



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 6, 2020

9:55 am

Second Sunday of Advent

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. This morning, we will be celebrating the sacrament of communion. We hold that the communion table is open to any and all who desire a closer relationship with Christ. To prepare for this sacrament at home, we invite you to gather communion elements from what you have at hand, some bread or crackers and some juice or water.

PRELUDE (9:50 am)

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barry Shelley

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us hear what God will speak, tender words for a burdened people...

People: Comfort, comfort, my people! The days of sorrow are ending!

Leader: Let us hear what God will speak, encouraging words for an anxious people...

People: Prepare a way for the Holy One, through deserts of despair build a highway for our God!

Leader: Let us hear what God will speak, words of vision for a weary people...

People: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet, righteousness and peace will emerge together!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

'Come, O Long Expected Jesus'

No.125

(scroll down to music)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reading and home candle lighting by the Pelote family (Alicia, Phoenix, and Kailana)

People: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Holy Friend, we confess that we want to have more of you in our lives, yet without the discipline and difficulty of preparing to receive you; please forgive our evasions and cowardice.

Holy Friend, we confess that we get sucked in by those false prophets who offer us an easy discipleship and a cheap grace; please forgive our desire for cheap substitutes.

Holy Friend, we confess that we even fool ourselves into believing that many of our rough ways and crooked paths are justified; please forgive our excuses and defiance. In the name of Emmanuel, let us embrace grace, mercy and peace.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN

'Comfort, Comfort You My People'

No. 122

(scroll down to music)

SCRIPTURE

Pastor Jeffrey Kardisco

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

SERMON

Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor

ANTHEM

'Walk In The Light'

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

Leader: God's Banquet is coming. The time we await when all will gather from North, East, West and South.

People: A banquet where the rich and powerful will sit with the weak and poverty-stricken. A table where young and old will learn from each other. A time when all will sit together in peace, "and the wolf will lie down with the lamb."

Leader: Here at this table we get a foretaste of God's banquet. This is indeed God's table, not the church's, and so all who seek to know Christ better are welcome to eat and drink from it.

People: Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: God is with us

People: We are not alone

Leader: Christ is present here

People: The Spirit moves within us

Leader: Let us give thanks to God

People: In memory and in hope

Leader: Blessings be to you, Creator God, Who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

People: Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, your ancient promise still brings us hope.

Leader: Over the ages you have called people to embrace your hope and share your love. But even when they have closed their ears to the song you did not stop singing. You sent prophets and messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world.

People: They came in the midst of our despair and filled us with hope.

Leader: And then you came to a young woman named Mary and laid out the promise in a new way

People: Promising her a son, who would be called Jesus. Promising her that in her son the world would be changed.

Leader: And now we prepare for that child to be born as we echo the cry:

People: O come, O come Emmanuel!

SANCTUS

Soloist, Karl Koza

No. 111

C G7 Am F G C

San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

F G7 C Am F G7 C

co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to - res Señ - or!
heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

REMEMBERING THE STORY

Leader: Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we remember the life that this baby will live.

People: We remember how he broke the bonds of human tradition to show all what the Banquet of Hope could be as he ate openly with the despised and the outcast of his world.

Leader: And we remember one special meal, foretaste of the banquet that is to come, that he ate with his closest friends.

People: Gathering them together in an upper room to share the story of liberation, he prepared them for the kingdom to come.

Leader: And at the end of the meal he took bread and after giving thanks for it, he blessed it and broke it, then passed it to them saying:

People: Take and eat. This bread is the body of Life, broken by the world. Eat it in remembrance and in hope.

Leader: Afterward he took the cup, and in the same way he blessed it and passed it to them saying:

People: This cup is the sign of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it remember me, for I shall not eat or drink again until the time of the heavenly banquet.

Leader: Remembering the birth of the child in the stable, we remember also his life, his death and his resurrection.

People: We remember how he poured his love out for all he met. We look forward to his return and to the coming reign of peace, love, and justice.

Leader: And in our remembering we state the mystery of our faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again!

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: God, you poured your Spirit on Mary and she said words of defiance and hope. Pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here at this table. As we eat and drink may we know your presence among us. As we eat and drink may we be opened to the possibilities of your hope and power, and may we be strengthened in our time of waiting for peace and justice so that we will have the courage to make the Christmas promise a reality. As your beloved children we give our very spirit over to you as we pray together, in the name of Jesus Christ, using the words that he taught us saying...

People: 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, and 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE POURING OF THE WINE

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION MUSIC

'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence'

No. 124

(scroll down to music)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

God of pregnant expectations, God of Christmas promise, God of child-like hope, we have eaten and drunk from your table. May the eating and the drinking fill us with hope in a world of despair. May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the world will be changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet which is to come would give us the hunger for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen.

HYMN

'Wait With Us This Holy Advent'

set to Stuttgart by Katrina Clinton

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

Karl Koza, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Lay Readers:

1. Come, O long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set your peo-ple free.
2. Born your peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king,

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
born to reign in us for-ev-er, born your grac-ious realm to bring.

You, our strength and con-so-la-tion, come sal-va-tion to im-part;
By your own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;

dear de-sire of man-y a na-tion, joy of man-y a long-ing heart.
by your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to your glo-rious throne.

122 Comfort, Comfort You My People

1. Com - fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, tell of peace, thus says our God;
 2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3. Make you straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load.
 bid - ding us to make re - pent - ance since the reign of God is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of our God now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.
 let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

WORDS: Johannes G. Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551; harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564

GENEVA 42
 87.87.77.88

♩=140-148

124 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Unison

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2. Tru - ly God, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
 4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
 earth he stood, word of God, in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the Pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in his hand Christ our God to earth de -
 in the bod - y and the blood, Christ will give to all the
 from the realms of end - less day, that the powers of hell may
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -

scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful his own self for heav - en - ly food.
 van - ish as the shad - ows clear a - way.
 lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, God most high!"