

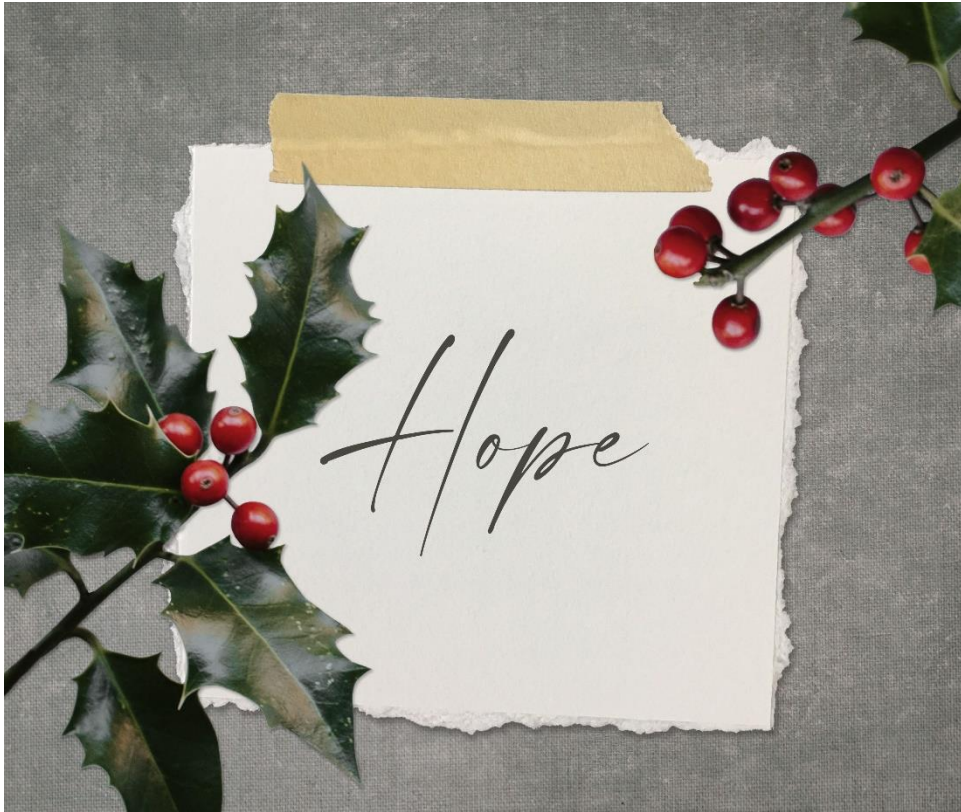
# *West Parish of Barnstable*

*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**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent*

December 3, 2023

10:00 a.m.

*“They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.”*

Isaiah 2:4

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 FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

*One: I will wait for coffee to brew.*

*Two: I will wait for traffic to clear.*

*One: I will wait for fruit to ripen.*

*Two: I will wait for flowers to grow.*

*One: I will wait for seasons to change.*

*Two: I will wait for the sun to rise.*

*One: I will wait for you to say sorry.*

*Two: I will wait for the doctor to see me.*

*One: I will wait for the weekend to arrive.*

*Two: I will wait for my baby's first words.*

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

*Two: I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for hope.*

*One: I cannot wait for hope, because I want to live with hope - today and every day.*

*Two: I want to roll up my sleeves and get to work - living, serving, giving, and transforming with the hope of a better day.*

*One: So today we light a candle of hope as a reminder and as a prayer that we might stop waiting and start living, stop watching and start moving.*

*Two: May the light of this candle burn inside us this week - inspiring hope and action for God's promised day. Amen.*

*The first candle of Advent is lit*

\*HYMN #114 (Green)

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

VENI EMMANUEL

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Reed Baer

*One: What can't wait?*

**Many: Hope for a better day.**

*One: What can't wait?*

**Many: Peace and repentance, among and within us.**

*One: What can't wait?*

**Many: Joy and delight! Our cup runs over.**

*One: What can't wait?*

**Many: Love for self, love for neighbor, love for Creator, and love for creation.**

*One: God is waiting, and God is ready.*

**Many: Starting here and now – let us worship Holy God. Amen.**

PRELUDE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence PICARDY/arr. Lloyd Larson  
HANDBELLES

UNISON PRAYER

**We confess, O God, that we do not always take seriously your coming into our lives. We pray for it, but we also fear it. We don't beat swords into plowshares; we don't seek your instruction; we don't walk in your ways as we might.**

**As we prepare for our Christmas celebrations, grant that we might have our faith renewed; that we might be strengthened to do your will; that as Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem to birth something new, something new might be birthed in us.**

**We pray in the name of the One who came to us as a babe in the manger, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying ...**

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

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 8:22-27

SOLO

Who Would Send a Baby?

