



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



December 8, 2024

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**

'All Earth Is Waiting'

No. 139

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

Leader: The reign of God is drawing near!

**People: The prophet call us to change our lives!**

Leader: Prepare the way for the Lord,

**People: A just and peaceful path!**

Leader: Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you,

**ALL: For the glory of God we gather to worship!**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

The Ribeiro Family

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

'One Candle Is Lit' (vs. 2)

No. 128

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**

Dani Kardisco

**\*PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE<sup>2</sup> (in unison)**

**Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light; we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again. Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kin-dom. Amen.**

**\*WORDS OF GRACE**

**\*SUNG RESPONSE**

'Come, O Long-expected Jesus' (vs. 1)

No. 125

SCRIPTURE (*Isaiah 40:1-5 & Luke 3:1-6*)

**Isaiah 40:1-5**

**40** *Comfort, comfort my people!  
says your God.*

<sup>2</sup> *Speak compassionately to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended,  
that her penalty has been paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins!*

<sup>3</sup> *A voice is crying out:*

*"Clear the LORD's way in the desert!  
Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!*

<sup>4</sup> *Every valley will be raised up,  
and every mountain and hill will be flattened.  
Uneven ground will become level,  
and rough terrain a valley plain.*

<sup>5</sup> *The LORD's glory will appear,  
and all humanity will see it together;  
the LORD's mouth has commanded it."*

**Luke 3:1-6**

**3** *In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler<sup>[a]</sup> over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler<sup>[b]</sup> over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler<sup>[c]</sup> over Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. <sup>4</sup> This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,*

*A voice crying out in the wilderness:*

*"Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight.*

<sup>5</sup> *Every valley will be filled,  
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.*

*The crooked will be made straight  
and the rough places made smooth.*

<sup>6</sup> *All humanity will see God's salvation."*

**SERMON**

Pastor Jeffrey Kardisco

**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 'On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry' (Traditional/Hopson)

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 'Come, O Long-expected Jesus' (vs. 2) No. 125

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION



### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION<sup>3</sup>

**\*At Christ Congregational Church we serve communion at an open table, which means ALL are welcome to participate. This means a few things:**

1. None of the cups for communion contain wine.
2. People of all ages are welcome to receive communion.
3. People of all faiths are welcome to receive communion.
4. People of all gender identities and sexual orientations are welcome to receive communion.
5. People who are not able to come forward to receive communion are still welcome to receive it, please let a deacon know if you need the pastor or another server to bring the elements to you.

### \*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 THE BREAD AND 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

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** *(in unison)*

**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.**

**\*HYMN**

'Lead On, O Cloud of Presence'

No. 633

## BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE**

'In Dulci Jubilo'

(Bach/Hopson)

### **Participating In Today's Worship Service:**

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Alex Green, Music Director

Laura Ramos, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

<sup>1</sup>Blain, Rev. Susan A. "Call to Worship, Opening Prayer: Prepare the Way." *Call to Worship, Opening Prayer: Prepare the Way*, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/11/call-to-worship-opening-prayer-prepare.html. Accessed 3 Dec. 2024.

<sup>2</sup>Unknown, Author. "Confession: Path in the Wilderness." *Confession: Path in the Wilderness*, Ministry Matters, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/11/confession-path-in-wilderness.html. Accessed 3 Dec. 2024.

<sup>3</sup>Meisenheimer, Amanda. "Now in Flesh Appearing: Advent Worship Liturgy Set." Illustrated Ministry LLC., 2022.

