



Christ Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Creating Beloved Community

9:55 a.m.

December 15, 2019

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 after the passing of the peace, then may be excused for pageant rehearsal. There is nursery care available throughout the service, and a crying room for those who become inconsolable.

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

Sylvia Berry, Organist

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barry Shelley, Moderator

*HYMN

'Christians All, Your Lord is Coming'

No. 136

GATHERING PRAYER

INTROIT

'O Come to Set Us Free'

Mary McDonald

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Joy

Reader One: On this third Sunday of Advent, as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ, we light the candle of joy.

Reader Two: When Christ comes into our lives, He brings the fullness of joy. He anoints our hearts with the oil of gladness.

Reader One: When Jesus was born, the angels said that His coming was good news of great joy for all people.

Reader Two: Because Christ has come to us, we can live every day in the joy of the Lord. Praise to His name!



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

YOUTH CHOIR

*RECEIVING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

(by handshake or embrace or with hands clasped or folded)

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(during the passing of the Peace, the children may be excused to pageant rehearsal)

*GLORIA 'Angels We Have Heard On High' refrain No. 155
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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.

HYMN 'Emmanuel, Emmanuel' No. 134
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

A SEQUENCE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

BIDDING PRAYER *(Original Bidding Prayer (1880))*

Let us begin our sequence of lessons and carols with the original bidding prayer, starting with those on the pulpit side:

Pulpit Side: Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in the manger.

Eagle Side: Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

Pulpit Side: But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all God's people.

Eagle Side: And because this would rejoice God's heart, let us remember, in God's name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children.

Pulpit Side: Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

All: These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

Bob Cutting

*HYMN

'Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn'

No. 138

THE SECOND READING

Psalms 146:5-10

Sharon Quesnel

*HYMN

'People, Look East'

No. 142

THE THIRD READING

Luke 1:46b-55

Rev. Katrina Clinton

HYMN (*remain seated*)

'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear'

No. 153

THE FOURTH READING

James 5:7-10

Adam Mitchell

HYMN (*remain seated*)

'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming'

No. 160

THE FIFTH READING

Matthew 11:2-11

Rev. Patricia Hayes

ANTHEM

'Carol for Advent'

Don Besig (ASCAP)

Amid the winter's cold embrace, clothed in a shroud of white, an anxious world in silence waits through the dark of night. As the lonely song of a dove echoes across the sky above, we can feel the moment is near; soon the Child of Peace will appear.

What child is this the world awaits with quiet expectation? When will He come, the promised one, to bring us peace and salvation? Raise, raise your prayers on high, prepare His way, the time is nigh. Come, come, Emmanuel, O Child of Love and Peace.

The air grows colder, the light grows dim, dark'ning the sky above. But soon the chill of the winter wind will warm with God's gift of love. And a star will brighten the sky; songs of joy will echo on high! We will know the moment is here; the Child of Love and Peace will appear.

OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

OFFERTORY 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'
Words found in hymn No. 119 15th Century French Melody, arr. Thomas Helmore

*DOXOLOGY 'In the Bleak Midwinter'
What can I offer, poor as I am
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb If I were a wise one, I would do my part, But
what I can, I offer – all my heart.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence' No. 124

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

(please be seated for the closing music)

CLOSING MUSIC

Serving Today:

- Rev. Patricia Hayes, Senior Minister
- Ann-Marie Illsley, Acting Associate Minister
- Murray Kidd, Music Director
- Sylvia Berry, Organist
- David Wilcox, Sign Language
- Loren Stott, Sign Language
- David Wilcox, Hospitality Team Leader

All are invited to coffee and refreshments in the fellowship hall downstairs following the service. If you are visiting, we hope that you will return another week, and participate in any and all events, classes, and groups that are listed.

WEDNESDAY DINNERS: 6:00PM

This week we will be having American Chop Suey and a Caesar Salad. Please sign-up at the information counter. Suggested donation of \$7 - \$10 (family cap \$25), All invited!

WANTED - Unscented tea light candles for the candle screens. We are almost out.
Thank you, The Deacons Team

HELP: Sometime between now and Christmas we are likely to need some delivery elves to bring gifts to families living with homelessness. If you can help, please leave your name at the office or email Rev. Patricia (pcwhayes@gmail.com). Deliveries will go to hotels in Brockton and Stoughton, probably on Saturday and Sunday.



TODAY!!
DECEMBER 15TH
POP-UP CHRISTMAS SALE
 Gifts for pets, Blankets, Bandanas, Scarves
 and many lovely decorations!

