Christ Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Creating Beloved Community

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:55 a.m. December 24, 2017

Welcome to worship! As you settle in for worship, please feel free to light a candle of prayer in the chapel area *(right side of sanctuary).* The children will be with us until the passing of the peace, then will be excused to their program. There is nursery care available throughout the service, and a crying room for those who 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.

*Asterisk indicates all who are able may stand.
Bold print indicates congregational response.

INTROIT 'Christmas is Coming' Don Besig

Christmas is coming, let the church bells ring! People celebratin' the birth of a King. Shoutin' Hosanna till the heavens ring. Christmas is comin', let the church bells ring!

Christmas is coming, Mary's baby boy, bringin' us a message of comfort and joy. Glory hallelujah, what a wonderful thing. Christmas is comin', let the church bells ring!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Love Cara & Ethan Harrigan

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.

A WORD WITH THE CHILDREN: Love

CAROL 'Once in Royal David's City' No. 165

Verse 1 Soloists: Nicholas Colby and Thomas Jones *(Please join in on verse 2)*

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
(during the passing of the peace, the children may be excused to their classes)

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN John 1:1-18

ANTHEM 'Soon and Very Soon' Andrae Crouch

Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah!
No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah!
No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah!

SERMON Rev. Patricia Hayes

HYMN 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear' No. 153

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.

OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

OFFERTORY 'Do You Hear What I Hear?'

Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne

Said the night wind to the little lamb, "Do you see what I see? 'way up in the sky, little lamb. A star, dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite."
Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, "Do you hear what I hear? Ringing thru the sky, Shepherd Boy. A song, high above the tree, with a voice as big as the sea."
Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king, "Do you know what I know? In your palace warm, Mighty King. A child, shivers in the cold, let us bring Him silver and gold."
Said the king to the people everywhere, "Listen to what I say: Pray for peace, people everywhere! The Child, sleeping in the night, He will bring us goodness and light."

*DOXOLOGY 'Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow'
No. 50
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 'Good Christian Friends, Rejoice' No. 164

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE 'Christmas is Coming' Don Besig

(Please be seated for the closing music)
CLOSING MUSIC
Chorale Prelude on "In Dulci Jubilo" Johann Michael Bach (1648-94)

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

Participating in today's service are:
Rev. Patricia Hayes, Senior Minister
Erin Reardon, Minister of Visitation
Lisa Hulbert, Director of Christian Education
Murray Kidd, Music Director
Sylvia Berry, Organist
David Wilcox, Sign Language
Loren Stott, Sign Language

Today's scriptures are from The Inclusive Bible translation. Liturgical bits are adapted from Spill the Beans

ALTAR FLOWERS this Christmas are given by the Hulbert Family with prayers for faith, peace, hope and love for all.

WEDNESDAY DINNER: We will not be having dinner on Dec. 27th. Have a wonderful holiday week. See you at dinner on Jan. 3rd.

Saturday, December 30
6:00 pm Night Before New Year's Eve Potluck and Dance Party

Sunday, December 31
9:55 am Worship Service Ringing in the New Year

PRAYER CONCERNS

We pray for those who cannot be with us at church:
Ramona Adler, Jane Benson, Aida Bruns, Lois Cyr, Nancy Davis, Carole Duhamel, Mary Geraigery, Russ Gillpatrick, Janet Hodnett, Ruth Melanson, Mildred Miele, Geneva Prince, Barbara Smith, Don Squires, Viola Szydlowski and Burt Tibbetts.

And for those who are ill or need extra prayer:
Brian Benson (nephew of Sandra Hill), Susan Berry (niece of Ruth Poole), Elaine Botka (aunt of John Hagberg), Richard Bowman, Nancy Campbell (niece of Donna & Alton Hefler), Jean Cappiello, Luke Creedon, Frank DePaola, Lillie Dias, Denise Duhamel (granddaughter of Carole), Mark Duhamel (Carole's son), Jeanette F., Wayne Ferguson (brother of Brian Young-Ferguson), Nancy Fisher (Gini Hathaway's sister-in-law), Jennifer Hill (Shirley Strangis' daughter), Gayle Hulbert, Rebecca Lacourse, Wayne and Marilyn Legge, Carl Manoogian(George's son), Nicky McNally (Shirley Strangis' grandson), Kathy North, Joanne Oliveira (stepmom of Deana), Zachary Ponds (Friend of Jan Howard), Michelle Purssell, Fernanda Quimby, Carol Ranney (sister of Fred Hayes), David Ritchie (nephew of Donna Hefler), Linda Ritchie (sister of Donna Hefler), William Rotondi (Uncle of Mary Poole), Helen Simms (Erin's grandmother), Danny Ray Simpson (brother-in-law of Barbara Moody) and Brad Weatherbee.

