



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



November 28, 2021

9:55 am

Welcome to worship! Whether you are here with us in person or joining us online we welcome you to worship. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Koza

OPENING THE DOOR - THE THRESHOLD MOMENT

Leader: The pandemic has laid bare, and widened, economic disparity locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our church become a house where the Holy will be born anew - offering respite, sustenance, and care; opening doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No single church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and "make room in the inn," the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Response (Light & Bible enter Sanctuary):

**Hope waits for us at Advent
Hope waits for us to trust.
Hope waits for our commitment,
To a land that's kind and just.
In this time of preparation
For the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world
That heals the ones in pain.
Hope is born in us again!**

Leader: Today we offer the Light of Hope to illuminate the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Hope awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There *IS* room in *THIS* Inn, a House for the Holy.

Response (as the Candle of Hope is lit):

Hope waits for us at Advent
Hope waits for us to trust.
Hope waits for our commitment
To a land that's kind and just.
In this time of preparation
For the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world
That heals the ones in pain,
Hope is born in us again!

HYMN

'One Candle is Lit' (vs. 1)

No. 128

(scroll down to music)

***WELCOMING CHRIST'S PEACE**

Leader: The Hope of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: As we rise in body or spirit for our opening hymn, I invite you to pass a "wave" of peace to the people around you, and to the people worshipping at home!

***HYMN**

'Lift Up Your Heads'

No. 129

(scroll down to music)

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

(the children may be excused to their program after a time for all ages)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, O Waiting God. There are hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help. Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your Kin-dom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God does not remember our sins, but does remember the promises which have been made to us. God does not shame us, but lifts us to new life.

ALL: Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love. You are the God of our days - we wait for your to come to us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Psalm 25:4-5

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's life, who will do what is just and right in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Psalm 25:4-5

Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth - teach it to me - because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long.

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

HYMN

'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'

No. 119

(scroll down to music)

PASTORAL PRAYER

ALL: Make of my heart a stable, a house for the holy, a warm and sturdy place, for hope to live and grow.

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God about what we've done and left undone that created less hope in a hurting world. Let us breathe out this regret... and breathe in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God... and out again with the Peace of Christ.

ALL: Make of my life a stable, a house for the holy, a warm and sturdy place, for hope to live and grow.

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit, inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine. Let us breathe out our fear... and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God... and out again, with the Peace of Christ.

ALL: Make of our church a stable, a house for the holy, a warm and sturdy place, for hope to live and grow.

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of this church, filling it with the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling. We remember and pray for...

- ...those who are suffering economic hardship, and insecurity in basic needs; may abundance be shared
- ... those who are suffering mentally, finding it difficult to cope; may paths open and hope return.
- ... those who are suffering illness or injury; may healing abound.
- ...those who are suffering loneliness and isolation; may companionship and solace arrive.
- ...those who are suffering discrimination, fear, and violence; may they know respect, respite, and safety.

May the Advent of Compassion be born in us, reside within us, move outward from us, to meet the needs of the world, making a house for the Holy that is each and every child of God. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

Our Creator (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.

ANTHEM

'When in Our Music, God is Glorified'

arr. Stanford

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

The Bible doesn't actually mention an Innkeeper in the story of Jesus' birth. But this popular notion is alive in our imaginations. Sometimes the Innkeeper gets a bad rap, as if providing substandard accommodations for a family about to go through the birthing process. But what if we saw the innkeeper as someone who, with a full house, thought literally *outside of the box* to solve a problem? What if we endeavored to do the same to provide ministry, to "house the Holy" in ways we have not yet imagined? In our offering we do the unconventional - we give away a portion of what sustains us so that the ministries of this church can continue to change the world around us. That's outside of the box thinking. Just like the proverbial Innkeeper, let us offer what we have - even if it looks lowly and unconventional - because what we have to offer can always be valuable in God's hands.

