



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 3, 2023

10:00 am

AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moriah Park

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'

No. 119

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: The Word was in the beginning with God. Through the Word, all things came into being.

Leader: The Word of God was a person, a flesh-and-bone human who lived and walked among us.

People: the Word is Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, Prince of Peace and Word Made Flesh.

Leader: Come together, children of God, and worship the one who dwelt among us.

People: Let us worship the Word through whom all things have life!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING¹

***MUSICAL RESPONSE**

'One Candle is Lit' (vs.1)

No. 128

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹

ALL: Word of God made flesh, long before stories were told or books were written, the Word was with God and the Word was God. But we have worshiped other words. We have mistaken the Word made flesh for printed words, for words in our own language, for cruel words, and for words that divide and dehumanize us. We repent and return to the beginning, to the Word through whom all other words came into being. Forgive us, God. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

WORDS OF GRACE¹

*PASSING OF THE PEACE¹

The passing of the peace is a theologically significant portion of Christian worship. Once we have received Christ's peace we, as Christ's disciples, must share that same peace with the world. Please take this time to do just that, share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you in the sanctuary. Some may choose to shake hands, others may want to hug, and still others may want to remain distanced with their arms crossed over their chest or holding their hands up in a "peace sign". However you choose to share Christ's peace in this moment do so with love for God and God's children in your heart.

Leader: Because we are created to live in peace with one another and creation, we take a moment in our worship after having received God's grace to speak peace to one another; embodying the peace we find when we follow in the way of Christ. Friends, may the peace of Christ be with you!

ALL: And also with you.

*MUSICAL RESPONSE

'All Earth Is Waiting' (vs. 1)

No. 139

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION¹

Word of God made flesh, we turn to our sacred Scriptures not to replace the Word made flesh but to greet the ancient witness of faith who came before us and to draw our imaginations and thoughts into wonder. We open our hearts and minds to the message of the day, trusting it will disciple us in the ways of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-9, 14

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

²The Word was with God in the beginning.

³Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.

What came into being

⁴ through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

⁶ A man named John was sent from God. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. ⁸ He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

⁹ The true light that shines on all people
was coming into the world.

¹⁴The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

SERMON

Pastor Jeff

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Alex Green

During this time, we invite you to embrace the transition from hearing the word to gathering ourselves in prayer by taking a moment for quiet reflection either in your pew, or by coming forward to light a candle to give light to the prayer(s) on your heart that have no words to be expressed.

Come and Light a Candle...



PASTORAL PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom 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 Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERINGS¹

OFFERTORY

'An Advent Alleluia'

Wagner/Prichard/Pachelbel

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' (refrain x2)

No. 119

PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹



***INVITATION**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING & REMEMBERING THE STORY

Leader: And so, in remembrance of the Word made flesh, we come to receive and remember. Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING THE CUP

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

For communion today people are invited to come down the center aisle when signaled by one of our Deacons. Come to the front of the church to receive your elements, and then once you've consumed your bread and cup please proceed to your seat using one of the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward please let a member of our Deacons' board know so that we can bring communion to you in your seat.

COMMUNION MUSIC

'Eat This Bread'

Taize/Berthier

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: Word of God made flesh, you have fed us in body and in spirit. We find you in the wheat, the grapes, and the hands that serve them. Bless us as we take these elements with us, and out into the world. May the hope of this feast accompany our journey. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF HOPE¹

Leader: Siblings in Christ, let us proclaim the hope of our faith. From our first breath of life to our final moments before death, our bodies tell God's story of hope.

ALL: We are created to attach, to connect, and to live in community. This is our hope.

Leader: We hear the story of hope in the dependence of babies who know help is coming when they cry.

ALL: We are created to need one another. This is our hope.

Leader: We hear the story of hope in children who ask, explore, experiment, and wonder.

ALL: We are created to enjoy creation. This is our hope.

Leader: We hear the story of hope in teenagers who notice injustice, waste, and hypocrisy.

ALL: We are created to advocate for each other. This is our hope.

Leader: We hear the story of hope in middle ages, when questions of identity and purpose find depth and discovery.

ALL: We are created to be distinctly and uniquely beloved. This is our hope.

Leader: We hear the story of hope in our older adults who pursue passions formed by decades of wisdom and experience.

ALL: We are created to attach, to connect, to live in community. This is the hope of our faith.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Good Christian Friends, Rejoice'

No. 164

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Schubert, Impromptu, D.899

Anton Faynberg

Participatinays Worship Service:
Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Alex Green, Music Director
Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Meisenheimer, Amanda. "Now in Flesh Appearing: Advent Worship Liturgy Set." Illustrated Ministry LLC., 2022.

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 - joice, re - joice!
 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 Sioane Coffin, 1916
 MUSIC: French melody (15th century); arr. and harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM

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.

All Earth Is Waiting

Unison

D F#m Em A7

1. All earth is wait-ing to see the Prom-ised One,
 2. Thus says the proph-et to those of Is-ra-el,
 3. Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be made plain;
 4. In low-ly sta-ble the Prom-ised One ap-peared,

D F#m G A

and o - pen fur-rows, the sow-ing of our God. All the
 "A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u - el": one whose
 o - pen new high-ways, new high-ways for our God, who is
 yet feel that pres-ence through-out the earth to-day, for Christ

Bm F#m G D

world, bound and strug-gling, seeks true lib - er - ty; it
 name is "God with us," our Sav - ior shall be, through-
 now com - ing clos - er, so come all and see, and
 lives in all Chris-tians and is with us now; a -

Bm F#m Em A7 Em F#7/A D

cries out for jus - tice and search-es for the truth.
 whom hope will blos - som once more with-in our hearts.
 o - pen the door-ways as wide as wide can be.
 gain, on ar - riv - ing Christ brings us lib-er-ty.

WORDS: Alberto Taulé, 1972; tr. Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987, alt.
 MUSIC: Alberto Taulé, 1972; harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1988

TAULÉ
 11 11.12 12

Words and music © 1972 The Pastoral Musicians; tr. © 1989 The United
 Methodist Publishing House; harm. used by permission of Juan Francisco
 Chávez

♩=70-76

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice 164

1. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice!
 2. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice!
 3. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice!

Lis - ten now to what we say: News! News! Je - sus Christ is born to - day.
 Now you hear of end - less bliss: Joy! Joy! Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 Now you need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Je - sus Christ was born to save!

Ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all, to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

WORDS: Latin (14th century); tr. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt.
 MUSIC: German melody (14th century); harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953

IN DULCI JUBILO
 Irr.

Harm. © 1955, renewed 1983, Westminster/John Knox Press