For those in the military, especially:
Scott Allen, Kathleen Crooker, Michael J. Harris, Andrew Johnson, Alex (Pasha) Ozelius, Robbie Sinesi, Derek Stanley and Bradford Townsend.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun. 12/24
9:55am Worship
7:00pm Candlelight Service

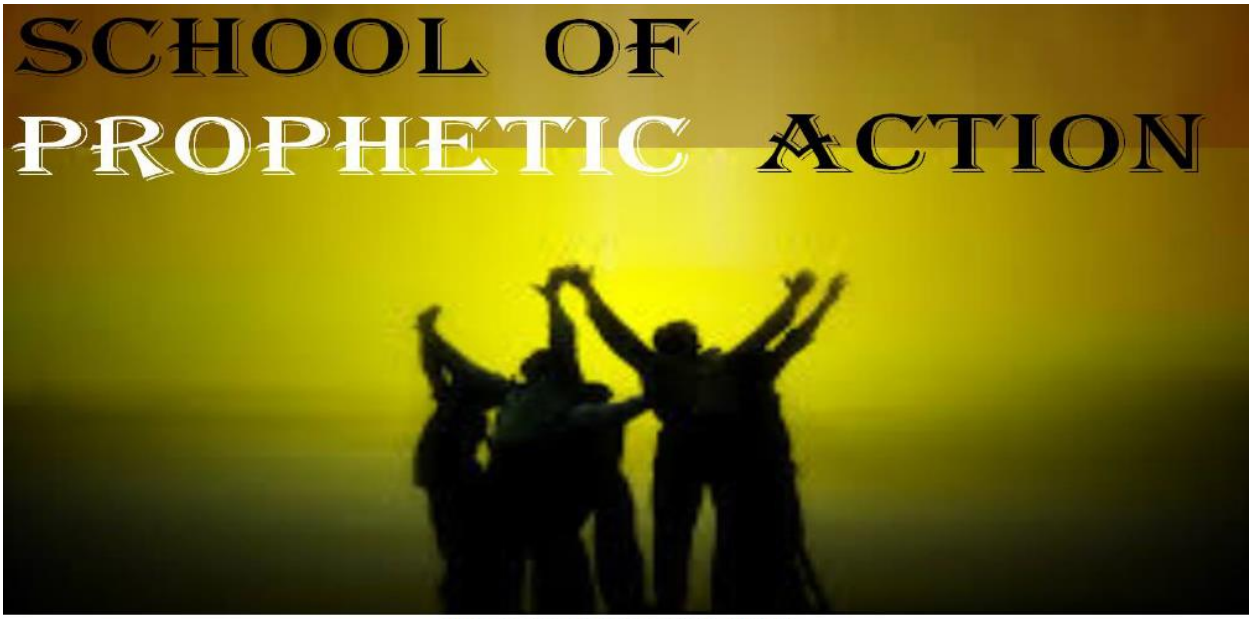
Mon. 12/25
Office Closed
Merry Christmas!

Tue. 12/26
NO Fiber Fellowship

Wed. 12/27
10:00am Bible Study
NO Dinner

Sat. 12/30
6:00pm Night Before New Year's Eve Party

Sun. 12/31
9:55am Worship



Beginning January 8th, 2018

Over the next four weeks, training will be offered on **Prophetic Calling:** The First Revelation is Internal. Each week you can attend a training on that week's topic on either **Monday**, **Wednesday**, or **Thursday**. Locations and times for the specific days are listed below.

Training locations & Times

Monday 6-8 pm- Restoration Community Church
758 Crescent St, Brockton, MA 02302
Wednesday 6:30-8 pm- Christ Congregational Church
1350 Pleasant St, Brockton, MA 02301
Thursday 6-8 pm- Central United Methodist Church
65 West Elm Street, Brockton, MA 02301

Message From- **Executive Director**

"Coming from the tradition of the prophets of old, these are Community Organizing trainings designed to develop leaders in congregations to be prophetic, faith filled, powerful community organizers of their congregation and the community that it serves."

Elder William H. Dickerson

For more information contact Will:
Call: (508) 521-9767 | **Email:** Will@BrocktonInterfaith.org

BROCKTON INTERFAITH COMMUNITY (BIC)

Brockton Interfaith Community