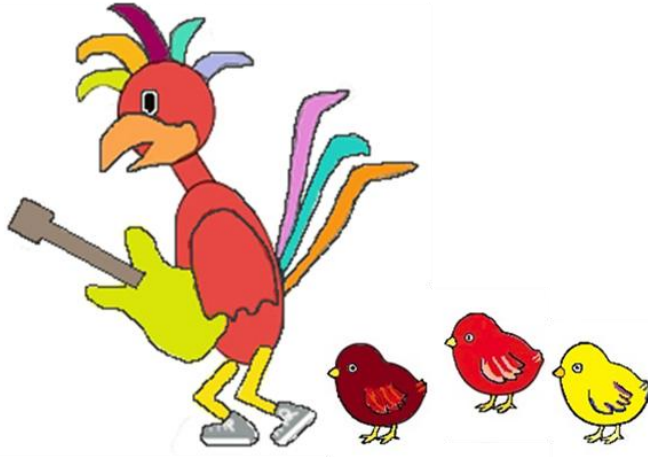


It's Saturday



Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 14, 2024

4:30 p.m.

Joy

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;

indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.”

Luke 1:46-50

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

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 rules the world 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, 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. Today we will lift our hearts and voices in joy 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: In this season of waiting,

Many: may patience be our companion.

One: In this season of demands,

Many: may gentleness be our companion.

One: In this season of expectations,

Many: may simplicity be our companion.

One: In this season of sharing,

Many: may gratitude be our companion.

One: In this season of good news,

All: may prayer be our companion.

OPENING PRAYER

My soul magnifies the Lord!

All is ready

Stable prepared

Shepherds working

Magi journeying

Gifts are chosen

My soul magnifies the Lord!

A city awaits

Crowded and bustling

**Stars are shining
People expecting
A drama unfolding
My soul magnifies the Lord!
The Lord is coming
To save his people
Mary's obedience
Jesus' willingness
Your gracious gift to us
My soul magnifies the Lord! Amen**

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING by Maren Tirabassi & Howard Thurman

We will light three candles
to sparkle with joy.
For God lights constellations
and the tips of angel wings
light years far away,
and light years as near as breath.

We light (and help to blow out)
ninety-five candles on a birthday cake,
the high circle of a Ferris wheel,
the smile of a pumpkin,
marshmallow of a 'smore,
branches of a Christmas tree,

and the luminarias that say
this is a home/church that welcomes all,
every age, race, education,
ability, orientation, ethnic origin,
gender identity, job status,

old friend or stranger becoming new one,
those who claim their history
and their identity,
others who close their lips to listen
and feel the joy in their hearts.

We raise three candles, and know we cannot do it by ourselves
for each of us have only two hands.

For ordinary, available, gentle, brave,
and with wide-open doors,
is the hope, peace and joy 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

What Child Is This, Who Laid To Rest



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Luke 1:39-55

MEDITATION

Mary's Song

Rev. Christie Burns

GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Green #7

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

WORDS OF SENDING



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

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The Week December 14, 2024

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|--|--|
| Saturday | 12/14/24 | 4:30 pm | Worship |
| Sunday | 12/15/24 | 10:00 am 5:00 pm | Worship AA (J) |
| Monday | 12/16/24 | 10:15 am 5:00 pm | FS Classes (J) AA (J) |
| Tuesday | 12/17/24 | 9:15 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 4:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:15 pm | FS Science (G) Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana Choir Rehearsal (J) Finance (G & Z) AA (J) Bell Choir (M) |
| Wednesday | 12/18/24 | 9:15 am 5:00 pm | FS Science (J) AA (J) |
| Thursday | 12/19/24 | 5:00 pm | Rooster Crows Articles Due AA (J) |
| Friday | 12/20/24 | 10:30 am 5:00 pm | Knitting Group (G) AA (J) |
| Saturday | 12/21/24 | 12:00 pm 4:30 pm | Lauzon Party (J) 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**

