



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 26, 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!

An asterisk () next to a part of our worship outline means that we invite everyone for whom it is comfortable to rise to their feet for that portion of worship.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Koza

HYMN

'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'

No. 150

(scroll down to music)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are here because we have heard a promise of peace

P: and we have faith its day will come

L: we have heard a rumour of justice

P: and we have faith its day will come

L: we have heard a whisper of hope

P: and we have faith its day will come

L: we have heard a hint of love

P: and we have faith its day will come

L: we have heard of the birth of the Christ-child

P: and we have faith his day is here.

All: Welcome to Christmas. Welcome to worship.

OPENING PRAYER

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Gracious God,

**we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child,
those who dropped all that they were doing
and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world.**

**We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability;
who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child,
that he might know love and safety.**

**And yet, merciful God,
we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod.
Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions,
find our own need for control more compelling
than the needs of others for health and safety.
Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege,
rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed.
Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents
for the sake of profit, or power,
or because we fear to know, and to change,
the injustices of this world.**

**Loving God,
we confess our sins against you and one another,
and pray that you will fill us with your light,
that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name,
without counting the cost.
In the name of Christ,
the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN

'The First Noel'

No. 151

(scroll down to music)

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

SERMON

Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley

HYMN

'I Wonder As I Wander'

Appalachian Carol
Arr. John Jacob Niles

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

'Gesù Bambino'

Pietro Yon

***DOXOLOGY**

(scroll down for words)

'Angels We Have Heard On High'

No. 155

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN

(scroll down to music)

'Down To Earth'

No. 168

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude on *Adeste fideles*

Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

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

¹Lawrie, Cheryl. "gathering." *Re:Worship*, 7 Nov. 2012, <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>

²Buchakjian-Tweedy, Rev. Eliza. "Prayer of Confession." *Re:Worship*, 31 Dec. 2013, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/12/prayer-of-confession-matthew-2-1-18.html>.

150 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Descant

3. All hail the Sun of

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er -
 3. Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of

no more may die;
 join the tri - umph of the skies; with the an - gel - ic
 hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty, pleased in flesh with
 born that we no more may die, born to raise us

Righ - teous - ness! He is risen with heal - ing

new - born King; peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners
 last - ing Lord! Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the
 Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing

born to raise us from the earth to sec - ond birth.
 host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

in his wings. His glo - ry by,

rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise,
 Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God - head see;
 in his wings, mild he lays his glo - ry by,

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing to the new - born King.
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William H. Cummings, 1856;
 desc. Paul Liljestrand

MENDELSSOHN
 77.77D w. refrain

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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.

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? Glo
 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!

Unison

1. Down to earth as a dove, came to all,
2. This is love come to light, now is fear
3. Je - sus Christ comes to feed hun-gry ones

ho - ly love; Je - sus Christ from a - bove bring - ing great sal - va - tion,
put to flight. God de - feats ev - il's blight; giv - ing for our sor - rows,
in their need; in the house there is bread: Je - sus in a sta - ble,

Refrain

meant for ev - ery na - tion.
hope of new to - mor - rows. Let us sing, sing, sing, dance and spring,
in the church a ta - ble.

spring, spring. Christ is here, ev - er near! Glo - ria in ex - cel - sis.

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1968
MUSIC: *Pine Cantiones*, 1582; arr. Gustav Holst, 1925

PERSONENT HODIE
666.66 w. refrain

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$\text{♩} = 72-80$