ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE  “On Christmas Day in the Morn”  arr. Gramann
Sonotori Handbell Choir

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP
One:  Praise God from the heavens!
All:   Praise God from the skies above!
One:  Praise God, angels and all the hosts of heaven!
All:   Praise God, sun and moon, and shining stars!
One:  Praise God, all creatures great and small,
All:   Praise God, animals and birds, reptiles and fish!
One:  Let all the earth bring praise to the Lord, at whose word creation came into being.
All:   We gather to praise and worship our God!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
We gather to praise you O God, for all the things we can see, and sometimes understand: the sun, moon and stars; the clouds and changing weather. We gather to praise you, O God, for all the things that we cannot see or understand: all heaven’s angels, outer space; and the skies above us. We gather to praise you O God, for all the things in life that we experience: the created world, people of all ages and circumstances, all God’s creations. We join in their eternal chorus of praise to God: whose name is glorious, and whose ways are holy. Amen.

HYMN  “Angels, From the Realms of Glory”  Pilgrim Hymnal #117

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER(Debts)

GIFT OF MUSIC  “What Child is This?”  arr. Dobrinski
Sonotori Handbell Choir

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD
We work for You, God, in whatever we do. Paid labor, volunteer work, our home life—all our time we spend for You. Thank You for jobs which provide us with an income; we share the fruit of our labor with You, knowing that You are the Great Provider. Use these offerings in Your kingdom work, as You provide good news, healing and hope to all people. Amen.
DOXOLOGY
What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him - Give my heart.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE Psalm 148
CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Colossians 3.12-17
MUSICAL RESPONSE “Spirit of the Living God” New Century Hymnal # 283
MEDITATION Be Kind The Rev. Diann H. Bailey
HYMN “The First Nowell” Pilgrim Hymnal #141, vs. 1 & 2
BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE “Personent Hodie” Piae Cantiones, arr. Holst

Today’s Worship Leaders:
The Rev. Diann H. Bailey, Senior Minister
Amy Pott, Acting Minister of Music
Elizabeth Kaplan, director, Sonotori Handbell Choir
Gerry LaPlante, Recording & Livestream Engineer
Cyndie DeMur, Chancel Guild
Amber Dawne Novotney, Office Manager

Notes about our worship service:
● *(Asterisk) Please stand together in body or in spirit.
● People may exit during the Postlude.
● Words in Bold, we speak together as a congregation.
● Masks should be worn in the Sanctuary, during hymn singing & choir singing.
● Gifts of offering can be left in the offering plates at the front or back of the Sanctuary while entering or exiting. Please utilize online Vanco giving if possible.
● First Church is a Green Church. We encourage use of electronic bulletins via the QR code. Ushers are available to assist with the scanning of the QR codes.
● First Church of Christ, Suffield live streams our Worship services on YouTube!
● Our Second Mile Offering for the month of December is the Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross-UCC Minister who are facing financial hardship in retirement.

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Works Cited:
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Continue for hymns
1 Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
4 Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,

Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
God with man is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light:
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen his natal star:
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In his temple shall appear:

REFRAIN

Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King. Amen.
The First Nowell

1 The first Nowell, the angel did say, Was to
certain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay; In fields where
in the east, beyond them far, And to the
wise men came from country far; To seek for a
Bethlehem it took its rest, And there it
reverently upon their knee, And offered
they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's
earth it gave great light, And so it con-
king was their intent, And to follow the
did both stop and stay, Right over the
there, in his presence, Their gold and
night that was so deep.
linued both day and night.
star wherever it went. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
place where Jesus lay.
myrrh and frank incense.