



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 22, 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Children of God, come together for worship.

All: Love draws us into community with praise.

One: What kind of love draws God's people together?

All: Love of all colors and kinds, like a rainbow.

One: How shall we love in Christian community?

All: We love one another like God loves us.

One: How shall we worship God together in love?

All: Let us worship together in mind, body, and spirit!

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

'Come, O Long-Expected Jesus'

No. 125

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ALL: Loving Shepherd, there is nothing we can do, be, or become that will earn your love — your love is freely given to everyone. You care for your sheep with tenderness and concern. When one of us is lost, you pursue the one until they are found. Teach us to love one another like you love us. Open our eyes to see our neighbors as you see them. Attune our ears to the needs of those around us so we might love them better. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

'One Candle Is Lit' (vs. 4)

No. 128

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (in unison)**

People: *raise hands*

Leader: God you created everything that we know and love...

People: *hug self*

Leader: Then you came to love us up close by being a human like us.

People: *do "jazz hands" motion*

Leader: That gives us more joy than we could ever say with words.

People: *drop hands to sides and look at floor*

Leader: But we sometimes forget about that joy.

People: *hands in shrugging motion*

Leader: Life gets hard, we fight with people, and we feel like we can't do anything about it.

People: *arms out, palms up*

Leader: So, we turn our hands up to you asking for forgiveness.

Forgive us for losing the joy you give us.

People: *hug self*

Leader: Remind us to love ourselves, and all of your children, the way that you have always loved us.

People: *open arms wide and look around*

Leader: Remind us of our joy by showing yourself through the world around us.

People: *prayer hands*

Leader: We pray in Jesus' name, remembering he lived just like we do. Amen

***WORDS OF GRACE**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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: Love inspires us to seek peace with ourselves and our neighbors, reminding us to resolve conflict with integrity. May the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

***SPECIAL MUSIC**

'Do You Hear What I Hear'

Rose Conservatory

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-45 (paraphrase from Revised Common Lectionary from Vanderbilt Divinity School)

Shepherd of Israel,

you gently support the one who is with child

and call forth the Lamb who dances in the womb,

Stir our hearts to recognize Christ's coming,

as Elizabeth recognized his presence

in Mary's radiant obedience to your desire,

an open our souls to receive the one

who came to love your flock. Amen.

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco



PICK-UP CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT

CHILDREN
AND
FAMILY
WORSHIP

PICK UP PAGEANT 2024

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

Response: *The Lord our God is one:*

We will love with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength.

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

'Bidi Bom'

(Eddleman)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling' (vs 1)

No. 517

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

'Like A Child'

No. 133

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

'Children Go Where I Send Thee'

Rose Conservatory

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

Come, O Long-expected Jesus 125

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,

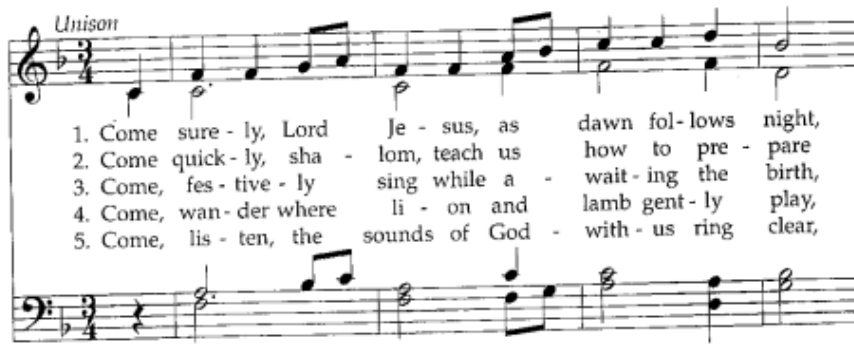
From our fears and sins re-lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
born to reign in us for-ev-er, born your grac-ious realm to bring.

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;

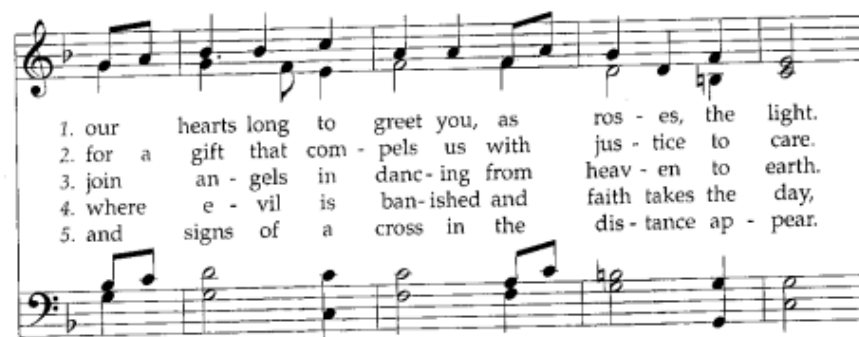
dear de-sire of man-y a na-tion, joy of man-y a long-ing heart.
by your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to your glo-rious throne.

One Candle Is Lit

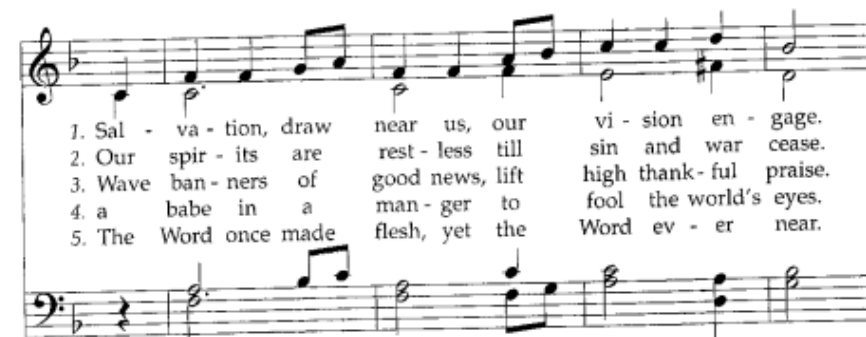
Unison



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

517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



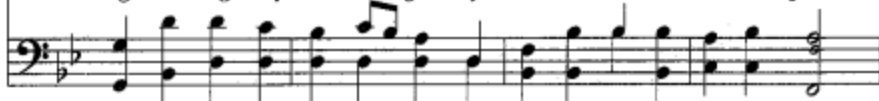
1. Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in - to ev - ery trou-bled breast;
3. Come, al-might - y to de-liv-er, let us all thy life re-ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a-tion; pure and spot-less let us be,



fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 let us all in thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom-ised rest;
 sud-den - ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem-ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 take a - way our love of sin - ning; al - pha and o - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.



WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1743
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 87.87D

Unison Gm C Am Dm

1. like a child love would send to re - veal and to mend, like a
 2. like a child we will meet, rag - ged clothes, dirt - y feet, like a
 3. like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a

Gm C F D7

child and a friend, Je - sus comes like a
 child on the street, Je - sus comes like a
 child here to stay, Je - sus comes like a

Gm7 C Am Dm7

child we may find claim - ing heart soul and mind, like a
 child we once knew com - ing back in - to view, like a
 child we re - ceive all that love can con - ceive, like a

Gm7 C11 F

child strong and kind, Je - sus comes
 child born a - new, Je - sus comes
 child we be - lieve Je - sus comes