

9:55a.m.

December 23, 2018



Welcome! As you arrive, please feel free to light a prayer candle in the chapel area to the right side of the sanctuary. The children will be with us throughout the service. Nursery care is available throughout the service, and there is also a crying room at the back of the sanctuary should your child become inconsolable.

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

Sylvia Berry, Organist

WORDS OF WELCOME

Adam Mitchell, Moderator

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN ‘Hark! The Herald Angels Sing’ No. 150

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It is the fourth Sunday of Advent. For this hour, for this moment we are holding on to the waiting, holding on to the preparation.

ALL: Christmas is coming, and it is coming soon.

Leader: Tonight we will celebrate the birth, but for this hour, for this moment, we create space for love.

ALL: Love comes down at Christmas, love fills our hearts and sometimes breaks our hearts.

Leader: So we gather to worship, with hearts full and broken, and we gather to prepare for the coming of our Lord. Let us begin our worship time on this, the fourth Sunday of Advent.

INTROIT ‘What Have We Done for the Poor Ones’ Lori True

What have we done for the stranger, outsider, the ones who are aching for welcome, acceptance? God’s chosen people, blest and holy, what have we done for the stranger here in our midst?

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Love The Young-Ferguson Family

Reader 1: We light the fourth candle of Advent for love.

"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David"

(Luke 2:1,3-4).

Reader 2: Today we remember Joseph, worn-out traveler and worried husband, doing what was necessary for the sake of his family, the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God. There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.

People: Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the kin-dom of God.

Reader 1: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Joseph, who knocks at the door, ready to bring love.

(Light two blue candles, the rose candle, and the last blue candle)

HYMN 'One Candle is Lit' verse 4 No. 128

Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play, where evil is banished and faith takes the day, a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes, one candle is light for God's loving surprise.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION *(together)*

Holy One, on this fourth Sunday of Advent, we remember the Word made flesh, God and humanity joined as one. We celebrate that Jesus revealed you to us more than any other human being before or since. Like Jesus, we are fully human and we seek to be more like him, to be more open to you and to be filled with your Holy Spirit that we might follow in your way.

Lord, we are sorry that we have not always acted like your sons and daughters, we have been selfish and strayed from the path, forgive us.

Lord, we are sorry that we have not always been beacons of light in a world of darkness, forgive us.

Lord, restore us into full relationship as your sons and daughters, may we know and accept your forgiveness, that is so freely offered and help us to be all that we can be, all that we were created to be. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

KYRIE 'What Child Is This' verse 1 No. 162

What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthem sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE (*please stand*)

*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

People: and also with you

*GLORIA 'Emmanuel, Emmanuel' No. 134

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

With carols, first two verses of each:

'O Little Town of Bethlehem' No. 144

'Away in a Manger' No. 147

'Angels We Have Heard on High' No. 155

'We Three Kings' No. 172

'Joy to the World' No. 143

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John 1:1-5

HOMILY

Rev. Patricia Hayes

ANTHEM

‘An Advent Alleluia’

Douglas E. Wagner

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Alleluia.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King. Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. Alleluia.

MORNING PRAYERS

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY ‘Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old’ Sydney Carter

Isaiah the prophet has written of old how God’s new creation shall come. Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.

The mountains and hills shall break forth into song, the peoples be led forth in peace; The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.

Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world, and conflict turns parent from child. Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth; the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.

*DOXOLOGY tune: “In the Bleak Midwinter”

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN ‘Good Christian Friends, Rejoice’ No. 164

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC

Nun Wandre Maria (*Journey on, now Mary*) Hugo Wolf (1860-1903)
Jessica Trainor, soloist

All are invited to coffee and donuts following the service.
Tomorrow our candlelight service is at 7pm.

Participating in today’s service are:

- Rev. Patricia Hayes, Senior Minister
- Murray Kidd, Music Director
- Sylvia Berry, Organist
- David Wilcox, Sign Language
- Loren Stott, Sign Language

As members of the Pilgrim Association, we pray each week for a sister
UCC Congregation. This week, you are invited to pray for:

Wollaston Congregational Church, UCC, Quincy

NO WEDNESDAY DINNER DECEMBER 26TH: MERRY CHRISTMAS!



**Sunday
December 30th
6 - 9 PM**

**All Invited!
Fun, Games & Dancing
Potluck Dinner (Sign-up at info counter)**





We pray for those who cannot be with us at church:

Ramona Adler, Jane Benson, Lois Cyr, Nancy Davis, Carole Duhamel, Louise Duhamel, Mary Geraigery, Russ Gillpatrick, Janet Hodnett, Ruth Melanson, Mildred Miele, Geneva Prince, Arthur Sawyer, Barbara Smith, and Don Squires.

And for those who are ill or need extra prayer:

Brian Benson (nephew of Sandra Hill), Millie Bowker (Carol Bradford's mom), Jean Cappeillo, Bill Cockshaw, Luke Creedon, Dianna Dalida (Denise Cahill's friend), Frank DePaola (Denise Cahill's brother-in-law), Denise Duhamel (granddaughter of Carole), Mark Duhamel (Carole's son), Trudy Duncan, Brenda Eckstrom (Janet's niece-in-law), Marilyn Fairbanks, Mary Geraigery, Joanne Gratzner, Jennifer Hill (Shirley Strangis' daughter), Sona Hoisington (wife of Thomas), Clyde Kidd, Rebecca Lacourse, Linda Madden, Carl Manoogian (George's son), James McGunnigal (Pat Illsley's Father), Nicky McNally (Shirley Strangis' grandson), David Milton, Joyce Morse (Lisa Sparling's Mother), Michelle Pursell, Fernanda Quimby, Hannah Ramos (Sandra Hill's grand-niece), Luane Rich, David Ritchie (nephew of Donna Hefler), Linda Ritchie (sister of Donna Hefler), Poppy (Howard) Sennett, Kari Shaeffer (niece of Luanne Cockshaw), Norm Shippee, Anna Thomas, Kevin Vogt, and Henry White.

For those in the military, especially:

Scott Allen, Kathleen Crooker, Michael J. Harris, Andrew Johnson, Jeff Kennedy, Alex (Pasha) Ozelius, Major Steven Simmons, Derek Stanley and Bradford Townsend.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun. 12/23

9:55am Worship w/Christmas Pageant

Mon. 12/24

Office Closed

7:00pm Candlelight Service

Tue. 12/25

Office Closed

Christmas Day!

No Fiber Fellowship

Wed. 12/26

NO Bible Study

NO Dinner

NO Adult Choir

Sun. 12/30

9:55am Worship

6:00pm Night Before New Years Eve Party

9:00pm Senior Youth Group Overnight Lock-in



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1350 Pleasant St., Brockton, MA 02301-2840

Tel: 508-586-3022 Fax: 508-583-7156

Web: brocktonucc.org Email: office@brocktonucc.org.