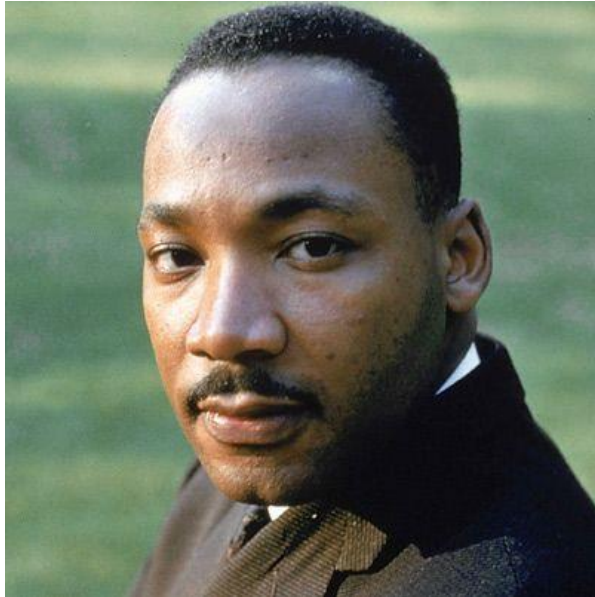


It's Saturday



GETTY IMAGES

Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 13, 2024

4:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Reflection
Known and Loved

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."* Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Jesus said, "You've become a believer simply because I say I saw you one day sitting under the fig tree? You haven't seen anything yet! Before this is over you're going to see heaven open and God's angels descending to the Son of Man and ascending again." John 1:50-51

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

Be Still My Soul

Green #95

**Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Trust in your God, your savior and your guide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.**

**Be still, my soul: for God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.**

**Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall dwell with God forevermore,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.**

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 Steve Gregory is our minister of music with Bob Moscato on guitar, 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

God of our ancestors and God of our dreams,
we gather today to remember

that you have created us all in your image and in your likeness

And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

We remember how you spoke into the darkness and created light

And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

You have comforted us
through the middle passage, racism, segregation,
stripped identities and unjust laws

And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

**We gather today remembering your presence amongst us and the call
to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you and our neighbors.**

OPENING PRAYER

God of our weary years and God of our silent tears,

thou who has brought us thus far on the way,

we invite your presence into our midst

as we pay tribute to all who have labored for justice, equality, and love.

We pray that in this moment you would strengthen us

**to continue to fight for the fulfillment of the dream that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther
King Jr. so eloquently laid out on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.**

Help us to labor so that every valley is exalted,

every hill and mountain made low,

the rough places are plain, and the crooked places made straight

so that the glory of the Lord is revealed,

and all flesh see it together.

Let your love guide us to see one another as fully human with diverse hues, colors, ethnicities and cultures, and respect the content of their character.
Let your spirit strengthen us for the fight of today and tomorrow until all God's children can say with full conviction,
"Free at last. Free at last. Thank God All-Mighty, I'm free at last." 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 hangry, 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

Don't Get Weary Joe

I. Roy



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Gospel: John 1:43-51

MEDITATION

Even When We Grow Weary...

Rev. Christie Burns

GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG

In the Bleak Midwinter

Green# 154

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

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 from 10 – 11:30 am, Tuesdays at Nirvana in Barnstable Village.
Call, text, or email 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”, 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
508-362-4445 contact@westparish.org www.westparish.org

The week of January 13, 2024

Saturday	1/13/24	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	1/14/24	10:00 am	Worship
Monday	1/8/24		MLK, Jr. Day - Office Closed
		12:30 pm	J. Murrelle Rehearsal (M)
		4:00 pm	Foundation (G)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
Tuesday	1/9/24	10:00 am	Christie's Coffee Hours @ Nirvana
		12:00 pm	Music Lessons (M)
		4:30 pm	Finance (G & Z)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
Wednesday	1/10/24	9:15 am	FS Science (J)
		12:00 pm	Bible Study (G & Z)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
Thursday	1/11/24		Rooster Crows Articles Due
		9:15 am	FS Science (J)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
Friday	1/12/24	9:15 am	FS Science (J)
		10:30 am	Knitting Group (G)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
Saturday	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**

