“O Holy Night” along with “Angels We Have Heard on High” are the two best known French Christmas songs. Originally titled “Cantique de Noel,” “O Holy Night” was written in 1847 by a little known part-time poet, Placide Cappeau. Cappeau presented his verse to the celebrated composer of French operas and professor of music at the Paris Conservatory, Adolphe Adam who wrote the music.

Adam’s composition was first performed at the 1847 Christmas Eve midnight mass. Church authorities frowned on the song, and one French bishop denounced it for its “lack of musical taste and total absence of the spirit of religion.” A Boston Unitarian clergyman, John S. Dwight, made the English translation from the French. He published a periodical “Dwight’s Journal of Music from 1852-1881 and published the English version of the song in 1855—coincidentally the same year “Angels We Have Heard on High” was first published. Not related, but interestingly, Massachusetts and Delaware made Christmas legal in 1855.
Order for the Public Worship of God
July 28, 2019
7th Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 & 11:00 AM Worship Services

THE GATHERING
(groundbreaking, please silence electronic devices)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION
Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound celebration. We come now this day to revisit the manger and offer the glory to God in the highest heavens! In Jesus’ name. Amen.

OPENING VOLUNTARY
“A Child Was Born in Bethlehem” Raymond H. Haan
Steve and Emily Cantin, Trumpets
(based on Fuer Natur, a 16th century German carol)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
(Please complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET,” and pass it toward the center aisle.)

*HYMNS #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” GLORIA

CALL TO CONFESSION
Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)
Loving God, we have gathered to express once again our wonder and our joy at the birth of your Son Jesus Christ. You have sent him to bring healing and peace into our midst. Forgive us, then for those things both large and small in life that keep us from sharing in the grace of Christ. By your Spirit, help us to amend our lives and turn once again to Christ whose birth and reign we celebrate, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581 GREATOREX
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

SOLO
“O Holy Night” Michele White, Soloist
Michele White, Soloist

OUR MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN
(Children ages 3 yrs – 2nd Grade, are welcome to remain in service with their parents or join us in room 3 for Children’s Church.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER
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.

CALL TO OFFERING
MUSICAL OFFERING “Who Is This Child?” Benjamin Harlan

*A CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY
Michele White, Soloist
THE FIRST NOWELL

#119 “Angels from the Realms of Glory” MENDELSsohn
#134 “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH

*HYMNS #119 (stanzas 1,2) “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSsohn
#134 (stanzas 1,2) “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH

WE HEAR THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-14 NRSV (page 883)

SERMON “Christmas in July” Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

#HYMNS #119 (stanzas 1,3) “The First Nowell” TEMPS ADEST FLORIDUM
#143 “Angels from the Realms of Glory” REGENT SQUARE
#144 “In the Bleak Midwinter” CRANHAM
#145 “What Child Is This” GREENSLEEVES
#146 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” TEMPS ADEST FLORIDUM
#147 “The First Nowell” THE FIRST NOWELL

SUNG BLESSING “Peace to All That Have Goodwill” German Carol

SUNBELLING peace to all that have goodwill! God, who heaven and earth doth fill, Comes to turn us away from ill, and lies so still within the crib of Mary. He came among us at Christmas time, at Christmas time, in Bethlehem; Let us bring him from far and wide Love’s diadem: He came among us at Christmas time, at Christmas time, in Bethlehem; Let us bring him from far and wide Love’s diadem: Jesus, Jesus, lo, he comes, and loves, and saves, and frees us!

*CLOSING VOTARY
“Thine and Rondo on Noël Nouvelet” Michael Burkhart
Michael Burkhart

(RECITATIVE)
(You are invited to reflect on the worship service during the closing voluntary. If you must leave before the end of the service, please respect those who remain and leave quietly.)

*Congregation will stand. If standing is difficult for you, feel free to remain seated.

GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU

[Image 1]