



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 29, 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**

'Hail to the Lord's Anointed'

No. 140

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Many: We come to celebrate the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior. He is the light that guides us and the hope that fills our hearts.

One: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth. Let us worship the King who was born in a humble manger, yet reigns forever.

Many: We bring our praises, O Lord, for You are with us, Emmanuel. We come to offer our hearts in love and gratitude.

OPENING PRAYER

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

Gracious and Loving God, we gather before You on this holy day, still in awe of the mystery and wonder of the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Yet, we confess that at times we allow the busyness and distractions of life to dim the light of Your presence. We get lost in the tumult of this world and forget the miracle of Your love that came to us in the form of a tiny baby. We ask for Your grace to transform us. We open our hearts to the new life You offer, the life that comes through faith, hope, and love.

***WORDS OF GRACE**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

'Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming' (v.4)

No. 136

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. 17 Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,

wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20 "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." 21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. 23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

SERMON

Keeping Herod in Christmas

Rev. Ray Medeiros

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Sylvia Berry

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

Sylvia Berry

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'What Child Is This' (vs 3)

No. 162

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

'There's a Song in the Air'

No. 159

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

'Good King Wenceslas'

arranged by Sylvia Berry

Participating In Todays Worship Service:

Rev. Ray Medeiros, Guest Pastor
Sylvia Berry, Guest Music Director
Laura Ramos, Soloist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

1. Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2. He comes with jus - tice speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth.
 4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,

Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong,
 Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.
 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.

He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tives free,
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her - ald, go,
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move.

to take a - way trans - gres - sions, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 His name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is Love.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1822
 MUSIC: Traditional English melody

SHEFFIELD
 76.76D

136 Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

1. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, draw-ing near in
 2. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, call-ing you to
 3. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, he will rise up
 4. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, hope for peace is

ho - ly birth. Ring the bells and sound the trum - pets,
 serve in deed. See the ones who hurt and suf - fer,
 from the dead. Lift the cup, of sin for - giv - en;
 now at hand. Let there be no hes - i - ta - tion,

let your mu - sic fill the earth. Dance and move to
 hear their cry and act with speed. Set all self - ish
 bless the host and eat his bread. Mend the ways where
 walk in faith where life de - mands. Bear the word that

show God's glo - ry; kneel and pause to hear God's word.
 ways be - hind you. Purge your hearts of sin - ful greed.
 peace is bro - ken, give your - selves to true Sha - lom.
 God has giv - en; share the birth that stirs your soul.

WORDS: Jim Miller, 1993
 MUSIC: Joshua Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830

PLEADING SAVIOR
 87.87D

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♩=104-108

153 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-ri-ous song of old,
 2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3. And you be-neath life's crush-ing load whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4. For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heav-en-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way, with pain-ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told;



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gra-cious King."
 a-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hover-ing wing,
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol-ern still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sound the bless-ed an-gels sing.
 O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.



WORDS: Edmund H. Sears, 1849
 MUSIC: Richard S. Willis, 1850

CAROL
 CMD

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

1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
 2. There's a tu - mult of joy o'er the won - der - ful birth,
 3. We re - jice in the light, and we ech - o the song

There's a moth - er's deep prayer and a ba - by's low cry!
 for the Vir - gin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
 that comes down through the night from the heav - en - ly throng,

And the star rains its fire while the an - gel choirs sing,
 See, the star rains its fire while the an - gel choirs sing,
 and we wel - come the glo - ri - ous gos - pel they bring,

for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a king!
 for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a king!
 and we greet in the cra - dle our sav - ior and king.

WORDS: Josiah G. Holland, 1879, alt.
 MUSIC: Karl P. Harrington, 1904

CHRISTMAS SONG
 66.66.12 12