

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025**  
**Holy Eucharist Rite 2 with the Christmas Pageant ~ 10 a.m.**

**Opening Hymn: #497 “How bright appears the morning star”**

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

***People: And Blessed be his kingdom, now & forever. Amen***

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**Reader:** Last Sunday we lit the candle of joy. We light it again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring us everlasting peace and joy. The fourth candle of Advent is the candle of **Love**. Its light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us.

Let us pray (*in unison*): **Loving God, thank you for your gift of love. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and do your word. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #56 “O come, O come, Emmanuel” (vs 7 & 8)**

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind;  
bid thou our sad divisions cease,  
and be thyself our King of Peace.

***Refrain:*** *Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to thee,*  
*O Israel!*

8. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

***Refrain*** *Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to thee,*  
*O Israel!*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

***People: and also with you***



## THE PAGEANT OF DELIVERANCE

Our pageant will be in four parts. We will end with the story you expect in a Christmas pageant. We will start with another story from the Bible that helps to set the stage for the Christmas story. At the end of each scene we will be singing various songs.

### **SCENE 1 – CREATION AND FALL**

We recall God's goodness of creation at the beginning of the world and the fall of humanity in choosing against that inherent goodness through our own will. Why do we start with this story? It reminds us that everything comes from God and people have brought a lot of bad things into this world, so we need a savior to set things right. The apostle Paul compares Adam to Jesus. Just as we all died through Adam, so we all live through Jesus.

As we get ready for our second story, please sing

## Hymn #376 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" (vs. 1-3)



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, bloom-ing mea-dow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

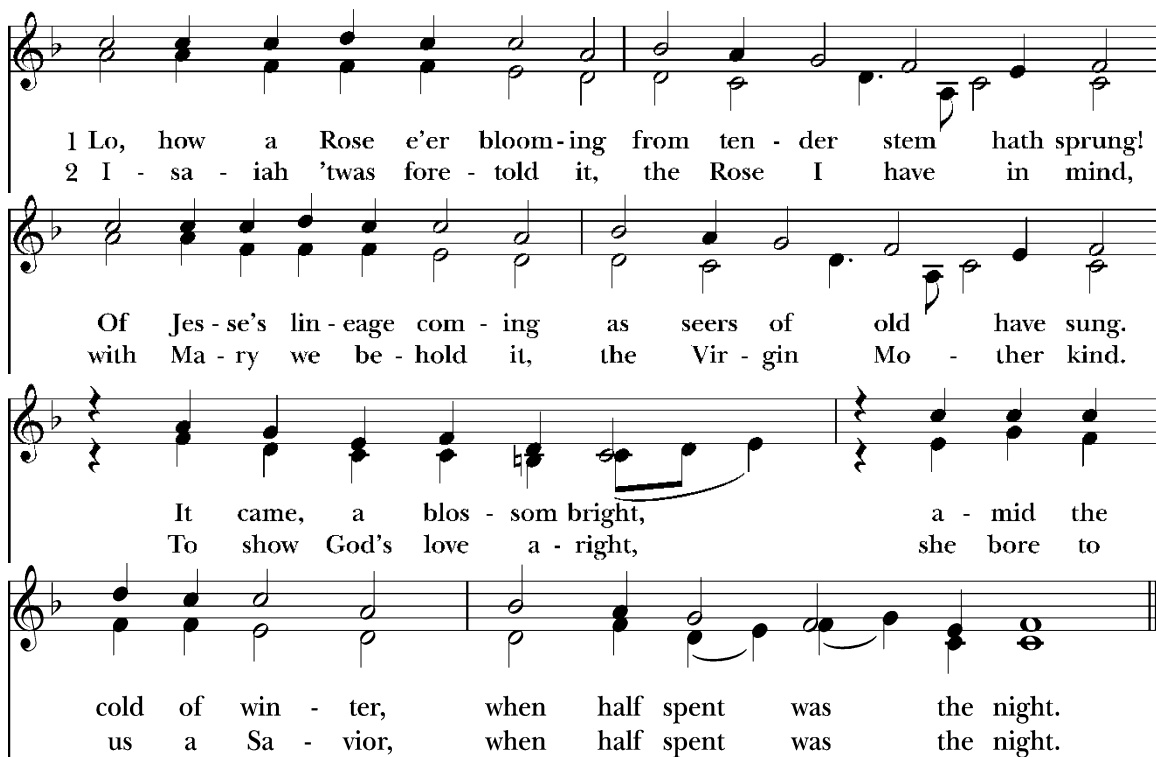


giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach— us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di-vine.

## SCENE 2 – MARY’S VISION AND JOSEPH’S DREAM

Our second scene is in the land of Galilee in northern Israel. This area, like most of the known world, is now controlled by the Romans. The Hebrew people wait for a Messiah who will set them free. The story of the angel speaking to Mary and Joseph reminds us that God can speak to us in a variety of ways. It also reminds us of the choice each of us has to avoid or to embrace God’s plans for us. And that concludes our second story.

**Please sing Hymn #81 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (vs.1 & 2)**



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.  
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the  
To show God's love a - right, she bore to  
cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.

## SCENE 3 – HEROD AND THE WISE MEN

This part of the story reminds us how much our world needed Jesus when he came and how much the world still needs Jesus today.

And that was our third story. We have just one story left.

