



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

November 29, 2020

9:55 am



Welcome to worship! While we can't be together physically, we are glad to join together for worship online. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

PRELUDE (9:50am)

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: After such suffering we go searching for a sign, any sign. The sun seems too dim, the moon fails, the stars fall. We need a sign, any sign.

People: Be aware, stay awake, change is coming.

Leader: We hope that the Human One is on the way, gathering the faithful from the four winds into a place of peace - we need a sign, any sign.

People: Be aware, stay awake, change is coming.

Leader: Nature once offered signs that we could depend on. The fig tree put out tender leaves, and we knew summer was near - but our climate today is hurting, and unpredictable. We need a sign, any sign.

People: Be aware, stay awake, change is coming.

Leader: So together we search for a sign of the One who is coming - looking for clarity in confusion, a green shoot in a barren landscape, a song arising in a weary soul.

People: Be aware, stay awake, change is coming. Come, let us worship together!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

'People, Look East'

No. 142

(scroll down to music)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reading and home candle lighting by Kaptimer Family.

People: Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your grace and we ask that you reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Advent God, forgive us when we pay more attention to satisfying our own needs, than seeking you and your will for our lives - for being more interested in possessing the material things of life, rather than your spiritual gifts. Turn our lives around so that we are looking in the right direction - toward you. Only then can we hope to recognize the signs of your presence in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN

'In The Bleak Midwinter'

(scroll down to music)

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 64:1-9

If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!
Mountains would quake before you
like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil.
If you would make your name known to your enemies,
the nations would tremble in your presence.
When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations;
when you came down, mountains quaked before you.
From ancient times,
no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any god but you
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him!
You look after those who gladly do right;
they will praise you for your ways.
But you were angry when we sinned;
you hid yourself when we did wrong.
We have all become like the unclean;
all our righteous deeds are like a filthy rag.
All of us wither like a leaf;
our sins, like the wind, carry us away.
No one calls on your name;
no one bothers to hold on to you,
for you have hidden yourself from us,
and have handed us over to our sin.
But now, LORD, you are our father.
We are the clay, and you are our potter.
All of us are the work of your hand.
Don't rage so fiercely, LORD;
don't hold our sins against us forever,
but gaze now on your people, all of us

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

ANTHEM

'Christmas Is Coming'

Joel Raney

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father (Creator), 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

OFFERTORY

'Treasures'

Joseph Martin

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Accompanist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter



People, Look East

1. Peo - ple, look east, the time is near, of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day:
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

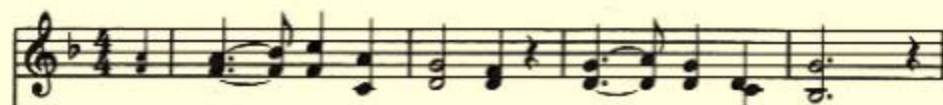
MUSIC: Traditional French carol; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928

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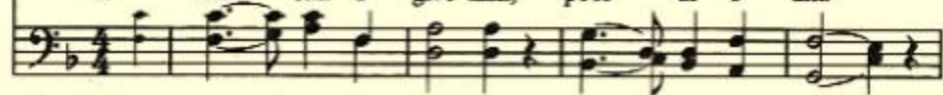
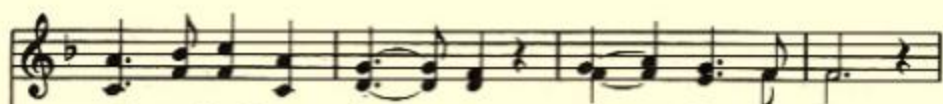
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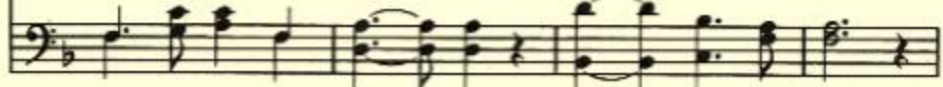

♩=62-70





1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2. Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4. What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign.
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 Lord God Al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 what I can I give him: give my heart.