## 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

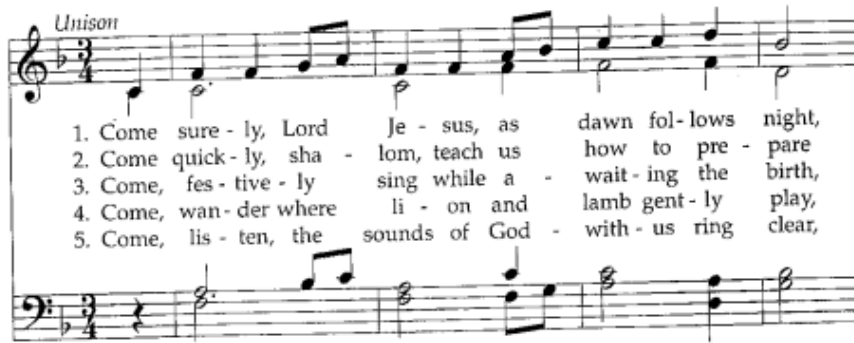
TAULÉ  
 11 11.12 12

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 Chávez

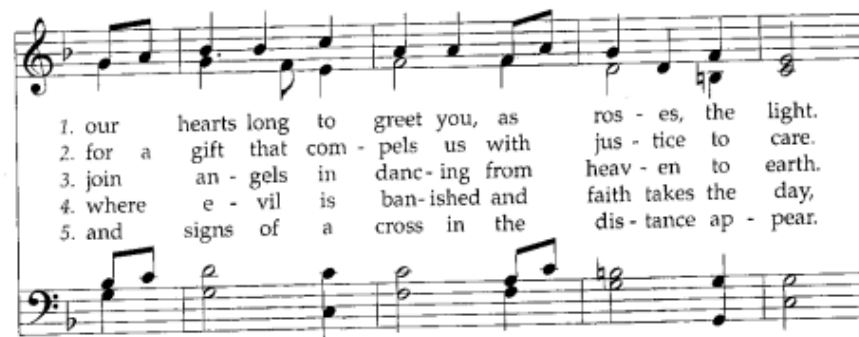
♩=70-76

## One Candle Is Lit

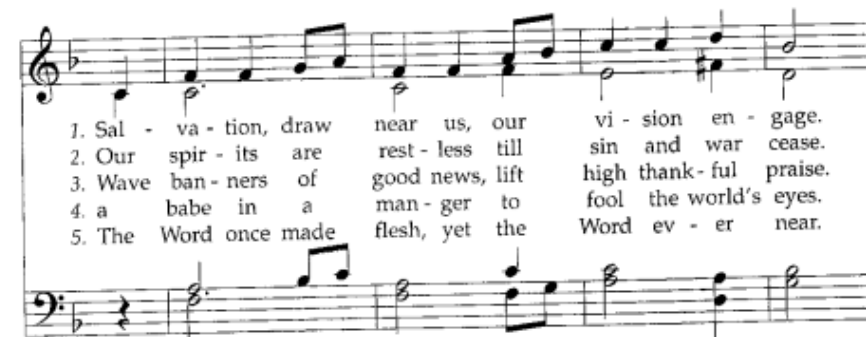
*Unison*



1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night,
2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare birth,
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

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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. Come, O long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set your peo-ple free.  
2. Born your peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king,

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.  
born to reign in us for-ev-er, born your grac-ious realm to bring.

You, our strength and con-so-la-tion, come sal-va-tion to in-part;  
By your own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;

dear de-sire of man-y a na-tion, joy of man-y a long-ing heart.  
by your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to your glo-rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744  
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

HYFRYDOL  
87.87D

# 122 Comfort, Comfort You My People

1. Com - fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, tell of peace, thus says our God;  
 2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3. Make you straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load.  
 bid - ding us to make re - pent - ance since the reign of God is here.  
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 For the glo - ry of our God now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.  
 let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

WORDS: Johannes G. Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.  
 MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551; harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564

GENEVA 42  
 87.87.77.88

♩=140-148



1. Lead on, O cloud of pres - ence; the ex - o - dus is come;  
 2. Lead on, O fi - ery pil - lar; we fol - low yet with fears,  
 3. Lead on, O God of free - dom, and guide us on our way,

in wil - der - ness and des - ert our tribe shall make its home.  
 but we shall come re - joic - ing, though joy be born of tears.  
 and help us trust the prom - ise through strug - gle and de - lay.

Our bond - age left be - hind us, new hopes with - in us grow.  
 We are not lost, though wan - d'ring, for by your light we come,  
 We pray our sons and daugh - ters may jour - ney to that land

We seek the land of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow.  
 and we are still God's peo - ple. The jour - ney is our home.  
 where jus - tice dwells with mer - cy and love is law's de - mand.

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1974, rev. 1989  
 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1835

LANCASHIRE  
 76.76D

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