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN

(scroll down to music)

'Comfort, Comfort, You My People'

No. 122

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccatà on Helmsley

David Blackwell (1919-2010)

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Steven Young, Organist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹McFee, Marcia. "Welcome to Worship Design Studio." *Worship Design Studio*, Marcia McFee, <https://worship-design-studio.mn.co/posts/series-the-inn-advent-one-making-room-hope>.

²Shuman, Thom. "Prayer of Confession: Advent 1 C." *Prayer of Confession: Advent 1 C*, 23 Nov. 2012, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/11/prayer-of-confession-advent-1-c.html>.

Organ Dedication Concert
Christ Congregational, UCC

November 28th, 2021
3:00 PM
Reception to follow



**The December Holiday Calendar
Raffle Fundraiser**
**From Christ Congregational Church,
UCC**

All drawings will be in December 2021
Two Drawings Each Day; Three Draw
Thursdays!!

Tickets are on sale now!
Please Help Us Sell Tickets throughout
November

Tickets are \$10 and the Purchaser receives December
calendar for the fridge,
as well as a Ticket for the chance to win a Gift Card
each day throughout December.

**ARTISANS' HOLIDAY
FAIR**

UNIQUE LOCALLY MADE ART & CRAFTS

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Come shop for your holiday gifts of homemade Art & Crafts

We are welcoming new artists and crafters to participate.
Rent your own table (\$15 Church Members - \$25 Outside Artists)

For more information please contact:

Christ Congregational Church
1350 Pleasant Street
Brockton, MA 02301
(508)586-3022

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

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates 129

1. Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo-ri-ous
 2. Fling wide the por-tals of your heart; make it a tem-ple,
 3. Re-deem-er, come! We o-pen wide our hearts to you; here,
 4. So come, our Sov-ereign; en-ter in! Let new and no-bler

Rul-er waits! The Sov-ereign One is draw-ing
 set a-part from earth-ly use for heav-en's em-
 Christ, a-bide! Let us your in-ner pres-ence
 life be-gin; your Ho-ly Spir-it guide us

near; the Sav-ior of the world is here.
 ploy, a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 feel, your grace and love in us re-veal.
 on, un-til the glo-ri-ous crown be-won.

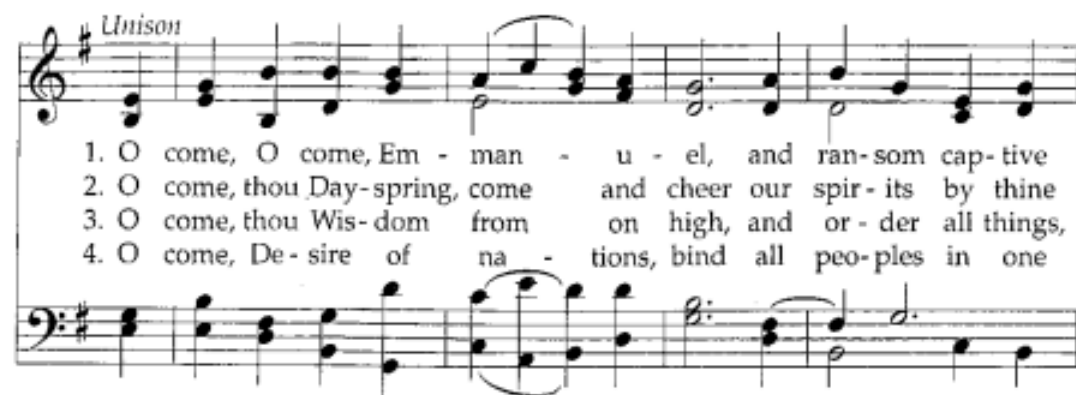
WORDS: Georg Weissel, 1642; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt.
 MUSIC: *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO
 LM

