

***It's Saturday***



# ***Let's Do Church!***

**WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

January 6, 2024

4:30 p.m.

## **EPIPHANY!!**

*There's a season for everything  
and a time for every matter under the heavens:  
a time for giving birth and a time for dying,  
a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted,  
a time for killing and a time for healing,  
a time for tearing down and a time for building up,  
a time for crying and a time for laughing,  
a time for mourning and a time for dancing.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

**BE THE CHURCH**

**Fight for the powerless.**

## 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

Here I Am to Worship

Hillsong Worship

**Light of the world  
You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You**

**Here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God**

**You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me**

**King of all days  
Oh, so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came to the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor  
Here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God**

You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

Well, I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross

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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 here is Pastor Reed, and we have John Williams as our guest musician, 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

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Lead your people to freedom, O God.

**And banish all evil from our hearts and minds.**

from the Book of Common Prayer

OPENING PRAYER

We have come together in the name of Christ

to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Most merciful God,  
Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word, and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Forgive often.**

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



A TIME FOR CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

A SONG OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS

*We now accept Venmo, the QR code and 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

Vince Amlin

Psalm 23 says, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." Maybe that's so I can gloat over the feast self-righteously. Smack my lips. Lick my fingers. Make a show of how delicious it is to have the Lord as my Shepherd.

Or maybe it's because the Good Shepherd knows that that when my enemies and I are less hungry, when our cups are full and we can't get more than a table's-width away from

one another, goodness and mercy may follow.

Who stands across from you at this meal? Whose place-card has God awkwardly arranged in your eye-line? Who hungers for your forgiveness? Whose mercy do you crave? God has spread this table of love for you. Who will you invite to eat?

#### PRAISE AND THANKS

The meal is beginning...

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**God you created in us a need to eat. Gifted us with hunger and thirst that draws us together, friend and stranger and enemy.**

**Over a bite of fruit, a bowl of cereal, roasted lamb and unleavened bread, a day's ration of manna, or an all-you-can-eat buffet, loaves and fishes, bread and wine.**

#### REMEMBERING JESUS

We remember that on the last night of his life, Jesus gathered his disciples at a table of grace to show them what was possible. He took bread, and broke it, and gave it to the irritating ones, the false ones, the proud ones, the tired ones, the wishy-washy ones. And he told them, this is my body, broken for you. When you hunger to get even, remember.

Then he took a cup and gave thanks. The same cup of which he said one who shared it would betray him. And he gave it to them, saying, this is my blood, poured out for you. When you thirst for vengeance, remember.

#### RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

And so we ask,

**Holy Spirit, bless these signs of God's unfailing mercy. And bless the need to eat that has drawn us into this feast. As we reach out our arms in blessing, may our prayers extend to the friends and strangers who surround us. And even the enemies in whose presence we are fed. May this meal make a new world possible. Amen.**

#### THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED



SPECIAL SONG

Go Tell It on The Mountain

traditional/James Taylor edition



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

MEDITATION

Into the Mystery

Rev. Christie Burns

### GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG

In Christ Alone (My Hope is Found)

Koch/Crag

**In Christ alone, my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live, I live**

**There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day**

Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

WORDS OF SENDING



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.





## 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 Nirvana in Barnstable Village.  
Call, text, or email for an appointment: 508-494-6409 [associatepastor@westparish.org](mailto: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”, 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

Box 219, West Barnstable, MA 02668  
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**The week of January 6, 2024**

<b>Saturday</b>	1/6/24	4:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sunday</b>	1/7/24	10:00 am	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	1/8/24	2:00 pm 5:00 pm	Jean Birch Memorial (M & J) AA (J)
<b>Tuesday</b>	1/9/24	10:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm	Christie's Coffee Hours @ Nirvana Choir Rehearsal (M) Music Lessons (M) AA (J)
<b>Wednesday</b>	1/10/24	9:15 am 12:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	FS Science (J) Bible Study (G & Z) FS Board (G) AA (J) WITS @ 8 Earl Rd., E. Sandwich
<b>Thursday</b>	1/11/24	8:00 am 9:15 am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast @ Jack's Out Back FS Science (J) Foundation (G) AA (J)
<b>Friday</b>	1/12/24	9:15 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
<b>Saturday</b>	1/13/24	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**