**Please sing Hymn #128 “We Three Kings” vs. 1, 2, 5**



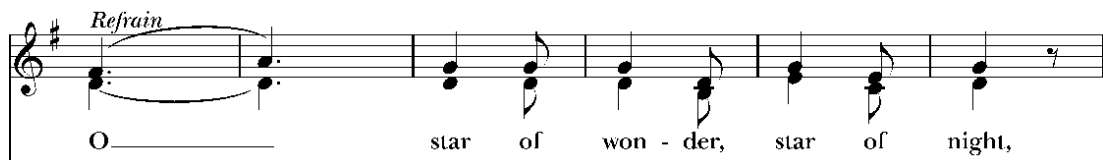
1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing  
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



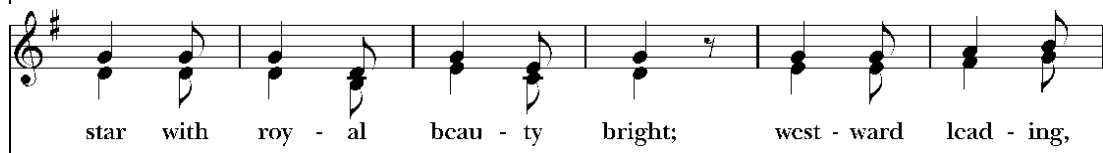
1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



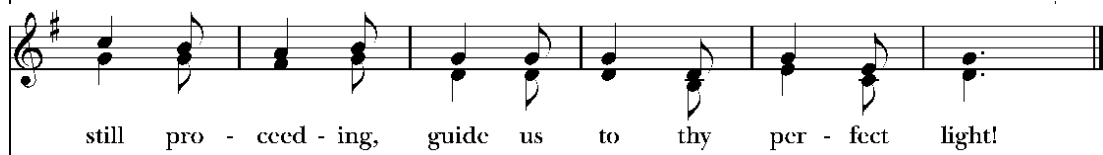
1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



O star of won - der, star of night,



star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

## SCENE 4 – THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Now we come to the final part of this Christmas pageant. It is just a short while before the scene we just saw at the temple in Jerusalem. We are on a hillside outside of the town of Bethlehem.

Please sing Hymn: #79 *“O, Little town of Bethlehem”* vs. 1, 2, 5



The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with the same notes used for each line of the hymn. The lyrics are written below the notes, with line numbers 1, 2, and 5 indicating the verses. The first line of the first staff is: 1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie! The second line is: 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove, The third line is: 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; The first line of the second staff is: 1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by; The second line is: 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love. The third line is: 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day. The first line of the third staff is: 1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light; The second line is: 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth! The third line is: 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell; The first line of the fourth staff is: 1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night. The second line is: 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth. The third line is: 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!

2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,

5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;

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5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;

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1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



As we conclude our pageant we will sing three familiar hymns:

## Hymn #101 "Away in a Manger"



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
\* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is night.  
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.



## Hymn #111 "Silent Night"

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace.  
 born!  
 birth.

Sleep  
 Christ,  
 Je -

in  
 the  
 sus,

hea - ven - ly  
 Sa - vior, is  
 Lord, at thy

peace.  
 born!  
 birth.







## Hymn #100 "Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re-  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow fa-  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



## The Holy Communion

the Offertory

Offertory Hymn: #66 “O come thou long expected Jesus

*The Doxology is sung while the offering is brought to the altar.*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

the Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

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The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

**Celebrant** Lift up your hearts.

**People** We lift them to the Lord.

**Celebrant** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere  
give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and  
earth.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and  
archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever  
sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

# Sanctus: S-130 “Holy, holy, holy Lord” (in unison)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

e give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you  
ve made known to us in creation...

erefore, according to his command, O Father,

***celebrant and People***

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

d we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of  
presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine...

d now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

**The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)**

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**The Breaking of the Bread**

celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

**Action Anthem: #712 "Dona nobis Pacem"**



**Communion Hymn: #58 "Lo, he comes with clouds descending"**

**First Communion Prayer (*in unison*)**

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**The Blessing**

**Processional Hymn: LEVAS #14 "Soon, and very soon"**

## **Advent/Christmas Memorial card**

You can remember loved ones and support our Advent and Christmas services by filling out the card in your pew or at the back of the church. Return the card in its envelope by mail or place it in the offertory box.

## **Parish Remembrances and Thanksgivings for Dec. 21, 2025**

### **Continuing Prayer List**

Ann, Dolores, Michael H, Carolyn Aubin, Eileen, Bonnie R., Rene Fran, Hannah Janowiak, Sarah, Leslie Vallee, Kelly Johnson, Maria, John Lumsden, Rosemarie, David Rigby, Roberto Rodegher, Linda Snarski, Len & Kim Begin, Sheila, Peter & Barbara Farren, Peggy Cobb & family, Andrew, Adrian Mandeville, Neal, Loretta, Robin, Brenda, Jim, Richard Taylor, Judy Knox, Star, Norm, Aimee Goodrich, Justin, Derek Anderson, Janet Nixon, Bill D., Steve Dubin, Ryan, Marlin Corbean; Brian; Kathryn & Olivia; Caroline, Ron Lamp, Lou & Heidi Schluntz, Ambrosio Vidal & Family, Jeannette Farren, Rina Bettancourt; Susan Hicks & family

### **Up and coming Events**

**Gilead Congregational Church is once again this year offering “A Quiet Christmas” this evening, December 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. (672 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT) in a service, which will offer comfort, healing, and hope in a season where those things may be hard to find.**



