

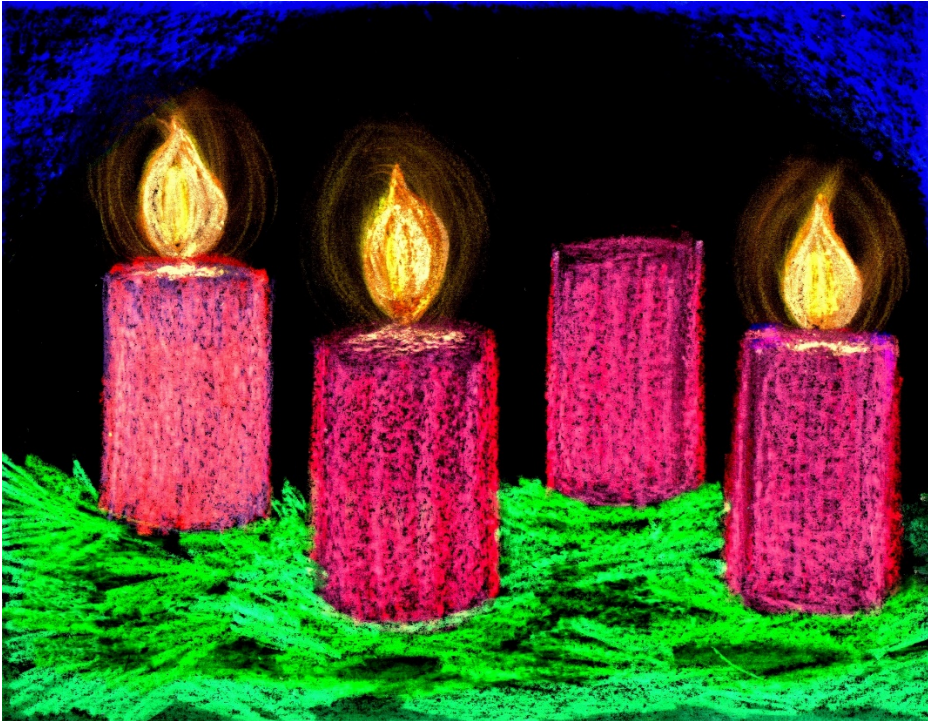
# *West Parish of Barnstable*

*Gathered in London 1616 - Present Meetinghouse Erected in 1717*

A Church in the Congregational Tradition

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

West Barnstable, Massachusetts



## **THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP**

*3rd Sunday in Advent*

December 11, 2022

10:00 a.m.

*“And Mary said, Yes, I see it all now: I’m the Lord’s maid, ready to serve.”*

Luke 1:38

All are invited to stay for the full service today.

Church School is offered for the children at our 4:30 Saturday contemporary service.

## OUR STATEMENT OF WELCOME

As a congregation which covenants to walk together in Christian love,  
believes that all persons are created equal before God,  
and affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ,  
we welcome to our work and worship all people  
regardless of race, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation,  
ability, or economic circumstance.

*Adopted at Annual Meeting, June 26, 2005*

## GOD GATHERS US

WELCOME

Pastor Reed Baer

### LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

*One: I will wait for the promotion.*

*Two: I will wait for the sequel.*

*One: I will wait for space to grow.*

*Two: I will wait for the phone to ring.*

*One: I will wait for you to ask.*

*Two: I will wait for them to call my name.*

*One: I will wait for the water to boil.*

*Two: I will wait for the text to come through.*

*One: I will wait for the second season.*

*Two: I will wait for the beat to drop.*

*One: I will wait for Christmas to arrive.*

*Two: I will wait for a lot of things, but I will no longer wait for joy.*

*One: In a world where suffering and violence plague the news, I will choose to delight in that which is good.*

*Two: This week, we light the candle of joy to remind us that darkness does not have the last word. May this light guide and inspire us as we work to spread God's joy and delight through this world. Amen.*

*(The third candle of Advent is lit)*

\*HYMN #168 (Green)

*"As with Gladness Men of Old"*

DIX

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Reed Baer

*One: As that first Christmas Day approached long ago, everyone had questions.*

**Many: As we near our Christmas celebrations, we have questions as well.**

*One: When Zechariah is told that Elizabeth will birth a child, who would grow to be John the Baptizer, he asked, "How will I know this is so, for I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years?"*

**Many: As we get on in years, we find that we, also, have many questions.**

*One: When Mary was told by an angel that she would conceive in her womb a child, she asked, "How can this be so, since I am a virgin?"*

**Many: We wonder about angels as well, about whether we have experienced angels in our lives, and if we have even *been* angels to others.**

*One: When the magi followed the star to Herod's palace, they asked, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?"*

**Many: We ourselves search for the child, wondering if he is to be found amid all the holiday preparations and celebrations.**

*One: Come, God's gathered people, bringing with you all your questions and doubts and hard-won knowledge and wisdom, and let us worship with all our God-gifted selves!*

PRELUDE

What Child Is This?

