



December 5, 2018

### ***THE PEOPLE WE KNOW***

Before we unpack our ornaments or string lights outside the house, the very first preparation we make for Advent is to get out the Christmas music. We have our favorite recordings, and hearing them is like seeing an old friend again. But there is something that recordings can't do.

I love hearing the hymns and carols of this season in church because it is powerful to hear them from people you know. These are our friends and neighbors, whose lives are just as complicated and fraught as ours. It reminds me that the peace of Christmas always comes right in the middle of the messiness of life.

Here's the person who is constantly frustrated with the state of world affairs. And there's the person who carries such grief. And over here is a child who struggles in school. And there is one who is living with cancer. Hear them all now, with voices singing or bells in hand, proclaiming the message "Joy to the World," and "This is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing," and assuring us that, in the presence of Christ, "All is calm, all is bright."

This Saturday afternoon – at 4:00 p.m. – is our Fourth annual Christmas Concert, featuring the Hills Bells and the Hills Ringers, with both adults and children directed by Martha Stowell, and our Chancel Choir, directed by John Finney. These are the people we know – offering music of hope and joy.

The music continues every Sunday, and there's singing to be done by all of us.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt".

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster  
Senior Minister