

It's Saturday



Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 2, 2023

4:30 p.m.

BE THE CHURCH

Fight for the powerless.

Advent 1: Hope

“Yet, O Lord, you are our Maker, we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of you hand.” Isaiah 64:8

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” Mark 13:28-31

OUR STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We are:

PROGRESSIVELY UNTRADITIONAL: 21st century minds in a 1717 Meetinghouse!

Embrace diversity.

JOYOUSLY INCLUSIVE: Radically open and affirming, all ages, races, gender, and sexual orientation, everyone is welcome exactly as you are.

EXPRESSLY “ON THE WAY”: Faith is a journey. Journey with us!

COMMITTEDLY IN THE COMMUNITY: In helping others, we become our true selves.

GOD GATHERS US



*OPENING SONG

Hark! The herald Angels Sing

Green 137

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Christ, the highest heaven adored, Christ the ever lasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veild in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, out Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light in life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise all souls on earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

WELCOME

Pastor Christie

One: Welcome home, whether this is your first visit or you have been here for years. Here at West Parish, no matter who you are, and no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We are glad you are here with us today whether you are joining us online or in person. Hello, I'm Pastor Christie, and Pastor Reed is here, and we have Steve Gregory as our musician with Bob Moscato, AND TOGETHER WE ARE

All: ONE diverse community

Growing up in faith

Reaching out in love

One: It is good when God's people are together here, and so we can rejoice, because,

All: It's Saturday, Let's Do Church!



CALL TO WORSHIP

I will never forget you, my people.

I have carved you on the palm of my hand.

I will never forget you, I will not leave you orphaned.

I will never forget my own.

OPENING PRAYER

All around us we see the lights of Christmas,

We hear the sounds of joyful celebration.

We come to this service recognizing

That this season is often difficult for many

As it seems to be for many others.

As the nights have grown longer,

Sadness and emptiness, loneliness and pain

Wrap around the hearts of many.

In this season of longest nights,

Some struggle to put into words

That which causes them to feel blue rather than joyful.

For some, a loved one has died.
For others, a friend has moved away.
Still others have lost a job, a cherished dream,
Or a sense of hope.
We might be feeling worried, trapped, insecure, adrift or alone.
We may be grieving what might not have been but will not be,
Or grieving over what used to be, but cannot be anymore.

We may simply be in need of a place of quiet and calm
In an otherwise busy season.

Whatever may have brought us here
We offer to the One born in Bethlehem's stable,
Knowing that there is no pain that does not echo in God's heart,
No joy that does not come from God's hand.
We come to you, O God.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (we will sing this in echo fashion)

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 all our sins...
And lead us not... into temptation... but deliver us from evil.

Unison:

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory

Echo:

Forever..... and ever....

Our Father... who art in Heaven... hallowed be thy name.

A TIME OF PRAYER



Invitation

We come to this new season of Advent and gather around a wreath to light candles. The wreath reminds us of the circle of our human community and the lights illuminate the many ways in which we bring ourselves to the Incarnation, God's longed-for presence among us — human and holy, Emmanuel — God with us and God coming to us.

Scripture — John 1: 1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Lighting the Candle and Illuminating the Stories of Hope

Light one purple candle

We light this candle for the Christmas story that shines hope on our lives.

Naming our stories of hope

The Advent season is a season of stories that bring us into the presence of God. The story of the birth of Jesus is told in the gospels of Matthew and Luke, in carols that we sing, in legends as old as the first century Common Era and as new as a golden book on a grocery store shelf. And we celebrate this season of stories that give us more stories of hope and heart in book and song and movie from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* to the *Grinch Who Stole Christmas*.

We celebrate today our stories of hope. Please call out your favorite Christmas stories, those that have traditional religious content and those that are parables for truth we find in our hearts, like *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Carol of the Brown King*, even, once you know its story - *Rudolph*, *the Red-Nosed Reindeer* ...

Unison Prayer

Emmanuel, we find your story in the pages of scripture and the whispers of all our storytelling. Help us in this Advent season to become your story-tellers of hope for our time. Amen

A TIME FOR CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

A SONG OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS

We now accept Venmo, instructions are on page 10.

Care for the poor.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

**THE BREAD OF LIFE
AND THE CUP OF NEW BEGINNINGS
ARE SHARED**



Our service of communion is open to all seeking Christ's presence.
Whether children receive the elements we leave to their parents' discretion.

We shall be receiving communion by the ancient practice of intinction.

Come forward, take a piece of the bread, dip it in the cup,
and consume it on the way back to your seat.

We offer a communion cup and wafer system of cranberry juice and cracker.

INVITATION

Friends, Jesus invites us to share in this joyful feast!

**“People will come from the east and west,
From north and south,
And take their places at the banquet in the kingdom of God.”**

CALL TO GIVE THANKS

The Spirit of the Lord is among us!

