



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 5, 2021

9:55 am

Welcome to worship! We are glad to join together for worship in person and 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.

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Koza

OPENING THE DOOR - THE THRESHOLD MOMENT

Leader: Like the childhood game of "musical chairs," we are convinced that there are not enough places at the table. And so we shrink the guest list just in case there is not enough, and we scramble to occupy the chairs first. And yet our sacred texts invite us to imagine and make real the gathering of all people to the table, robed in the garments of a Peace that comes with justice. This is what really matters - this is the fruit of what is right and good.

Response (Light & Bible enter Sanctuary):

**Peace waits for us at Advent
Peace waits for us to rest.
Peace waits for our acceptance
Of the truth that we are blessed.
In this time of preparation
For the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world
Of gentleness and play.
Peace is born in us each day!**

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

Response (as the Candles of Hope and Peace are lit):

**Peace waits for us at Advent
Peace waits for us to rest.
Peace waits for our acceptance
Of the truth that we are blessed.
In this time of preparation
For the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world
Of gentleness and play.
Peace is born in us each day!**

HYMN

'One Candle is Lit' (vs. 2)

No.128

(scroll down to music)

WELCOMING CHRIST'S PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

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

HYMN

'Come, O Long Expected Jesus'

No. 125

(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)*

Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light; we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the vallets of our doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again. Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your Kin-dom. Hear our prayer, O God. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1:3-11

I Thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now. I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus. I have good reason to think this way about all of you because I keep you in my heart. You are all my partners in god's grace, both during my time in prison and in the defense and support of the gospel. God is my witness that I feel affection for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God.

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

*(scroll down to music)***PASTORAL PRAYER**

People: Make of my heart a stable, a house for the holy, a warm and sturdy place for peace 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 peace 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...

People: Make of my life a stable, a house for the holy, a warm and sturdy place for peace 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...

People: Make of our church a stable, a house for the holy, a warm and sturdy place for peace 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...

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(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.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

'When God is a Child' (vs. 2)

No. 132

*Joan Collier Fogg***CALL FOR OFFERINGS**www.brocktonucc.org/donate/**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

'Christmas is Coming'

arr. Joel Raney

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'In the Bleak Midwinter'

CRANHAM,
harmonized by Gustav Holst**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Holy One be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to God!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the God of All That Is.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Birthing God, creator of heaven and earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your holy name:

COMMUNION HYMN

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 e - res Señ - or!
heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

REMEMBERING THE STORY

Leader: In the midst of a time of despair, oppression, division, and fear, you came to live among us through the same birth we experienced.

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING OF THE CUP

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Communion will be shared by members of the congregation coming forward down the center aisle. Please wait for a member of the Deacons to tell you when to get in line. When you reach the front a piece of bread will be placed in your hands. Once you've received the bread please move toward the side of the sanctuary where you were seated, there you'll receive the communion cup. Once you have received the elements of bread and cup you may return to your seats by the side aisle.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent'

Gustav Holst

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

We thank you, God, for breaking into our world - and for pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving - and for the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.

HYMN

(scroll down to music)

'Blessed Be God of Israel'

No. 135

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Wachet auf!

Aaron David Miller (b. 1974)

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor

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>.

²Smith, Alydia. "Advent Communion Liturgy - United-Church.ca." *United Church of Canada*, United Church of Canada, <https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/advent-communion-liturgy.docx>.

³Unknown, Author. "Confession: Path in the Wilderness." *Confession: Path in the Wilderness*, 6 Dec. 2019, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/11/confession-path-in-wilderness.html>.

SECOND SATURDAY FELLOWSHIP

Intergenerational Advent Messy Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 5-7PM
CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
DINNER WILL BE SERVED
ALL AGES WELCOME

CALLING ALL
SHEPHERDS,
ANGELS, AND
WISE FOLK!

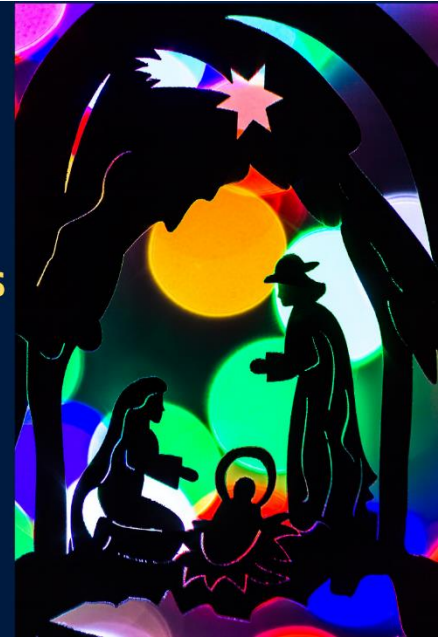
Christmas Pageant

Dec. 19th

SIGN-UPS

BEGIN

DEC. 5 IN
SUNDAY SCHOOL



ARTISAN HOLIDAY FAIRE



Saturday December 11 2021
At Christ Congregational Church
1350 Pleasant Street, Brockton
10 am to 2 pm

A showcase of handmade crafts by local artisans

- Quilts and Quilted Items
- Knit hats, mouse ears and embroidered items
 - Candy, fudge and baked goods
 - Hot chocolate bombs
 - Needlepoint Coasters
- Handcrafted soaps and scrubs
- Jewelry, suncatchers and crystal décor
- SERV international goods