Lani Smith

GREENSLEEVES, Traditional English Melody

SCRIPTURE

Mary Chooses

Luke 1:26-38 The Message

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

*One: Gracious and Surprising God, who would have thought*

**All: that you would have entrusted the treasure of the Gospel to one so young, so poor, so insignificant in the eyes of the world, as Mary?**

*One: Who would have thought*

**All: that you would find Joseph worthy of taking on Mary, protecting and cherishing the one who would bring to us Jesus and his message of love?**

*One: Who would have thought*

**All: that you would have stooped to gifting us with the joyous and yet daunting task of being stewards of your Gospel, bearers of Your Son's name, successors to his mission to the lost and the least?**

*One: Help us understand*

**All: your insistent way of coming into our lives when we least expect it, and as we least expect it. Even as we scurry to trim the Christmas tree, and do the last-minute shopping and wrapping, cooking and cleaning, startle us once more with tidings of great joy. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE Joseph Chooses Matthew 1:18-25 The Message

SOLO Love Came Down At Christmas  
Christina Rossetti/John Rutter

MESSAGE “Christmas ABCs – Christmas is a Call to Action” Pastor Reed

## THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS

\*HYMN #121 (Green) “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” SUTTGART

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO PRAYER

*One: God be with you.*

**Many: And also with you.**

*One: Let us pray.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*In thanksgiving to God and giving witness to generous hearts,  
our financial gifts support our ministries here and in the wider community.*

*Text to Give instructions are on the back page.*

OFFERTORY Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming  
Mark Hayes/arr. Douglas E. Wagner  
Set by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

\*SONG OF PRAISE

**All praise, eternal Christ, to thee,  
Whose advent sets thy people free;  
Once more upon thy people shine,  
And fill the world with love divine. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## GOD SENDS US FORTH

\*HYMN #152 (Green)      “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

SUSSEX CAROL

### WORDS OF SENDING

*One: The God who called us to this place of worship sends you out to proclaim the good news to your small corner of the world.*

**Many: We will go in hope, for God goes before us.**

**We will go in joy, for God is our companion.**

**We will go with courage, for God believes in us.**

**We will go in peace, for God’s peace will keep us eternally secure.**

*One: Go forth in God’s presence and knowing Christ’s love, having nothing to fear and life in abundance to gain. Amen.*

### POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard On High

GLORIA

Setting by Larry Shackley

*(It is our custom to remain seated in silence during the Postlude)*

\* All who wish, please stand.

## PRAYER LIST

*May the presence of Jesus Christ be with those on our prayer list and with those who care for them.  
The prayers of the congregation are asked for:*

### New to the Prayer List

#### ***Shirley Stolte***

***Rev. Deborah Mahaney*** (friend of Robin Fryer)

***Kate Bihler*** (friend of Robin Fryer)

***Toula Ntasios*** (friend of Robin Fryer)

***Peter Abraham*** (Rich's brother)

***Karolina Atsalis*** (friend of the Abrahams)

***Margaret and Bill Brummel*** (Roger Henson's sister and brother-in-law)

***Josephine Bugryn*** (Joy Indomenico's sister)

***Faith Clark*** (sister of Rik Clark)

***Ellen Davis***

***Judy Desrochers***

***Betsy Eidem*** (friend of Carol Allen)

***Jay Griffin*** (Peggie Bretz' brother)

***Sharon Griffin*** (Peggie Bretz' sister-in-law)

***Christine Hayes*** (Stepmother of Lauren Abraham)

***Mike Hovan*** (friend of Dan Enos)

***Jason*** (nephew of Joy Indomenico)

***J.P. Joakim*** (Joyce Joakim's son)

***Martha Lant*** (sister-in-law of Peggie Bretz)

***Marisa Lonkart*** (Georgia's daughter-in-law)

***Nancy Opp*** (friend of Bobbie Jordan)

***Jack Parmer*** (friend of Carol Allen)

***Joan Perry***

***Sylvia Powers*** (friend of Barbara Rogers)

***Savannah*** (friend of Sharon and John Hunt)

***Sophie*** (Joyce Joakim's sister in law)

***Marilyn Swain*** (Janet Joakim's aunt)

***Alexis Teixeira*** (cousin of Barbara Walsh)

***Mary-Ann Tu***

***Steve and Heather Walker*** (friends of Sharon and John Hunt)

***Barbara Walsh***

***Nancy Walsh, John Kolf and Jake McGuire*** (friend of the Hensons and her grandsons)

***Joanne Wastrom*** (wife of former 1717 Trustee Bob Wastrom and friend of Donna & Tripp Grohe)

***Tom & Rhys White*** (Bruce and Pat White's family)

***Lee Williams*** (mother of Tripp Grohe's friend, Mark Williams)

***Nancy Woodman*** (friend of Marianne Williams)

*Please notify the church office (508-362-4445) of any additions, deletions or changes you wish to make.*

