



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 10, 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**

'Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn'

No. 138

**CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

One: Children of God, lay down your defenses and find peace in the community of faith.

**All: Let the Church be a safe refuge where peace reigns over fear and violence.**

One: Children of God, examine your ways and prepare to yield to the gentle way of Christ.

**All: We let go of the harshness and pettiness keeping us from peace with God and neighbor.**

One: Children of God, come to worship and proclaim this peace to all the world.

**All: We gather in the spirit of Christ himself. Let us worship in peace together.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING<sup>1</sup>**

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE**

'One Candle is Lit' (vs.2)

No. 128

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**

Dani Kardisco

**PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE<sup>1</sup>**

**ALL: God of peaceful presence, we confess we often choose discord instead of peace, choosing to prove a point instead of listening with empathy. Sometimes we settle for a shallow peace, keeping our feelings buried and avoiding painful truths. But your way is the narrow path, the path of telling the truth, feeling our emotions, and listening with empathy. Forgive us, God, and help us strive for real peace with ourselves and our neighbors. Amen.**

**WORDS OF GRACE<sup>1</sup>**

## **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE<sup>1</sup>**

*\*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: Peace lives within and among us. When we pass the peace of Christ, we create peace between us and share the peace within us. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE** (*seated*)

'Emmanuel, Emmanuel'

No. 134

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION<sup>1</sup>**

### **SCRIPTURE**

#### **Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. <sup>20</sup>As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

<sup>23</sup>*Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
And they will call him, Emmanuel. (Emmanuel means "God with us.")*

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

## **Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>26</sup>When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. <sup>31</sup>Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. <sup>33</sup>He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

<sup>34</sup>Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

<sup>35</sup>The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. <sup>36</sup>Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. <sup>37</sup>Nothing is impossible for God."

<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

### **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 OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY 'Somebody's Talkin' 'bout Jesus' Traditional/T. Taylor

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 'In The Bleak Midwinter' (vs. 4) No. 128 NCH

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>1</sup>

### AFFIRMATION OF HOPE<sup>1</sup>

Leader: Siblings in Christ, let us proclaim the peace of our faith - Jesus came as a helpless baby to bring down the powerful from their thrones and lift up the lowly.

**All: We are made strong, even in our weakness. This is our peace.**

Leader: Jesus grew to be a curious child, trading wisdom with the teachers at the temple.

**All: We are welcome in God's house, even with all of our questions. This is our peace.**

Leader: Jesus was baptized and called God's Son, even before he had done any ministry or had any disciples.

**All: We are children of God, no matter where we come from or what we have done. This is our peace.**

Leader: Jesus worked hard, felt tired, rested, and spent time alone.

**All: We listen to the rhythms of our bodies. We take time to rest. This is our peace.**

Leader: Jesus was challenged, confronted, accused, and condemned.

**All: We are not alone in our suffering or oppression. This is our peace.**

Leader: Jesus promised a kingdom of justice, where he has built everyone a home and where there is no more pain.

**All: Our sins, struggles, and sorrows will cease, and we will be at home with Jesus. This is the peace of our faith.**

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' No. 150

## BENEDICTION<sup>1</sup>

POSTLUDE Variations to Adeste Fideles R. Taylor

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

<sup>1</sup>Meisenheimer, Amanda. "Now in Flesh Appearing: Advent Worship Liturgy Set." Illustrated Ministry LLC.,

# 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

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♩=50-54

*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.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Unison C F Dm7 G7 Em

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el,

A7 A/C# Dm G7 C Cmaj7

his name is called Em-man - u - el.

C7 C F Dm7 G7 Em

God with us, re-vealed in us,

A7 A/C# Dm G7 C F/C C (D.C. final)

his name is called Em-man - u - el.

WORDS and MUSIC: Bob McGee, 1976

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McGEE  
Irr.

♩=84-92

## In the Bleak Midwinter

128

*Christina G. Rosseti, 1872; alt.*

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Our God tran-scends all heav - en, earth, and its do - main;  
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath-ered there,  
 4 What can I of - fer, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when Christ comes to reign;  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim thronged the mid - night air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb.

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the  
 But his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 sov - ereign God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 what I can I of - fer: all my heart.

*Christina Rosseti has portrayed the Christmas story, not in warm Bethlehem, but in the winter of her native England. Rosseti was an accomplished writer of poetry and prose, noted for her deep spirituality.*

Tune: CRANHAM Irr.  
 Gustav Holst, 1906

*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 Liljestränd

MENDELSSOHN  
 77.77D w. refrain

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