

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

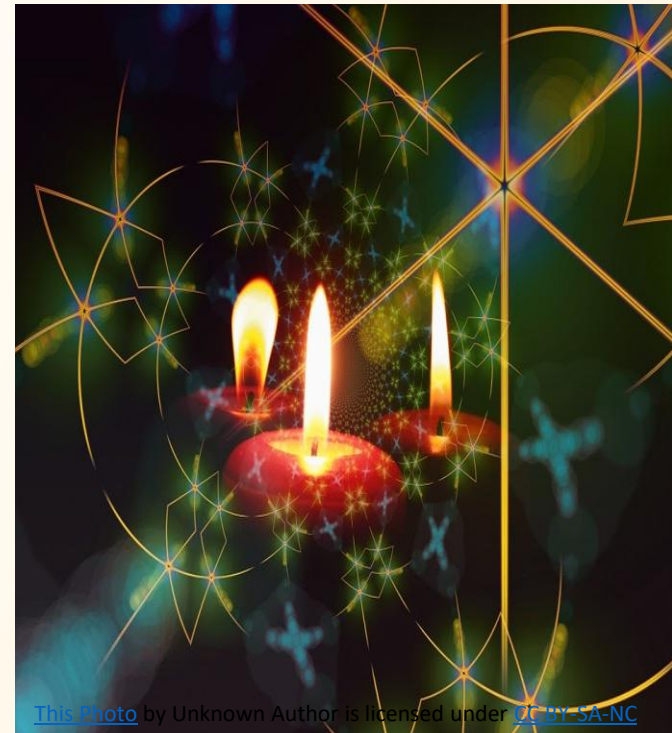
Northampton Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday in Advent

Cantata Sunday

10:00 AM



PRELUDE

Oh Come Oh Come, Emmanuel

Trish Conover, Music Director

Josh Gottry

Jes Stehr , Vibraphone

WELCOME

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 12:3-6)

ONE: Give thanks to the LORD!
Praise His name!
Tell the whole world what He has done—
His mighty acts on our behalf.

**MANY: Sing to the LORD,
for He has done wonderful things for us!**

ONE: Raise your hearts and voices!
shout and sing your praise!
For great is the Holy One who lives among us

MANY: Praise the Lord!

RESPONSIVE ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: THE CANDLE OF JOY

Lori Beehler

ONE: In this season of waiting, of longing,
of looking for you to come into our world
We are seeking light.

**MANY: In the height of our Advent walk,
we are seeking joy.
Joy in the face of apathy,
joy in the face of sorrow,
joy in the face of uncertainty.**

ONE: In our own lives

MANY: we are seeking light and joy.

ONE: In our neighborhoods

MANY: we are seeking light and joy.

ONE: In our families

MANY: we are seeking light and joy.

ONE: In our work

MANY: we are seeking light and joy.

ONE: In our church

MANY: we are seeking light and joy.

ONE: Seek and you shall find;
 knock and the door will be opened;
 ask and it will be given to you.

The candle of joy is lit.

**MANY: Jesus Christ you are the light and joy of the world.
 May we have eyes to see you and ears to hear you.
 Come into our world today. Amen.**

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A CHRISTMAS CANTATA: Love Is Born

by Lloyd Larson

(Narration provided by Diana Reingruber, Andy Chen,

Steve Cocchia and Pam Kemper)

A Carillon of Hope

Come, Hope of Every Longing Heart

Proclaim God's Peace

Peace Will Come

Angels Are Singing, Heaven Is Ringing

Angels Are Singing, Heaven Is Ringing

How Great Our Joy!

Love Is Born Tonight

The Wonder of God's Love

A JOYFUL GATHERING OF CAROLS

Choir and Congregation

Please see insert for all congregational hymns

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice! (vs. 1 and 3)

Go, Tell It on the Mountain (vs. 1 and 2)

The First Noel (vs 1 and 4)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

(vs. 1 and 3)

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!



