

Waterford Congregational Church

Advent 4; Dec 19, 2021.

Hymns honoring the women of Christmas

MY HEART SINGS OUT

1 My heart sings out with joyful praise
to God who raises me,
Who came to me when I was low
and changed my destiny.
The Holy One, the Living God,
is always full of grace
To those who seek their Maker's will
in every time and place.

3 The promise made in ages past
at last has come to be,
for God has come in power to save,
to set all people free.
Remembering those who wait to see
salvation's dawning day,
Our Savior comes to all who weep
to wipe their tears away.

Words by Ruth Duck, 1985; Music: Swedish folk song.

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

1 In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone
Snow had fallen
Snow on snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter
Long, long ago

2 Angels and Arc Angels
May have traveled there
Cherubim and Seraphim
Thronged the air
But only his Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshiped the beloved
With a kiss

3 What can I give him?
Poor as I am
If I were a shepherd
I would give a lamb
If I were a wise man
I would do my part
But what I can I give him
Give him my heart
(Give him my heart)

Words by Christina Rossetti, 1872; Music by Gustav Holst, 1906

NOW BLESS THE GOD OF ISRAEL

1 Now bless the God of Israel who comes in love and power,
who raises from the royal house deliverance in this hour.
Through holy prophets God has sworn to free us from alarm,
to save us from the heavy hand of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant, God rescues us from fear,
that we might serve in holiness and peace from year to year.
And you, my child, shall go before, to preach, to prophesy,
that all may know the tender love, the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send the dayspring from on high,
our rising sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no
more.
Sing praises to the Holy One, O worship and adore.

*Words by Ruth Duck, 1983; Music: traditional English melody,
harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906*

George Wiese, c.1868 Mason & Hamlin reed organ.