



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 12, 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: As John baptized new converts, he invited them to live with "changed hearts and lives." When asked how to do that, his answers all point to making sure no one is cheated or left without the basic necessities of life, including the right to not be harassed. A full life of joy, which the prophet Isaiah describes as an ever-flowing spring, is the birthright of all children of God. May we act to make it so.

Response (Light & Bible enter Sanctuary):

**Joy waits for us at Advent
Joy waits for us to sing.
Joy waits for our amazement
At the grace in everything.
In this time of preparation
For the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world
Where wonder is restored.
Joy is born in us once more!**

Leader: Today we offer the Light of Joy to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts; in our lives, and in our church. May Joy 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, Peace, and Joy are lit):

**Joy waits for us at Advent
Joy waits for us to sing.
Joy waits for our amazement
At the grace in everything.
In this time of preparation
For the work of co-creation,
For the birthing of a world
Where wonder is restored.
Joy is born in us once more!**

HYMN

'One Candle is Lit' (vs. 3)

No.128

(scroll down to music)

WELCOMING CHRIST'S JOY

Leader: The Joy 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 worshipping at home)!

HYMN

'Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn'

No. 138

(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)*

Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and to offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 12:2-6 & Luke 3:7-18*

Isaiah 12:2-6

God is indeed my salvation;
I will trust and won't be afraid.
Yah, the LORD, is my strength and my shield;
he has become my salvation."
You will draw water with joy from the springs of salvation.
And you will say on that day:
"Thank the LORD; call on God's name;
proclaim God's deeds among the peoples;
declare that God's name is exalted.
Sing to the LORD, who has done glorious things;
proclaim this throughout all the earth."
Shout and sing for joy, city of Zion,
because the holy one of Israel is great among you.

Luke 3:7-18

Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire."

The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He replied, "Collect no more than you are authorized to collect."

Soldiers asked, "What about us? What should we do?"

He answered, "Don't cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay."

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

HYMN

'My Soul Gives Glory to My God'

No. 130

(scroll down to music)

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honest before God about what we've done and left undone that created less joy 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 Joy 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 Joy 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 on our prayer list and we lift them up especially as our siblings in Christ from this Beloved Community. We pray also 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. 3)

No. 132
Joan Collier Fogg

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

'Carol for Advent'

DOXOLOGY

'In the Bleak Midwinter'

CRANHAM,
harmonized by Gustav Holst

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(in unison)*

Almighty God - we give you thanks for every good offering. We thank you for the fruit you have grown with us and, with joy in our hearts, we anticipate the fruit you have yet in store. Please accept these humble offerings, a portion of ourselves given in joy. Please bless them, multiply them, and use them for your intended purposes here - and throughout the world. Amen.

HYMN

(scroll down to music)

'Come Ye Thankful People Come'

No. 718

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Carillon de Westminster (from Op. 54)

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Rev. 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*, <https://worship-design-studio.mn.co/posts/series-the-inn-advent-three-how-much-is-enough-joy>.

²Jaquith Bartlett, Laura. *Confession: Epiphany 1 C*, 7 Jan. 2013, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/01/confession-epiphany-1-c.html>.

CALLING ALL SHEPHERDS, ANGELS, AND WISE FOLK!
Christmas Pageant
Dec. 19th
SIGN-UPS BEGIN DEC. 5 IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Words © 1995 Chalice Press

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.

138 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

G Am7 G D D7

1. A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2. In deep - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 3. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

G C Am D G Am7

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

G D G Am D C G

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1983

REJOICE, REJOICE
 98.98.87.89

© 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

♩=50-54

130 My Soul Gives Glory to My God

Cm Fm Eb Ab Db Eb Fm Cm Fm

1. My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My
 2. My God has done great things for me: yes,
 3. From age to age, to all who fear, such
 4. Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
 5. Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -

Db Eb7 Ab Bbm Ab Ab Db Eb Ab

1. heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
 2. ho - ly is her name. All peo - ple wil de -
 3. mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
 4. notes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
 5. ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past

Eb7 Bbm Ab Db Eb Bbm Eb Fm

1. low - li - ness in man - y mar - ve - lous ways.
 2. clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
 3. far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 4. sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 5. prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

Guitar and keyboard should not sound together.

WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter, 1978, 1987
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813;
 harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

MORNING SONG
 CM

Words © 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters; harm. © 1989 The United
 Methodist Publishing House

♩=88-96

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

© 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

♩=11:

718 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Descant

3. These to thee, our God, we owe, source whence our blessings flow;

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;
 2. All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,
 3. These to thee, our God, we owe, source whence all our bless-ings flow;

for these our souls raise grate-ful vows and praise. Come, then, ye

all is safe-ly gath-ered in, ere the win-ter storms be-gin;
 all the fruits in full sup-ply, rip-ened 'neath the sum-mer sky,
 and for these our souls shall raise grate-ful vows and sol-emn praise.

thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

God, our Mak-er, does pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied;
 all that spring with boun-teous hand scat-ters o'er the smil-ing land,
 Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

WORDS: St. 1, Henry Alford, 1884; st. 2, 3, Anna Barbauld (18th century) ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1858; desc. O. I. Crickett Harrison, 1994 77.77D

Desc. © 1995 Chalice Press

come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.

come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
 all that lib-eral au-tumn pours from its rich o'er-flow-ing stores,
 come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.