Blue Christmas

2021

Christ Congregational Church

- December 20th
- In Person & Online
 - 7:00 PM
- Service of Anointing & Prayer

Jesus said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
~Matthew 11:28~



Christmas Eve At Christ Congregational Church

Traditional Christmas Eve Service
With Candle-lighting & Communion
Dec. 24th at 6 PM

In Person & Online

<https://brocktonucc.org/live-videos/>



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

www.brocktonucc.org
@brocktonucc

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



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.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

HYFRYDOL
87.87D

122 Comfort, Comfort You My People

1. Com - fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, tell of peace, thus says our God;
 2. För 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

Unison

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
 2. Peace is a ribbon that cir - cles the earth,
 3. Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,
 4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.
 giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.
 tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born.
 Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

Refrain

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be

first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

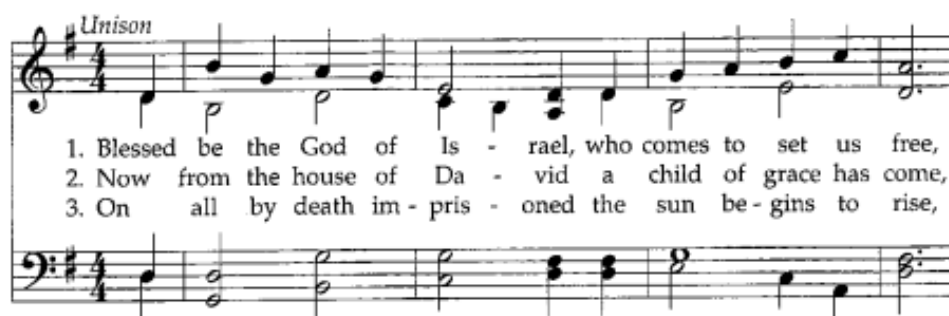
WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985
 MUSIC: Joan Collier Fogg, 1987

MOON BEAM
 Irr. w. refrain

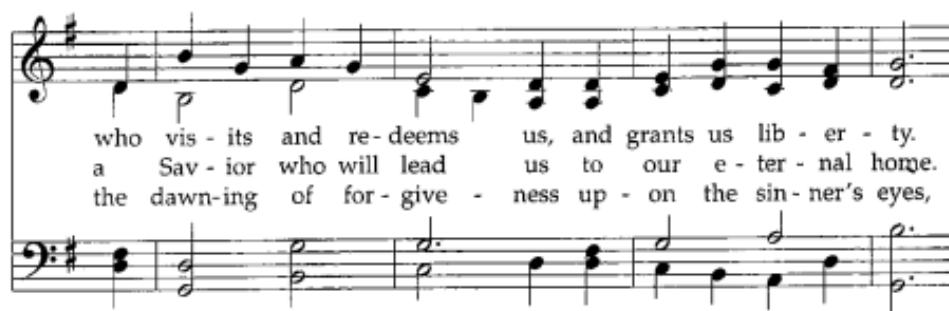
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♩=11:

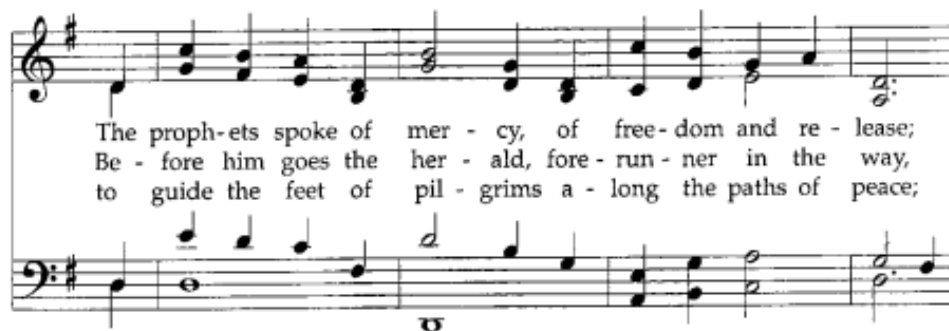
Unison



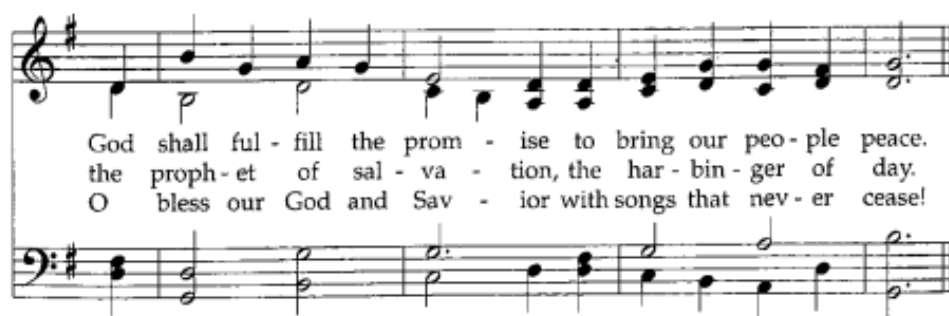
1. Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
 2. Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,
 3. On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;



God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

WORDS: Michael Perry, 1973
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

MERLE'S TUNE
 76.76D

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♩=112-120