



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

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

***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 LIGHTING¹

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

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

- ² ^[a] *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.*
- ³ *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.*
- ⁴ *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.*
- ⁵ *Because every boot of the thundering warriors,
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned, fuel for the fire.*
- ⁶ *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.*
- ⁷ *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.*
- ² *The Word was with God in the beginning.*
- ³ *Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.
What came into being*
- ⁴ *through the Word was life,^[a]
and the life was the light for all people.*
- ⁵ *The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.*
- ⁶ *A man named John was sent from God. ⁷ 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.*

⁹ *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.*

¹¹ *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*

¹³ *nor from human desire or passion,
but born from God.*

¹⁴ *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 DEDICATION¹



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION¹

***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

'Gesù 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 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.

ANTHEM

'Night of the Father's Love'

(Traditional/Choplin)

***HYMN**

'Silent Night'

No. 145

BENEDICTION

***CLOSING HYMN**

'Joy to the World'

No. 143

POSTLUDE

'Good Christian Friends, Rejoice'

(Traditional)

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

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
 1st. 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 - bove 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

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

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.

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
Irr. w. refrain

150 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

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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 Benson Music Group, Inc.

1. What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es-tate, where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3. So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,

Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Christ-ian, fear: for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.
 the King of kings sal-va-tion brings, let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma-ry.

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

GREENSLEEVES
 87.87 w. refrain

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