The poor hear Good News!



PRAYER OF COMMUNION

Children: Why do we give thanks at this table?

We give thanks between because God is with us.

We thank you, God, Creator of us all;

From the beginning you made the world and all its creatures.

You made people to live for you and for one another.

We praise you, O God.

Jesus came as one of us,

First an infant, then a child,

Later a youth, then an adult.

He rejoiced with those who rejoiced,

And wept with those who wept.

To the despairing, he spoke a word of hope.

To the sick, he gave healing.

To the hurting he was a friend.

Still, people turned away from him.

They betrayed Jesus and nailed him to a cross.

But he was lifted from the grave and restored to life,

That he might be with us and we with him, for evermore.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Children: Why do we eat bread at this table?

We gather at this table to remember that on the night before he died, Jesus ate with friends, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying: **“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me.”**

Children: Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

That same night, Jesus also took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: **“Drink. This cup, poured out for you, is the promise of God. Whenever you drink it, remember me.”**

Children: What do we remember at this table?

We remember Jesus' death and celebrate his resurrection;
We await with hope his coming again to bring peace and justice to the earth and
we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The gifts of God, for the people of God. All things have now been made ready.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, God of peace and promise.

Through the words of your prophets

And the faith of your followers

You prepare the way of our redemption

And bring hope to birth.

And though we often grow weary of waiting,

Your signs call us to keep watch for that day

When all things shall be made new.

In assurance of this hope,

We join with all the company of heaven and earth

To give you praise.

Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED



SPECIAL SONG

Give Me Love

George Harrison

Reject racism.

SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

MEDITATION

Messengers of Hope

Rev. Christie Burns

GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Maren Tirabassi/traditional

**O Come, o come Emmanuel
make true the stories prophets tell –
so all those chained by fear find release,
and, war forgotten, bring a world of peace.**

Refrain

**Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God's children dwell.**

**O Come, Love's-season, to our lonely days,
and guide us in our words and ways
to be the ones whose Advent begins
with healing earth and all that live within.**

Refrain

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

Refrain

WORDS OF SENDING

God who leads by a Star,
Show us the direction to Bethlehem.
Lead us to the place where love is to be born in our lives.
Give us signs along the road as we make our journey,

That we may follow in your way. Amen.

Love God.

SONG OF SENDING

Go In Peace

Sam Baker
Featuring Allen Nelson

**Go in peace
Go in kindness
Go in love
Go in faith
Leave the day
The day behind us
Day is done
Go in grace
Let us go
Into the dark
Not afraid
Not alone
Let us hope
By some good pleasure
Safely to
Arrive at home
Let us hope
By some good pleasure
Safely to
Arrive at home.**



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. 12th
to Susan in the church office or P.O. Box 219, W. Barnstable, MA 02668

Donor(s): _____

Dedication to read: In memory / honor / celebration of

(please print)

The plants will be available to take after worship on Sunday, December 31, 2023.

WE ARE GLAD YOU WORSHIPPED WITH US TODAY!

All people, young and old and in-between, are lifted up wherever they are on the journey. We look forward to worshipping with you again soon!

Pastors Christie Burns and Reed Baer

Christie holds coffee hours by appointment at Bread and Roses in Hyannis. Call, text, or email her for an appointment. 508-494-6409 associatepastor@westparish.org

“Saturday School” is underway, a special class for our youngsters, held over in Jenkins Hall, led by Pastor Reed and an adult lay teacher/volunteer, during the last 20 minutes of the service. Interested in joining in as a teacher or an extra pair of hands, speak to Reed after church.

Would you like to play in the Saturday Band? Contact Steve G.



by recycling this bulletin.

Need to get connected? Wi-Fi: Meetinghouse **Password:** 1717Rooster

Venmo @WestParish or scan the QR code.



venmo

To make a donation, simply scan the QR code with your phone’s camera or search “@WestParish” on the Venmo app.

Be sure you select “West Parish of Barnstable” under the charity profiles.

If you would like your donation to go toward something specific like “Deacons”, just note that in the description.

Church Staff

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

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor
Susan McEwen, Office Administrator
Chris Haven, Sexton
Bobbie Jordan, Deacons Chair

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contact@westparish.org www.westparish.org

The week of December 2, 2023

Saturday	12/2/23	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	12/3/23	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship Village Tree Lighting & Christmas Program
Monday	12/4/23	5:00 pm	AA (J)
Tuesday	12/5/23	10:00 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (M) Music Lessons (M) AA (J)
Wednesday	12/6/23	9:15 am 12:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Bible Study (G & Z) FS Faculty (G) AA (J)
Thursday	12/7/23	9:15 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) AA (J)
Friday	12/8/23	9:15 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
Saturday	12/9/23	12:00 pm 4:30 pm	Jessica Small Memorial Service (M & J) Worship

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

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