Mary K. Beall

SERMON

“The Smoky, Noisy Labor of Advent”

Pastor Reed

## THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS

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

STUTTGART

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.  
We now accept Venmo, instructions are on the back page.*

OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
SOLO & HANDBELLES

Jason W. Krug

\*SONG OF PRAISE

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**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.**

### THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

Our service of communion is open to all seeking Christ's presence.

We will celebrate communion by intinction; come forward, take a piece of the bread, dip it into the cup, and consume it on the way back to your seat. If you would prefer to be served where you sit, raise your hand and the deacons will come to you.

For those who prefer, please take the packaged communion-to-go.

(We offer a gluten-free, wheat-free alternative – in the plastic bags – for those whose diet so requires. We serve cranberry juice out of respect for those who cannot consume alcohol.)

INVITATION

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, for the life we have received, we thank you God. Grant that what we have done and have been given here may so put its mark on us, that it may remain always in our hearts. Grant that we may grow in Christian love and understanding, and that ours may be lives of faithful action, in Christ's name. Amen.**

GOD SENDS US FORTH

\*HYMN #428 (Green)

*"Christ Beside Me"*

BUNESSAN

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA/arr. Lloyd Larson  
HANDBELLES

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

\* All who wish, please stand.

## 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. 12<sup>th</sup>  
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

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(please print)

The plants will be available to take after the Worship service on Sunday, December 31, 2023.

## OUR 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 *Elaine and Bill* (Friends of the Clarks)

**Peter Abraham** (Rich's brother)  
**Karolina Atsalis** (friend of the Abrahams)  
**Betsy** (Susan McEwen's sister)  
**Jay Blum** (brother-in-law of Besty Miller)  
**Margaret and Bill Brummel** (Roger Henson's sister and brother-in-law)  
**Doug Clay** (brother of Sharon Hunt)  
**Judy Desrochers**  
**Betsy Eidem** (friend of Carol Allen)  
**Ned Flynn** (Ted's father)  
**Jay Griffin** (Peggie Bretz' brother)  
**Sharon Griffin** (Peggie Bretz' sister-in-law)  
**Steve Howland**  
**Mike Hovan** (friend of Dan Enos)  
**Dan Joakim and DJ** (Joyce Joakim's son)  
**Martha Lant** (sister-in-law of Peggie Bretz)  
**Mac MacLaren**  
**Norma McElhenny** (friend of Jane Ketchen)  
**Judy Moakler** (friend of Jane Ketchen)  
**Peggy Nelson**  
**Paul** (friend of Ellen and Tom Davis)  
**Jack Parmer** (friend of Carol Allen)  
**Carol Polidoro**  
**Sylvia Powers** (friend of Barbara Rogers)  
**Savanna Ramotar** (friend of Sharon Hunt)  
**Joanne Stubbins** (friend of Jean Birch)  
**Alexis Teixeira** (cousin of Barbara Walsh)  
**Pete Tufflie** (friend of Bob Wyman)  
**Gary Toye** (brother of Bobbie Jordan)  
**Mary-Ann Tu**  
**Linda Watson** (friend of Barbara Rogers)  
**Joanne Wastrom** (wife of former 1717 Trustee Bob Wastrom and friend of Donna & Tripp Grohe)  
**Bruce and Tom White**  
**Nancy Woodman** (friend of Marianne Williams)  
**Sarah Woodruff** (niece of Peter and Betsy Smith)  
**Rev. Dr. Craig Yohn**

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

### The Week of December 3, 2023

<b>Sunday</b>	12/3/23	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship Village Tree Lighting & Christmas Program
<b>Monday</b>	12/4/23	5:00 pm	AA (J)
<b>Tuesday</b>	12/5/23	10:00 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (M) Music Lessons (M) AA (J)
<b>Wednesday</b>	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)
<b>Thursday</b>	12/7/23	9:15 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) AA (J)
<b>Friday</b>	12/8/22	9:15 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
<b>Saturday</b>	12/9/23	12:00 pm 4:30 pm	Jessica Small Memorial (M & J) Worship
<b>Sunday</b>	12/10/23	10:00 am 4:00 pm	Worship Holiday Uke Festival (M)

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

- ◆ **Please join us for fellowship at Coffee Hour in Jenkins Hall after worship.** Our hosts today are Sharon & Bob Wyman.
- ◆ **The flowers gracing the Meetinghouse today** were given by Rich & Lauren Abraham. They were arranged by Lynn Parker.
- ◆ **Thank you to all the folks who have sponsored the flowers in the Meetinghouse this year.** The calendar for next year will be up 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.

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

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



**venmo**

**Venmo @WestParish** or scan the QR code.

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  
Roberta Jordan, Deacons Chair

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