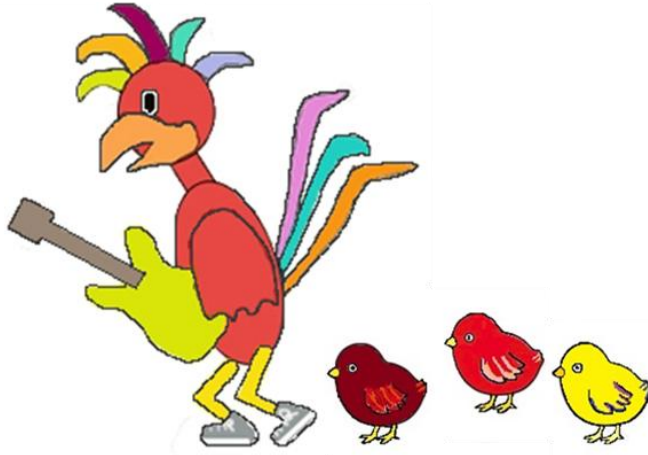


It's Saturday



Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 7, 2024

4:30 p.m.

Peace

He went all through the country around the Jordan River preaching a baptism of life-change leading to forgiveness of sins, as described in the words of Isaiah the prophet:

Thunder in the desert!

"Prepare God's arrival!

Make the road smooth and straight!

Every ditch will be filled in,

Every bump smoothed out,

The detours straightened out,

All the ruts paved over.

Everyone will be there to see

The parade of God's salvation." Luke 3:4-6

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 Feliz Navidad by Jose Feliciano

Feliz navidad

Feliz navidad

Feliz navidad, prospero año y felicidad

Feliz navidad

Feliz navidad

Feliz navidad, prospero año y felicidad

I want to wish you a merry Christmas

I want to wish you a merry Christmas

I want to wish you a merry Christmas from the bottom of my heart

I want to wish you a merry Christmas

I want to wish you a merry Christmas

I want to wish you a merry Christmas from the bottom of my heart

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. Today we will lift our hearts and voices in peace as we

continue our four-week journey towards Advent. Hello, I'm Pastor Christie, and here is Pastor Reed, and Steve Gregory is our director of music, 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

One: We gather, longing for gentleness among all:

Many: peace is the home we seek.

One: We gather, longing for healing where there has been harm:

Many: peace is the home we seek.

One: We gather, looking for generosity to inform all actions:

Many: peace is the home we seek.

One: We gather, longing for peace in all part of life:

All: God is the home we seek.

OPENING PRAYER

We long for peace, O God, we long for peace.

We long for the day when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, when war is but a dim and unpleasant memory, when all peoples learn to wage peace, when personal enmity and greed and fear have long since been set aside.

All this and more we long for in our hearts, O God, and yet we also pray that you will equip us and embolden us now, where we live, as we live, to be partners with you, in ways small and large, to make this world a more peaceful place. Amen

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING by Maren Tirabassi & Howard Thurman

We light two candles this week to illuminate peace.

For as God lights both gentle dawn
and a slash of lightning strike,
we affirm all the ways we seek peace –
kind persuasion with eye contact,
and a justice march with big signs,

a silent vigil of prayer and fasting,
and the gift of food, toys, or dignity
for the most vulnerable,
our quiet visits to therapist or recovery group,
and loud demands to change gun laws.

We light two candles so we will listen to the angel mandate of 'Peace on Earth.'
For ordinary, available, gentle and brave, are the hope and peace of Advent.

**All: I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.**

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

In the time of Jesus, sharing a meal with others was never a casual matter. But Jesus welcomed everyone – when he sat at table with all those society pushed to the margins, the ill, the tax collectors, those condemned as sinners, he proclaimed that God's care knows no bounds.

We proclaim again the comfort and challenge of that witness: all are invited now to share God's table and be nourished by the bread of life. Here is the bread, here is the wine.

THE STORY BEHIND THE LAST SUPPER

We gather at this table to remember that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, he broke it, and gave it to those sitting around him, saying, "take, eat. *This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*" In the same way after

supper, he took the cup, saying: *“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”*

Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Hear us, O Christ and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and juice. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, and making us whole as the bread and juice which we now eat, and drink are changed into us. May we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

THE COMMUNION

Look, the Body of Christ is broken for the life of the world.
Here is Christ coming to us in bread and juice.
The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come for all things have been made ready.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God, you are the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end and all that comes in between. We give thanks for the simple things of life: bread and juice and remembrance. Thank you for remembering us even now, even today. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED



SPECIAL SONG

Away in the Manger



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Luke 3: 1-6

MEDITATION

Peace in the Wilderness

Rev. Christie Burns

GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Green #149

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven great news we bring.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sound the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long,
beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we, through bitter wars, hear not the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise and end the strife, to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

WORDS OF SENDING

Love God.

SONG OF SENDING

Go In Peace

Sam Baker

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 at Nirvana in Barnstable Village on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 am.
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
Paula King, Music Director
Susan Moeller, Council Chair
Chris Haven, Sexton

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor
Susan McEwen, Office Administrator
Bobbie Jordan, Deacons Chair

Box 219, West Barnstable, MA 02668
508-362-4445 contact@westparish.org www.westparish.org

Reprinted/streamed with permission under One License #A-624123

The Week December 7, 2024

Saturday	12/7/24	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	12/8/24	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship Village Tree Lighting and Carol Sing
Monday	12/9/24	10:15 am 5:00 pm 6:00 pm	FS Classes (J) AA (J) Meetinghouse Farm (G)
Tuesday	12/10/24	9:15 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm 6:15 pm 7:00 pm	FS Science (J) Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana Choir Rehearsal (M) AA (J) Bell Choir (M) WITS at Pastor Christie's
Wednesday	12/11/24	9:15 am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) FS Board (G) AA (J)
Thursday	12/12/24	8:00 am 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast at Jack's Out Back AA (J)
Friday	12/13/24	10:30 am 5:00 pm	Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
Saturday	12/14/24	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**

