



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 24, 2023

7:00 pm

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

GATHERING MUSIC/PRELUDE (Begins at 6:30 PM, leads into prelude to start worship)

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' No. 148

CHRISTMAS WELCOME Pastor Jeff

HYMN 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' No. 144

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: Friends and family, siblings in Christ, come and hear the good news!

All: The one who was promised will be born this night, a savior born as a human to live among us!

Leader: Angels proclaim the glory of God, the merciful one who sent us God's Son.

All: A gift from heaven, sent from God, yet born as a human to show us the way!

Leader: Shepherds shout and dance for joy, for the Prince of Peace is alive and well.

All: A baby wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger, born as a human to understand our suffering!

Leader: Mary ponders these things in her heart, imagining his life and calling.

All: Immanuel, God with us, yet breathing and sleeping, laughing and crying, born as a human to seek and save the lost.

Leader: Friends and family, siblings in Christ, come and hear the good news!

All: Jesus Christ is born. Come, let us worship!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN 'Away in a Manger' No. 147

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING¹

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** 'One Candle is Lit' (vs.5) No. 128

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE¹

Leader: When we gather, God is with us. And when God is with us, peace dwells among us. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Speak a word of peace to your neighbor, to your family members, to a stranger, to anyone who is in close proximity to you! Take a moment now to share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you and those worshipping with us online.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

*HYMN

'Go, Tell it on the Mountain'

No. 167

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 52:7-10 (*Common English Bible*):

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of a messenger
who proclaims peace,
who brings good news,
who proclaims salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God rules!"

⁸ Listen! Your lookouts lift their voice;
they sing out together!
Right before their eyes they see the LORD returning to Zion.

⁹ Break into song together, you ruins of Jerusalem!
The LORD has comforted his people and has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm in view of all the nations;
all the ends of the earth have seen our God's victory.

CHANCEL RINGERS

'Christmas Joy'

by Cynthia Dobrinski

Luke 2:1-20 (*Common English Bible*):

2 In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. ² This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³ Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴ Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. ⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

¹⁵ When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” ¹⁶ They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰ The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

HOMILY

Pastor Jeff

CHOIR ANTHEM

‘Angels from the Realms of Glory’

by Jay Rouse

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

***HYMN**

‘The First Noel’

No. 151

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

‘Wexford Carol’

by Elaine Hagenberg.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

‘Angels We Have Heard On High’

No. 155

PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

REMEMBERING THE STORY

At Jesus’ birth he was sent to the stable, for there was not enough space in the guest room for him.

But that was not the end - and so we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

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

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & THE PRAYER OF JESUS

All: 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING THE CUP

In the broken bread we participate in the Body of Christ.

In the cup poured out we receive the new life that Christ gives

COMMUNION MUSIC

'O Holy Night'

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Communion will be shared in the pews. If you haven't received a pre-packaged cup with the communion elements in it before the service please see a member of the Deacons to receive one. If you are worshipping at home please be sure to have your own bread and cup prepared for the time when we partake together as one body.

ALL CUPS FOR COMMUNION CONTAIN JUICE ONLY

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

ALL: Loving Provider, you fed us with the bread of life and the cup of blessing. To you be all glory for your feast never ends, and the table is never too crowded for one more soul. As we have remembered Jesus together, inspire us to remember Jesus as we go forth today. Amen.

SHARING THE LIGHT¹

**We will move into a large circle around the edge of the sanctuary. Once we're in place, we will pass the light of the candles, starting with the pastor lighting his candle from the Christ Candle. We ask that everyone be careful with the candles, and we also offer battery operated candles for those who prefer it. As the light passes please tip the unlit candle to the candle that is lit in order to receive the light. The choir will sing Silent Night, Pastor Jeff will lead us in a benediction, and then we will extinguish our candles.*

HYMN

'Silent Night'

No. 145

BENEDICTION¹

***CLOSING HYMN**

'Joy to the World'

No. 143

POSTLUDE

Little Partita on "Wie schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern"

by J. Woodman

Participating In Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Alex Green, Music Director

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful, and tri - um - phant,
 2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 3. Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our sal - va - tion,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Descant
 3, 4. O come, O come,

Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

WORDS: John Francis Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others
 MUSIC: John Francis Wade, 1743; desc. David Willcocks, 1961

ADESTE FIDELES
 lrr. w. refrain

Desc. © 1961 Oxford University Press

let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bové thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the joys of high - est heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; - be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth.
 No ear may hear Christ com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 Your voic - es raise to God in praise; and peace, to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our God, Em - man - u - el.

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1868, alt.
 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
 86.86.76.86

Away in a Manger

147

Unison

1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit-tle Lord
 2. The cat-tle are low-ing, the ba-by a-wakes, but lit-tle Lord
 3. Be near me, Lord Je-sus, I ask thee to stay close by me for-

Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry-ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look
 ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil-dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky, and stay by my cra-dle till morn-ing is nigh.
 thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav-en to live with thee there.

WORDS: Anonymous (19th century)
 MUSIC: Attr. James R. Murray, 1887; harm. LBW, 1978

AWAY IN A MANGER
 11 11.11 11

Harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, used by permission
 of Augsburg Fortress

Alt. tune: CRADLE SONG

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.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain F B \flat F Dm C Dm C F Am C7

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;

F B \flat F Dm F7 Gm F C7 F *Fine*

go, tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born.

F B \flat F Dm C7 Dm C7 F

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo! a-bove the earth,
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

F B \flat F G G7 C7 *D.C.*

be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light
rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed the Sav-ior's birth.
and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

WORDS: African-American spiritual; adapt. John W. Work, Jr., 1907
MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, 1986
Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
lrr. w. refrain

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!

Silent Night, Holy Night

145

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir - gin moth-er and child, ho - ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le-lu - ia;
 ra - diant beams from thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, al - le-lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en-ly peace, sleep in heav - en-ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born, Christ, the Sav - ior, is born.

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, 1863
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT
 Irr.

Joy to the World

143

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, and
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 And won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719
 MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848

ANTIOCH
 CM w. repeat