

# CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 24, 2024 7:00 pm

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

'O Come All Ye Faithful'

No. 148

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

**CHRISTMAS WELCOME** 

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

\*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 clothes, 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 LIGHTING<sup>1</sup>

\*SUNG RESPONSE 'One Candle Is Lit' (vs. 5) No. 128

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

# PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### **SCRIPTURE**

# Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> [a] The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have made the nation great;

you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,

as those who divide plunder rejoice.

<sup>4</sup> As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them, the staff on their shoulders,

and the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Because every boot of the thundering warriors, and every garment rolled in blood will be burned, fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> There will be vast authority and endless peace

for David's throne and for his kingdom. establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.

# CHANCEL RINGERS

'What Is This Goodly Fragrance?'

(Traditional French/Wagner)

# John 1:1-14

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

<sup>2</sup> The Word was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being.

What came into being

through the Word was life,[a] and the life was the light for all people.

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

<sup>6</sup> A man named John was sent from God. <sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.

10 The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light.

<sup>11</sup> The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him.

12 But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children,

born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.

<sup>14</sup> The 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.

### **HOMILY**

**ANTHEM** 'On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing' (Traditional)

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

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

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM 'The First Noel' (Traditional/Manor)

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 'What Child Is This?' No. 162

PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>1</sup>



# SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION<sup>1</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.

#### 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 OF 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 ANTHEM/MUSIC

'Gesu Bambino'

(P. Yon)

# 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 worshiping at home please be sure to have your own bread and cup prepared for the time when we partake together as one body.\*

#### THANKSGIVING PRAYER

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 LIGHT<sup>1</sup>

\*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.\*

**ANTHEM** 'Night of the Father's Love' (Traditional/Choplin)

\*HYMN 'Silent Night' No. 145

BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** 'Good Christian Friends, Rejoice'

(Traditional)

# **Participating In Todays Worship Service:**

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor Alex Green, Music Director Laura Ramos, Soloist David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

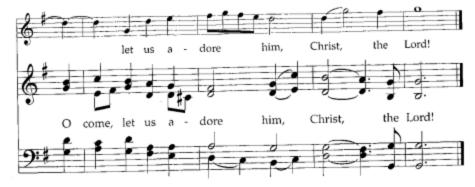
<sup>1</sup>Meisenheimer, Amanda. "Now in Flesh Appearing: Advent Worship Liturgy Set." Illustrated Ministry LLC., 2022.

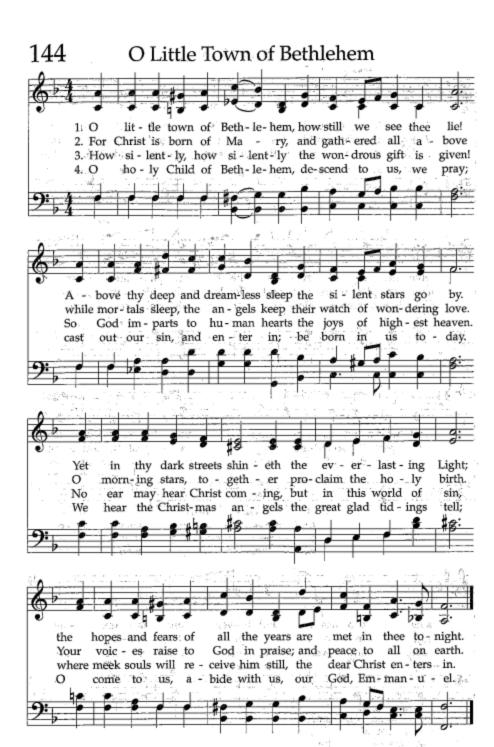


WORDS: John Francis Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others MUSIC: John Francis Wade, 1743; desc. David Willcocks, 1961

ADESTE FIDELES lrr. w. refrain

Desc. © 1961 Oxford University Press





WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1868, alt. MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868 ST. LOUIS 86.86.76.86



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

AWAY IN A MANGER 11 11 11 11

Harm. © 1978 Lutheren Book of Worship, used by permission of Augsburg Fortress Alt. tune: CRADLE SONG



WORDS: Mary Anne Parrott, 1988 MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895 CRADLE SONG 11 11.11 11

Words © 1995 Chalice Press



# 167

# Go, Tell It on the Mountain

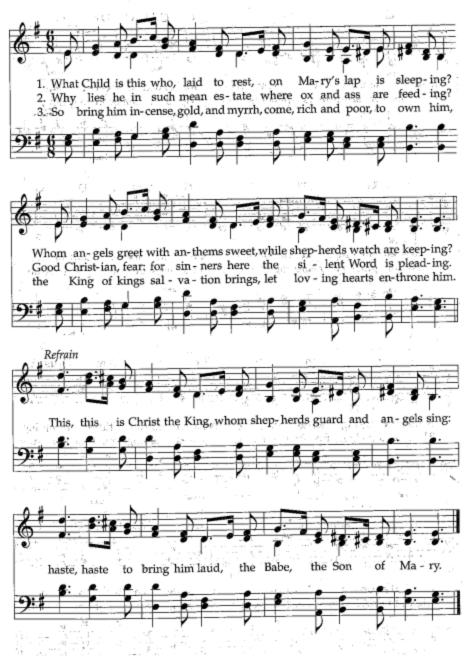


WORDS: African-American spiritual; adapt. John W. Work, Jr., 1907 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, 1986 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN Irr. w. refrain

make the end of a room 20 w.

Агт. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House





WORDS: William C. Dix, c. 1865 MUSIC: English melody (16th century) GREENSLEEVES 87.87 w. refrain

# Silent Night, Holy Night

145



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

STILLE NACHT



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