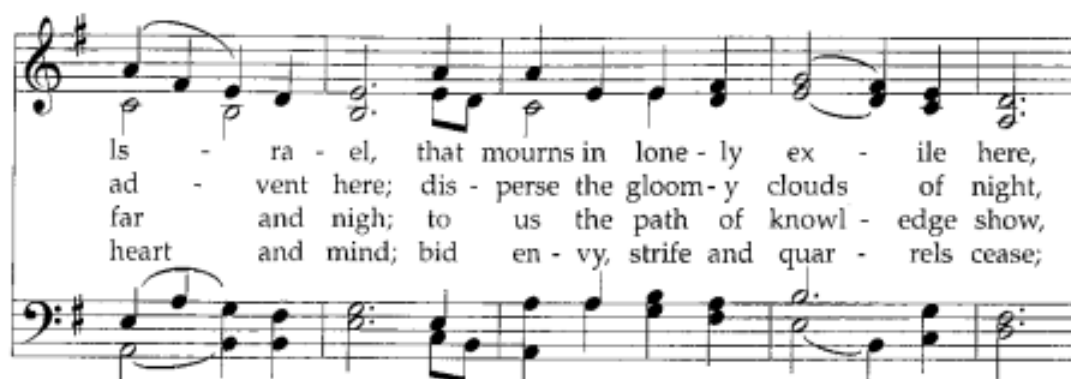
Text revisions courtesy of United Church Board for Homeland Ministries/The Pilgrim Press

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

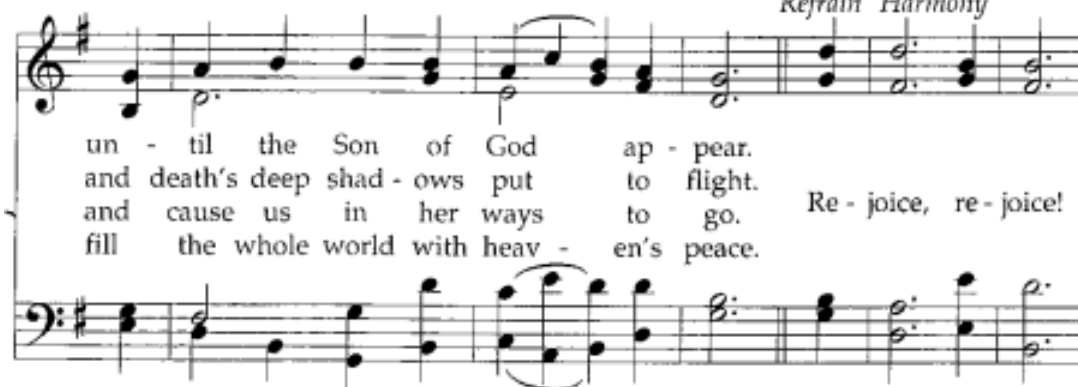
Unison



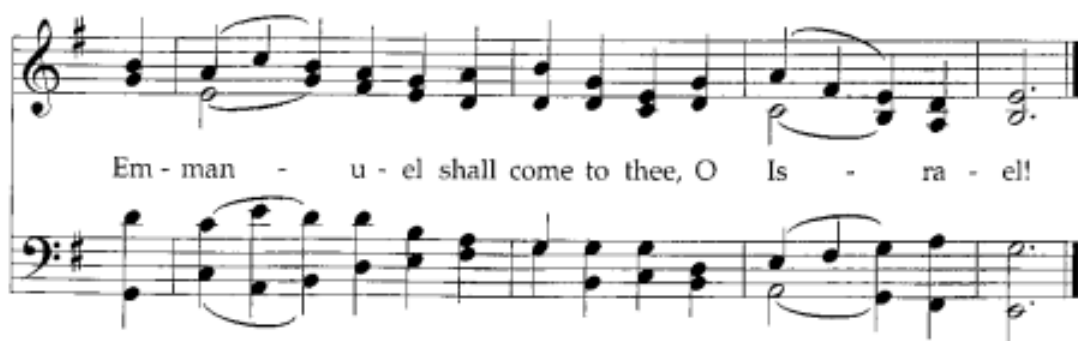
1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;

Refrain Harmony


un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and death's deep shad - ows put to flight.
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re - jice, re - jice!
 fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin hymn (12th century); st. 1-2 tr. John Mason Neale, 1851;
 st. 3-4 tr. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916
 MUSIC: French melody (15th century); arr. and harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM

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