**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**



Go, Tell It On The Mountain

(vs. 1 and 2)

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born



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While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a Holy light

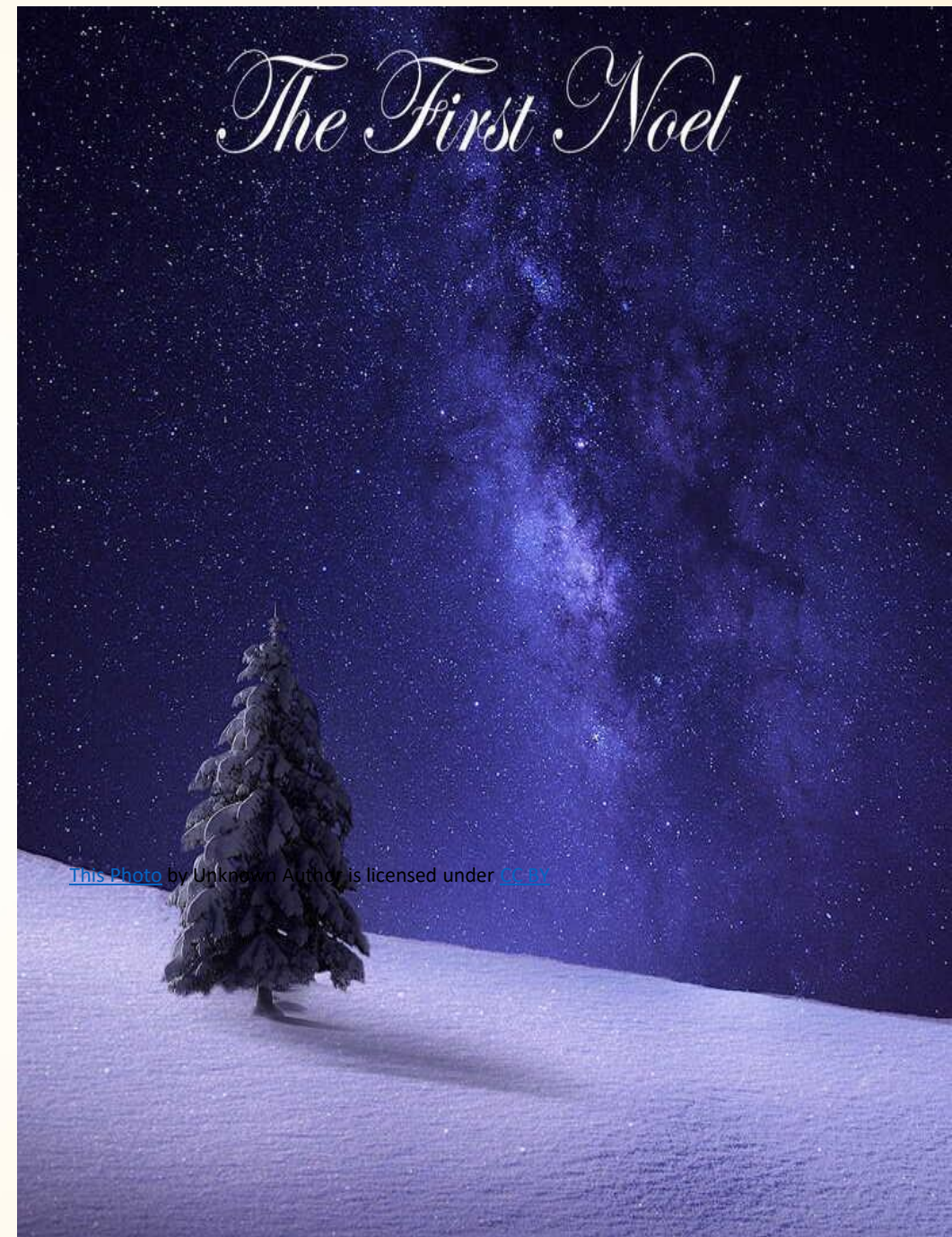


The First Noel (vs.1 and 4)

