

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 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.

“May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.”

Psalm 72:6

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 sky to clear.

Two: I will wait for the plot to thicken.

One: I will wait for vacation to arrive.

Two: I will wait for snow to fall.

One: I will wait for dinner to be ready.

Two: I will wait for you to be confident.

One: I will wait for my child to walk.

Two: I will wait for the leaves to change.

One: I will wait for the dust to settle.

Two: I will wait for the lab results.

One: I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

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

One: This world is rampant with division, walls, grudge-holding, and self-doubt.

Two: I do not want to be a passive bystander in this division.

One: We do not want to be passive bystanders in this division.

Two: So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder that we have a role to play.

One: May the desire to sow peace kindle in us like a light in the darkness. Amen.

The third candle of Advent is lit

*HYMN #444 (Green)

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

SLANE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Reed Baer

*One: A tiny jewel of light dances on the edge of the horizon, a solitary star before
sunrise glimmers a promise of dawn at the end of the world's blight.*

**Many: It is the light of the world, Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Promised One.
Come to us, Emmanuel! We have seen your light and gather here in hope,
awaiting the day of your coming.**

PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

“Genevan Psalter”, 1551/arr. Larry Shackley

UNISON PRAYER

Spirit of the living God, speak your word to us in this time of worship. Fill us with true joy – the joy that comes from knowing you; the joy that comes from feeling your justice come to life in our midst; the joy that comes as we truly prepare our hearts as a dwelling place for the Messiah. 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.

ANTHEM

Mary, Did You Know?

Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene/arr. Jack Schrader

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 72:1-7; Matthew 3:1-12

SOLO

Come To Set Us Free

Jean Anne Shafferman & Lloyd Larson Based on Trad. Puerto Rican Folk Hymn

MESSAGE

“The Scents of Advent”

Pastor Reed

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS

*HYMN #149 (Green)

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

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.
Our Venmo QR code and instructions are on the back page.*

OFFERTORY From Heaven Above – “Vom Himmel hoch”
Wilbur Held “Geistliche Lieder, Leipzig, 1539

*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 #153 (Green) “What Child Is This?” GREENSLEEVES

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE Come, O Savior of The World
“Based on the English march Prince Rupert, 1648” – Glenn S. Medlock
(It is our custom to remain seated in silence during the Postlude)

* All who wish, please stand.

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

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:*

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)
Ann Harris (friend of Robin Fryer)
Steve Howland
Mike Hovan (friend of Dan Enos)
Martha Lant (sister-in-law of Peggie Bretz)
Mac MacLaren
Elaine Markey (Friend of the Clarks)
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)
Blake Schroeder (friend of Robin Fryer)
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 17, 2023

Sunday	12/17/23	10:00 am	Worship
Monday	12/18/23	5:00 pm	AA (J)
Tuesday	12/19/23	10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal (M)
		12:00 pm	Music Lessons (M)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
		6:15 pm	Handbells (M)
Wednesday	12/20/23	9:15 am	FS Science (J)
		12:00 pm	Bible Study (G & Z)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
Thursday	12/21/23	9:15 am	FS Science (J)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
Friday	12/22/23	9:15 am	FS Science (J)
		10:30 am	Knitting Group (G)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
Saturday	12/23/23	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	12/24/23	10:00 am	Worship
		4:30 pm	Family Candlelight service

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 host today is Donna Grohe.
- ◆ **The 2024 Flower Calendar is up!** Look for your special date(s) and sign up. Then send \$32 to the office and one of the members of the flower committee will put together an arrangement to put in the Meetinghouse.
- ◆ **Thank you** to all the folks who have sponsored the flowers in the Meetinghouse this year.
- ◆ **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 @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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