TODAY!



Advent Workshop

December 15th
 @ 11:30am

Come to fellowship hour and we'll have craft centers with Christmas themed activities for all ages.



DECEMBER 22nd
Pageant Worship
Lunch
Christmas Concert (1pm)



Everyone is invited to have lunch between the worship service and the concert. We will be serving a simple lunch of meatball subs (and vegetarian "meat"balls) on regular rolls or gluten free rolls, veggie trays and chips - plus coffee hour type sweets. Then come hear the children sing, the bells, the band and the adult choir. Open to the public.



CHRISTMAS EVE will be celebrated in one service at 7pm. Bring your family, bring your neighbors, bring your friends - it is a wonderful service.



Being the Church: Testimonies Of Faith

Our church book can be pre-ordered today - 45 church members' stories, paperback, \$8.00



**You are cordially invited
To a Celebration of the ministries
Of the Reverends Patricia and Fred Hayes
On Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2020**



This will be RP's and Fred's final Sunday with us after 14 years of faithful service.

- * We begin with a special worship service with RP's farewell sermon and Communion.
- * Expect surprises and presentations during worship and also during the buffet luncheon to follow in Fellowship Hall.
- * A festooned basket will gladly receive your cards and notes.
- * Deacon Jeff Illsley is receiving monetary contributions for the Thank You gift to be presented to RP and Fred.
- * RP is looking forward to a dessert table with all her favorites. Can you bake or make a special yummy dessert?

Come join the Celebration on Sunday, January 5th!

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Steve & Carolyn Bennett, Nancy Davis, Carole Duhamel, Louise Duhamel, Russ Gillpatrick, Janet Hodnett, Edie Liolios, Ruth Melanson, Geneva Prince, Arthur Sawyer, Barbara Smith, and Anna Thomas.

And for those who are ill or need extra prayer:

Kathy Alden, Lindsay Alden, Carol Beffert-Banks, Brian Benson (nephew of Sandra Hill), Linda Berry (Sylvia's mother), Bob Brown (friend of Luanne Cockshaw), Carole Clark, Luanne Cockshaw, Luke Creedon, Bobby Dornan (friend of Janet Hodnett), Denise Duhamel (granddaughter of Carole), Mark Duhamel (Carole's son), Lucy Guarnieri (cousin of Elizabeth Vann), Dan Harrigan (Cara's husband), Stephanie Hathaway, Rev. Fred Hayes, Tatum Hayes & Family (Jay Sparling's friends), Dick Hill, Gayle Howard (Matt's cousin), Heidi Kilpatrick (Barbara Moody's friend), Sheila Klecha, Patty Linder (friend of Denise Cahill), Kayleigh Lopez (Lisa Sparling's niece), Carl Manoogian (George's son), Linley Menard, Patricia Merianos (Dot Quimby's daughter), Sandy Peterson Nuzum (friend of Barbara Moody), Jaymie O'Connor (friend of Sarah Sparling), Mary Poole, Hannah Ramos (Sandra Hill's grand-niece), Luane Rich, Monica Schmidt (friend of Lily Radau's), George Sparling (Jay's cousin), Rich Vick, Norma Williams and we pray for the family of Edward Francis (friend of Barbara Moody).

For those in the military, especially:

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

Bereavement:

We pray for the families of Henry White III and Frank DePaola (Denise Cahill's brother-in-law).

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun. 12/15

8:00am Adult Ringers
9:55am Worship - Advent 3
11:15am Junior Ringers
11:15am Youth Choir
11:30pm Advent Workshop
12:00pm Confirmation Class

Tue. 12/17

1:00pm Quilt Guild

Wed. 12/18

10:00am Bible Study
12:15pm Midday Music Organ Concert w/Brian Edwards
1:30pm Afternoon Bells
2:30pm WOVOS
6:00pm Dinner
6:45pm Adult Choir

Thur. 12/19

8:00am BAMSI Rental
7:00pm Council Meeting

Sat. 12/21

10:00am CCC Music Rehearsal (See Murray)
12:00pm Pageant Rehearsal
(Junior/Senior Youth Group caroling after rehearsal)

Sun. 12/22

8:00am Adult Ringers
9:55am Worship w/Pageant - Advent 4 (followed by lunch)
1:00pm Christmas Concert

Please check Channel 5 (TV), the website, or the church answering machine if it is actively snowing before heading to church. We do cancel if people are being asked to stay off the roads or if there is no power at the church



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Welcome!