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

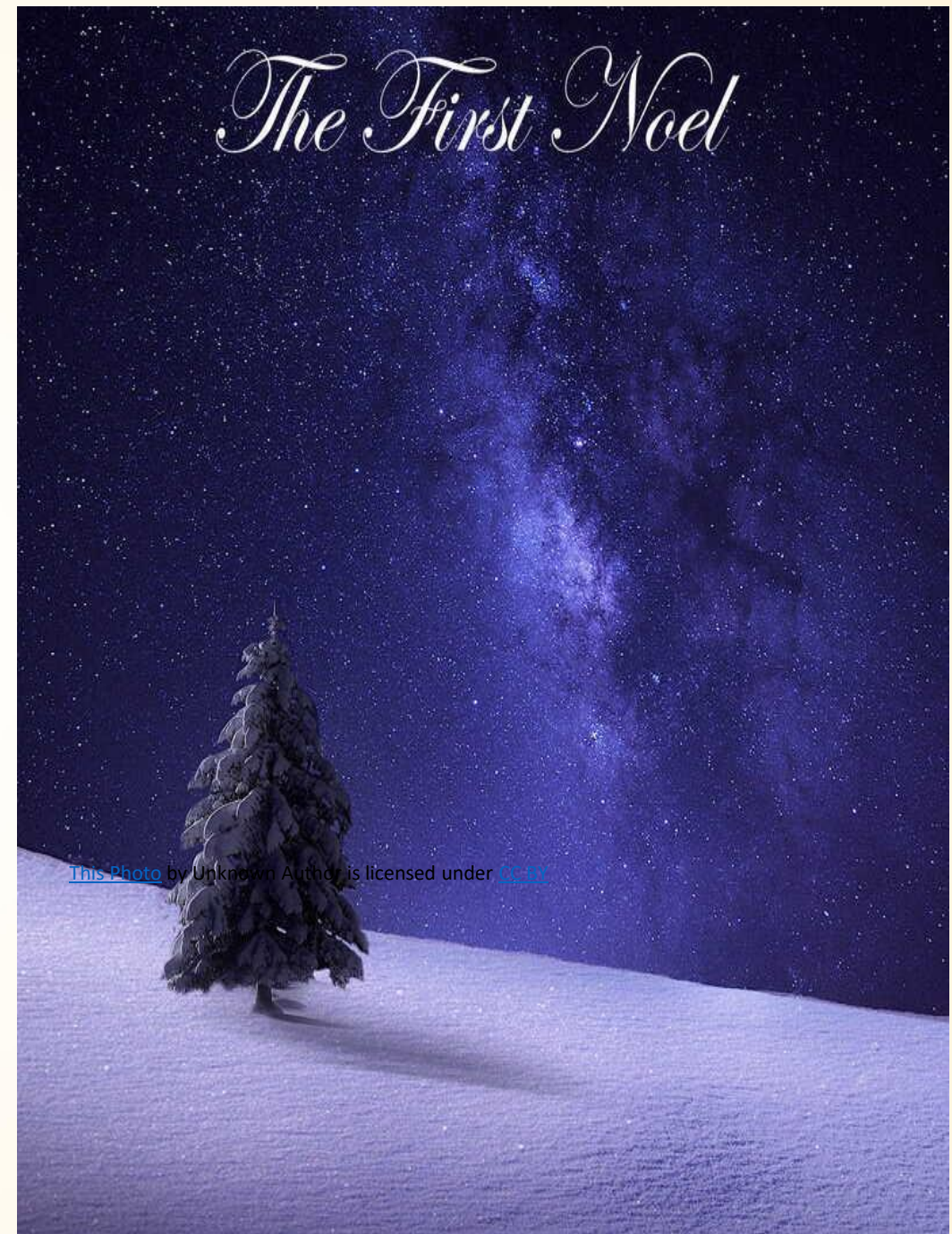
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.



This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.



CLOSING PRAYER: First Coming

**He did not wait till the world was ready,
till people and nations were at peace.**

**He came when the heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.**

He did not wait for the perfect time.

He came when the need was deep and great.

**He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.**

**He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his light would not go out.**

**He came to a world that did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.**

**We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with love: Rejoice! Rejoice!**

POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Josh Gottry

Jes Stehr, Vibraphone

Please join us for a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall following worship today!

Worship Notes:

The **Call to Worship** is written by Christine Longhurst and posted in re:Worship at re-worship.blogspot.com

The **Advent Candle Liturgy** is adapted from a prayer posted on [the website of Grace Church in Ealing, London.](http://www.freshworship.org/)

The **Closing Prayer** is by Madeleine L'Engle from *Cry Like a Bell*, 57. Posted on Growing in Grace. <http://carolinemccain.wordpress.com/>

The **Cantata**, *Love Is Born: Celebrating the Mystery and Wonder of Christmas*, is by Lloyd Larson. © 2024 Candela Works Music (ASCAP), a division of Jubilate Music Group, L.L.C. PO Box 3607, Brentwood, TN 37024. All rights reserved.

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We thank our choir and their director, the fabulous Trish Conover, for today's beautiful music. Many thanks to Diana Reingruber, Andy Chen, Steve Cocchia and Pam Kemper for narrating the Christmas story.