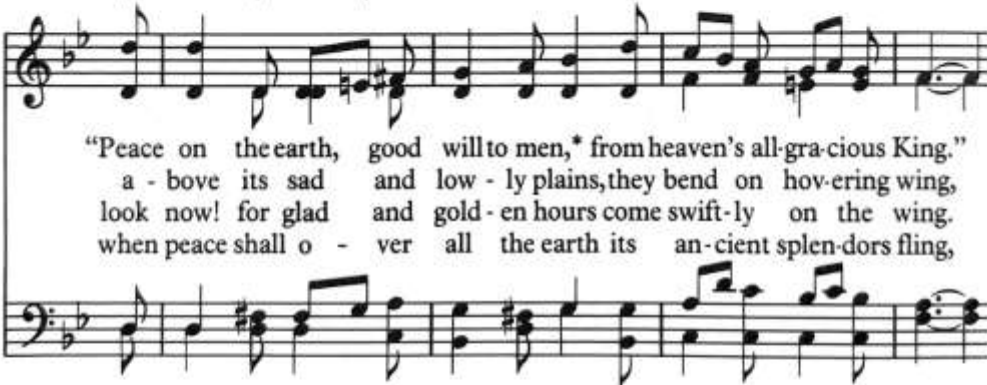
### 218 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



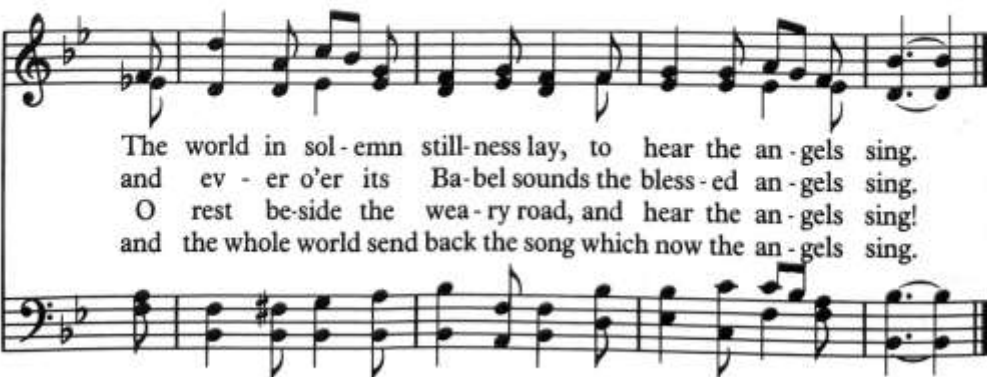
1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,  
3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



from an - gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,  
when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told



"Peace on the earth, good will to men,\* from heaven's all-gracious King."  
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains, they bend on hov-ering wing,  
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift-ly on the wing,  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.  
O rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!  
and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.

# Congregational Church of Topsfield

## Parish Care Ministry

### **Prayer List Contact:**

Kim Itz at [prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto:prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.org)

### **Healing Scripture:**

"And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick ....." Matthew 14:14

### **Healing Prayer:**

Dear Lord, I ask you to turn this weakness into strength, suffering into compassion, sorrow into joy, and pain into comfort for others. May your servants trust in your goodness and hope in your faithfulness, even in the middle of this suffering. Let all be filled with patience and joy in your presence as they wait for your healing touch.

### **Please Pray For:**

Doug McIlvaine - Member of CCOT  
Jane Moyer - Member of CCOT  
Diana Titus - Member of CCOT  
Cheryl Hopkins - Member of CCOT  
Joyce Talbot - Member of CCOT  
Abby Bowling - Member of CCOT  
Susan Gruber - Member of CCOT  
Dennis Heslet- Member of CCOT  
Jacob Itz - Son of Kim & Charlie Itz  
David Muise & Family- Family of Kim Itz  
Scott Bortzfield - Son of Ruth Bortzfield  
Jack Whelan - Brother of Steve Whelan  
Steve Hoover - Son of Carol & Fred Hoover  
Dorcas Gordon - Grandmother of Rasheed Townes  
Doug Gruber - Brother of Susan Gruber  
Mark Gosbee - Son of Judi & Gary Gosbee  
Phil and Marilyn Knowles - Parents of Scott Knowles  
Kevin Goldenbogen - Former Youth Leader at CCOT  
Trish Hudson - Former member of CCOT  
Maria Cecilia Guerra - Sister of José Guerra  
Eva - Friend of Irina Günzel-Guerra from Norway  
Andrea Sommer & Family - Relatives of Irina Günzel Guerra  
Sean Enos - Son of neighbor of Jane & Bruce Jones  
Bobby Duchano - Friend of Charles Mathison  
GML - Friend of Judi & Gary Gosbee  
Phil Sinaikin - Friend of Christa & Martin Riekert  
Jim Quinlivan- Dad of Julie Quinlivan  
Mr. & Mrs. Sisamount - Parents of friend of Kim Itz