## The Week of December 11, 2022

<b>Sunday</b>	12/11/22	10:00 am	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	12/12/22	11:30 am 5:00 pm	Christie's Coffee Hours at Bread + Roses AA (J)
<b>Tuesday</b>	12/13/22	9:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:15 pm	FS Science (J) FS Science (J) Music Lessons (M) AA (J) Handbells (M)
<b>Wednesday</b>	12/14/22	9:30 am 10:30 am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) FS Science (J) FS Board (G & Z) AA (J)
<b>Thursday</b>	12/15/22	8:00 am 1:00 pm 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast @ Jack's Out Back Bridge Group (G) AA (J)
<b>Friday</b>	12/16/22	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) FS Science (J) Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
<b>Saturday</b>	12/17/22	4:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sunday</b>	12/18/22	10:00 am	Worship

**Key:** FS = Family School; G = Guild Room; J = Jenkins Hall; M = Meetinghouse; Z = Zoom

- ♦ **Please join us for Coffee Hour over in Jenkins Hall after the service.** Our hosts today are Sharon and Bob Wyman.
- ♦ **The flowers gracing the Meetinghouse today** were given by Lynn and Randy Parker in celebration of their 5 grandchildren. They were arranged by Lynn Parker.
- ♦ **The Flower Calendar is full!** Thank you to all who have sponsored the flower arrangements this year. A new calendar will be posted soon.
- ♦ **The Coffee Hour sign up** is on the kiosk in Jenkins. If you can spare a little of your time to help with preparing and serving at our Sunday *Coffee Hour* it would be greatly appreciated. It's a wonderful way to socialize with old friends and to make new ones. Thank you.



## Christmas Poinsettias

Sponsor our Christmas Poinsettias!

The plants are on order to grace the Meetinghouse during the Christmas season.

Use this form and drop it off or mail it with \$ 12.00 (cash or check) by Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>  
to Susan in the church office or P.O. Box 219, W. Barnstable, MA 02668

Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication to read: In memory / honor / celebration of

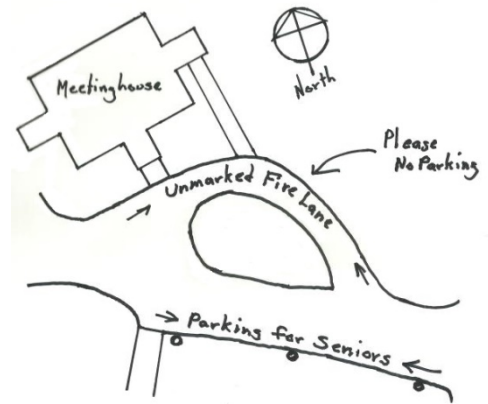
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(please print)

The plants will be available to take after the Worship service on Sunday, January 1, 2023.



**We ask your cooperation** in protecting the 1717 Meetinghouse by not parking your vehicle in or alongside the teardrop closest to the Meetinghouse. Although it is not marked, it is a FIRE LANE and preserves clear access to the Meetinghouse for Emergency Vehicles.

However, more parking is available. At least three, maybe four, spaces can be used on the west side of the Tear Drop for those with mobility issues.



### **Text to Give**

If you haven't tried it out, it's easy:

1. Text 866-586-0169 (the give-by-text number for West Parish) and in the body of the message enter the amount you wish to donate and send.
2. You will receive a registration link. Click on it, enter your contact and payment information then press "Process."
3. After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text and receipt via email.

You only need to register and set up your payment information once.

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.

Add "West Parish Give by Text" as a contact on your phone to make it even easier!

If you have questions or would like help setting it up, see Marianne Williams.

### **Church Staff**

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher  
Donna Murphy, Music Director  
Kristen Lind, Family School Director  
Wendy Northcross, Council Chair

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor  
Susan McEwen, Office Administrator  
Joseph Findlay, Sexton  
Roberta Jordan, Deacons Chair

P.O. Box 219, West Barnstable, MA 02668  
Tel. No. 362-4445 Fax No. 375-6431  
contact@westparish.org www.westparish.org