



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

December 13, 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: Rejoice! The Spirit of God is sending us...

**People: to bring good news to the oppressed, to comfort the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to proclaim the year of favor among God's people.**

Leader: Rejoice! The work of the Spirit is calling us...

**People: to rebuild ancient relationships ruined by injustice, to repair the cities as places of hope, to restore land devastated across generations, to proclaim the year of favor among God's people.**

Leader: Rejoice! The Glory of the Spirit is leading us...

**People: to cast off any faint spirit and put on the mantle of praise, to take root as the plantings of the HOLY ONE, to display God's glory.**

Leader: Come, let us worship in Joy!

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN**

'One Candle Is Lit'

No. 128

*(scroll down to music)*

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Reading and home candle lighting by Swisher-Rosa Family.

**People: Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days you would help us to prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.**

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(in unison)*

**We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God.  
The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule.  
The ones you knock off their pedestals,  
we admire and emulate.  
We are so focused on having more and more,  
we risk being sent away empty.**

**Forgive us, Mighty God,  
and look with grace upon us.  
We would live secure in your love;  
we would be the ones of peace for our world,  
we would seek to do your will,  
as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,  
in whose name we pray.**

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

### **HYMN**

*(scroll down to music)*

'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming'

No. 160

### **SCRIPTURE**

#### **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

### **Luke 1:46-55**

And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

### **SERMON**

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

### **ANTHEM**

'Keep your Lamps'

*Trad. Spiritual arr. Andre Thomas*

### **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.

## CALL FOR OFFERINGS

In struggle and in joy, God is faithful to us. We bring forth our offerings - our tithes, our treasures, our least coins - to demonstrate our faithfulness to God. No matter who you are, where you are, or what you are offering - offer what you have to God with thanksgiving in your heart.

[www.brocktonucc.org/donate/](http://www.brocktonucc.org/donate/)

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND DEDICATION OF THE PLEDGES

### HYMN

*(scroll down to music)*

'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent'

No. 124

### 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

*Unison*

1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night,  
 2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare  
 3. Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth,  
 4. Come, wan - der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play,  
 5. Come, lis - ten, the sounds of God - with - us ring clear,

1. our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the light.  
 2. for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care.  
 3. join an - gels in danc - ing from heav - en to earth.  
 4. where e - vil is ban - ished and faith takes the day,  
 5. and signs of a cross in the dis - tance ap - pear.

1. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vi - sion en - gage.  
 2. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.  
 3. Wave ban - ners of good news, lift high thank - ful praise.  
 4. a babe in a man - ger to fool the world's eyes.  
 5. The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ev - er near.

WORDS: Mary Anne Parrott, 1988  
 MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895

CRADLE SONG  
 11 11 11 11

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1. One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.  
 2. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.  
 3. One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.  
 4. One can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.  
 5. One can - dle is lit for the Christ - birth - day here.

# Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

160

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem  
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have

hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing by  
 in mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the

faith - ful proph - ets sung; it came a flow'r-et bright,  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right

a - mid the cold of win - ter when half spent was the night.  
 she bore to us a Sav - ior when half spent was the night.

WORDS: German carol (15th century); tr. Theodore Baker, 1894  
 MUSIC: Traditional melody; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

ES IST EIN ROS  
 76.76.676

*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 heaven - ly food.  
 van - ish as the shad - ows clear a - way.  
 lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, God most high!"

WORDS: *Liturgy of St. James* (4th century); tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1864  
 MUSIC: French carol (17th century); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

PICARDY  
 87.87.87