

It's Saturday



Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 16, 2023

4:30 p.m.

BE THE CHURCH

Fight for the powerless.

Advent JOY

“And Mary said, “I am bursting with God-news; I’m dancing with the song of my Savior God. God took one good look at me, and look what happened— I’m the most fortunate woman on earth!” Luke 1:45-46

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

Joy to the World

Green #134

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:
let earth her songs employ;
let fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**Christ rule the worlds with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, and wonders of his love.**

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

We come seeking hope.

We come seeking peace.

We come seeking joy.

We come and wait for you Christ Child.

OPENING PRAYER

Blessed are we who wait with bated breath.

Who wait for something new to be born –for new hope or new joy or new life.

Blessed are we whose patience grows thinner by the day.

We who are tired of the world as it is.

–in all its heartache and loss and hopelessness.

We who want more.

More hope. More joy. More life.

Blessed are we who sit here,
waiting,

at the still point between desire and expectation.
WE who are making room for more of you,
oh God, this Christmas.

**Surprise us with joy in the midst of the mundane,
abundance in the midst of so much scarcity,
presence in the midst of the Christmas chaos.**

*“May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)*

**We have quieted our souls to listen,
to wait for you, Oh God,
for your Word-made-Flesh is life to us.
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



The Third Saturday in Advent — Joy

Setting: On a table, the wreath, a Bible, and a representation of the earth (globe, shell) and symbols of holiday festivity - bows and curling ribbon or a small present, maybe a candy cane or some cookies, a caroling book, a tree ornament.

Invitation

We come to the third week of the 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 (Isaiah 9:2-3a)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy.

Lighting the Candles and Illuminating the Festivities of Joy

Light one purple candle and gently touch the Bible

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

Light the second purple candle

We light this candle to shine on the places that bring us peace, including this church, and the places and people that need peace this day (*may name places from the past week*).

Light the pink candle

We light this candle to celebrate the generosity and festivity of this season and to hold in tenderness and care feelings of loss and loneliness.

Naming our festivities of joy

The Advent season is filled with cultural symbols - trees and gifts and cards and events and special foods and customs. When we are careful to delight in them rather than taking them on as burdens, these symbolic activities bring us joy. From candy canes to hanging stockings, let us name the customs that give us joy ... (*let people name them aloud*)

Unison Prayer

Emmanuel, we celebrate the true joy in so many of our human customs of this season and consecrate them to you. We acknowledge the stress that expectations put upon some of us. We hold tenderly the sadness and depression that longer nights, commercial demands, memories of loss, or simple loneliness bring. Transform the joy that each of us finds into a gift of kindness. Amen

A TIME FOR CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

A SONG OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS

We now accept Venmo, instructions are on page 14.

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 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

He Keeps Me Singing

traditional



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Luke 1:39-56

MEDITATION

Mary's Song

Rev. Christie Burns

GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Green #132

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Eternal, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

WORDS OF SENDING

St. Francis

May God bless you with discomfort
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears
to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and
to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done
to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

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.

Poinsettia Sponsors

Barbara Cameron in honor of my friends

Sandy and Rik Clark in memory of our parents: Eleanore, Doris, Bill, and Allen

David and Susan Cochrane in memory of Gordon and Eleanor Cochrane

Jean Birch in memory of her husband and parents

Kristine in memory of Janet's brother Roger

Ken and Diane Juthe in memory of our parents: Randy & Evelyn and Mert & Bertha

Jane Skinner Ketchen & Greg Ketchen in memory of Clara Vergnani Skinner & Arlan Skinner and Charlotte Parker Ketchen & Gould Ketchen

Corinne Lilie in memory of Mary Ann Regan

Kristen Lind in honor of the wonderful faculty at West Parish Family School and all the church volunteers who oversee and assist us

Dan Lupfer & Liz Knox-Lupfer in celebration of our children and grandchildren

Heiti and Bill Manning in celebration of family and friends

The Moeller Family in memory of Alice, Jake, Bill & Helen who all loved Christmas

Laura Murphy in celebration of Martha Rosewell

Reed & Christie in celebration of Katie, Julia, Camden, Lydia, Chris, Tyler, and Mel

Van & Wendy Northcross in memory of Judy Rockwell and our Northcross family

Lynn & Randy Parker to our 3 children and 5 "grands" who bring us joy!

Rick Serodio to those who seek peace

Peter & Betsy Smith in memory of our parents and loved ones

Bob and Shirley Stolte in memory of loved ones

Alan & Maggi Tyson in celebration of Bey, Libby, Grady & Lilah

Marianne & Greg Williams in memory of Florence Stasiowski and in memory of Sharon Gougen

Sharon and Bob Wyman in memory of Sunny & Wesley Merritt and Evelyn & Edward Wyman

1717 Meetinghouse Foundation in memory of: Mary Jane Eicholzer, John Bjork, James Otis Ellis, Jr., Patricia Davies White and Joyce Joakim

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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The week of December 16, 2023

Saturday	12/16/23	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	12/17/23	10:00 am	Worship
Monday	12/18/23	5:00 pm	AA (J)
Tuesday	12/19/23	10:00 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (M) Music Lessons (M) AA (J) Handbells (M)
Wednesday	12/20/23	9:15 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Bible Study (G & Z) AA (J)
Thursday	12/21/23	9:15 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) AA (J)
Friday	12/22/23	9:15 am 10:30 am 2:30 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Knitting Group (G) FS Pre-K Christmas Program (M) AA (J)
Saturday	12/23/23	4:30 pm	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**

