



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 24, 2020

7:00 pm

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. 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.

CHORAL PRELUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful #148

Angels We Have Heard on High #155

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists... Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled.

People: Scattered and distant the people were gathered. Scattered and distant WE are gathered.

Leader: Mary gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly and laid him in a manger because there was no room at the inn.

People: Displaced and seeking refuge Mary found an unlikely resting place. Displaced and seeking refuge WE find rest in unlikely places.

Leader: Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

People: Terrified and trembling the shepherds experienced God's glory first hand. Terrified and trembling WE experience God's glory first hand.

Leader: Tonight is the night! Tonight is the night that we remember God's coming to be among us – experiencing all that we experience and feeling all that we feel. Tonight is the night that we remember *we are not alone*.

People: With excitement and fear, with joy and heartache, with all of ourselves we come to be in God's presence. From many places and in many ways we are all made one through God's Spirit and presence among us!

CAROL

The First Noel #151

(scroll down to music)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: Holy One, we give you thanks for your presence among us in Jesus, your Child, born into a poor family. Christ has entered our lives, and embraced our hope and our struggle; showing forth the power of your love in healing, teaching, and challenging the powers of the world

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN John 1:1-5

HOMILY

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

ANTHEM

Do You Hear What I Hear?

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Leader: May it be well with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Life is a gift and we are called to celebrate it.

People: May we rejoice in the beauty of this special time.

Leader: We celebrate tonight God-with-us beyond our words, beyond our images, for we know God is beyond those things.

But tonight we find joy in the image of God coming to us in the form of the Christ child....

...No matter who you are, where you are, what your table looks like, or what elements you have at hand – God's table is open to all who wish to know a deeper relationship with Christ. Let us pray.

REMEMBERING THE STORY

Bread and wine, the fruit of vine and earth. Jesus gave us these things to keep us connected to the story:

We remember the night before he died, according to our tradition, when he shared a meal with his friends. Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it. He poured out the wine. He gave thanks for all the blessings in his life, honoring the God so faithfully present in his life and in ours.

“Do this remembering me.”

We break bread as Jesus did remembering the call to love generously and faithfully, whatever the cost.

We pour out wine remembering our responsibility to be bearers of forgiveness, tolerance, and understanding.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

May these ordinary things be blessed – for they represent both the ordinary and the extraordinary – and they remind us of Jesus’ invitation to follow him into new life.

People: To this commitment we give our “Amen” and offer it as our Christmas gift to our family and friends and neighbors, as a sacrament to Jesus’ life and death and resurrection, in those days, and in our hearts even today – and we join in the prayer that Jesus taught us saying:

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.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

People: We give thanks for God being with us in the love of family and friends near and far, in whatever has been, in the circumstances of life right now, and in whatever the future holds for us. We are thankful for the ways that God has nourished us and strengthened us for the journey of discipleship. Amen.

SHARING THE LIGHT (SLIDE SHOW OVER SILENT NIGHT)

BENEDICTION

CAROL

Joy To The World #143

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Accompanist

Dale Munsch, Accompanist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Hunt, Rex. "A Service of Holy Communion at Christmas." *ProgressiveChristianity.org*, 16 Dec. 2012, progressivechristianity.org/resources/a-service-of-holy-communion-at-christmas/.



O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful, and tri - um - phant,
 2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 3. Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our sal - va - tion,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Descant
 3, 4. O come, O come,

Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

WORDS: John Francis Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakley, 1841, and others
 MUSIC: John Francis Wade, 1743; desc. David Willcocks, 1961

ADESTE FIDELES
 1st. w. refrain

Desc. © 1961 Oxford University Press

let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

155 Angels We Have Heard on High

Descant

4. See with - in a man - ger laid, Christ, whom choirs of

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ, who comes in
 4. See with - in a man - ger laid, Christ, whom choirs of

an - gels praise; Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,
 o'er the plains, and the moun - tains in re - ply
 strains pro - long? What the glad - some tid - ings be
 low - ly birth. Come a - dore on bend - ed knee
 an - gels praise; Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,

Refrain

while our hearts in love we raise. Ah!

ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Je - sus, joy of heav'n and earth.
 while our hearts in love we raise.

WORDS: Traditional French carol; tr. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt.
 MUSIC: French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937;
 harm. Austin C. Lovelace, 1964, alt.; desc. Richard E. Gerig, 1956

GLORIA
 77.77 w. refrain

Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House; desc. © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.

Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o! Ah!

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

The First Noel

1. The first No - el, the an - gel did say, was to
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing
 3. And by the light of that same star three
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, full

1. cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 2. in the east, be - yond them far, and to the
 3. wise men came from coun - try far; to seek for a
 4. Beth - le - hem it took its rest, and there it
 5. rev - erent - ly up - on their knee, and of - fered

1. they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 2. earth it gave great light, and so it con -
 3. king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the
 4. did both stop and stay, right ov - er the
 5. there, in his pres - ence, their gold and

WORDS: Traditional English carol (17th century)
 MUSIC: Traditional English melody; desc. Healey Willan, 1926

THE FIRST NOEL
 Irr. w. refrain

Desc. used by permission of Oxford University Press

Descant
 No - el, No - el, No -

Refrain
 1. night that was so deep.
 2. tin - ued both day and night.
 3. star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 4. place where Je - sus lay.
 5. myrrh and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.
 el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Joy to the World

143

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, and
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 And won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719
 MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848

ANTIOCH
 CM w. repeat