



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

December 19, 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: This has been an Advent season of prophets - Jeremiah, Baruch, Isaiah, Micah. And now the prophet is Mary - the woman who was the original house for the holy. She was "the inn" - the greatest love the world has ever known, growing in her womb. With all her heart, she proclaims that the lowly are lifted, the hungry are fed, mercy reigns. Like Mary, we must envision, must see, must prophesy and act on that vision for the world that God continues to call us to co-create. What is the view from the room that God has prepared?

Response (Light & Bible enter Sanctuary):

**Love waits for us at Advent
Love waits for us to care.
Love waits for our compassion
freely offered, freely shared.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
where faith shapes all we do.
Love is born in us anew!**

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

Response (all ALL of the Advent Candles, except for the Christ Candle, are lit):

**Love waits for us at Advent
Love waits for us to care.**

**Love waits for our compassion
freely offered, freely shared.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
where faith shapes all we do.
Love is born in us anew!**

HYMN

'One Candle is Lit' (vs. 4)

No.128

(scroll down to music)

WELCOMING CHRIST'S LOVE

Leader: The Love 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

'Hail to the Lord's Anointed'

No. 140

(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)*

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 of their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, and 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 - with your help. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Now, even now - yes even in this very moment God comes to us bringing hope, bringing forgiveness, bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.

People: May we open our hearts to the God who is with us, and receive the gifts which have been offered to us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN

'A Stable Lamp is Lighted'

No. 141

(scroll down to music)

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:46-55

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Mary said,

“With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

*Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored
because the mighty one has done great things for me.*

Holy is his name.

*He shows mercy to everyone,
from one generation to the next,
who honors him as God.*

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.

*He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty-handed.*

*He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy,*

*just as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to Abraham’s descendants forever.”*



[“Do Not Be Afraid” by Illustrated Ministry](#)

The nativity story is told today by the wonderful children and adults of Christ Congregational Church

HANDBELLS

'Go Tell It On the Mountain'

arr. Mary Ann Lightfoot

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

Leader: 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 Love 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. 4)

No. 132
Joan Collier Fogg

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

'Pacem'

DOXOLOGY

'In the Bleak Midwinter'

CRANHAM,
harmonized by Gustav Holst

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Personent hodie

Rebecca Groom te Velde (b. 1956)

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-four-a-room-with-a-view-love>.

²Shuman, Thom. *Confession: Luke 1: 46-55*,
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/12/confession-luke-1-46-55.html>.



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

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.



1. Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2. He comes with jus - tice speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth.
 4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong,
 Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.
 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tives free,
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her - ald, go,
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move.



to take a - way trans - gres - sions, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 His name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is Love.



A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

1. A sta - ble lamp is light - ed whose
 2. (This) child through Da - vid's cit - y shall
 3. (Yet) he shall be for - sak - en, and
 4. (But) now, as at the end - ing, the

glow shall wake the sky; the stars shall bend their voic - es, and
 ride in tri - umph by; the palm shall strew its branch - es, and
 yield - ed up to die; the sky shall groan and dark - en, and
 low is lift - ed high; the stars shall bend their voic - es, and

ev - 'ry stone shall cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall
 ev - 'ry stone shall cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall
 ev - 'ry stone shall cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall
 ev - 'ry stone shall cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall

WORDS: Richard Wilbur, 1959
 MUSIC: David Hurd, 1984

ANDUJAR
 76.76.66.76

Words © 1961, renewed 1989, Richard Wilbur; music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

♩=64-70

cry, and straw like gold shall shine; a barn shall har - bor
 cry, though hea - vy, dull, and dumb, and lie with - in the
 cry, for hearts made hard by sin: God's blood up - on the
 cry, in prais - es of the child by whose de - scent a -

1, 2, 3
 heav - en, a stall be - come a shrine. This
 road - way to pave his king - dom come. Yet
 spear - head, God's love re - fused a - gain. But
 mong us the worlds are rec - on - ciled.

4

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

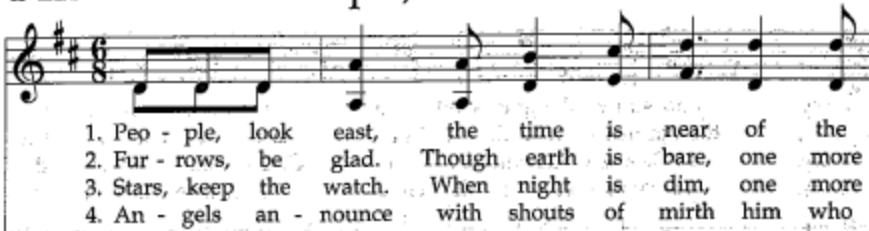
MOON BEAM
 Irr. w. refrain

© 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

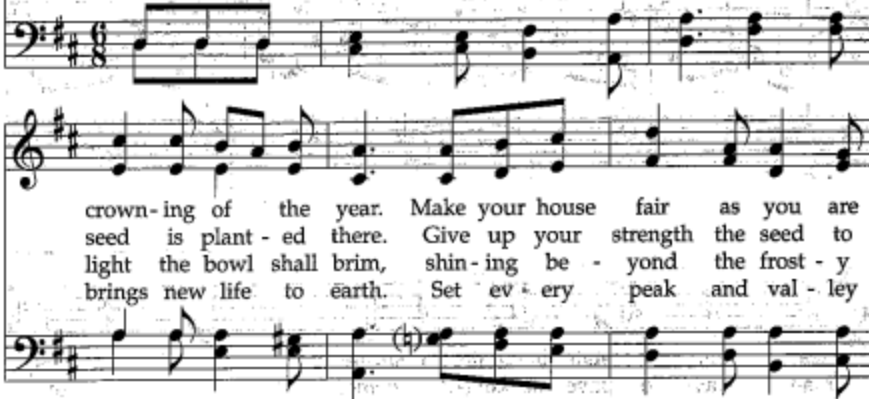
♩=11:

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.

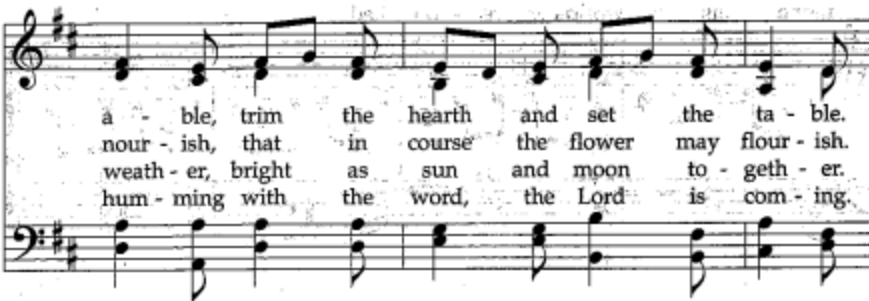
People, Look East



1. Peo - ple, look east, the time is near of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley



a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.



Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day:

Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

MUSIC: Traditional French carol; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928

Words © 1957 Harold Ober Associates, Inc.; harm. used by permission of
Oxford University Press

BESANÇON

87.98.87

♩=62-70