

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 of Advent

December 15, 2024

10:00 a.m.

*Elizabeth said to Mary, "For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting,
the child in my womb leaped for joy."*

Luke 1:44

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

Maren Tirabassi & Howard Thurman

*One: 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.*

Two: 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.**

*HYMN #120 (Red)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

RESPONSIVE 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.

PRELUDE

"Jesus Tender"

arr. J. Cotter

UNISON PRAYER

Rev. William H. Willimon

**Almighty God, you not only created a world where once there was chaos,
you not only brought forth humanity from the dust of the earth,
you not only gave us your holy law and your trustful prophets,
you also drew near to us.**

**For your advent in our empty world, your light shining in our darkness,
your word into our silence, we give thanks.**

Today, O Lord, give us hearts open and receptive to your advent, spirits expectant for your presence, lives ready to rise up and follow you at your call.

This we pray in the name of the one whom John the Evangelist told us was the light breaking into the world, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together, saying...

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.

“CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT THE SURPRISE”

SCRIPTURE *Mary is Surprised* Luke 1:26-38 The Message

SOLO "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"
SUO GAN, arr. T. Keesecker

SCRIPTURE *Elizabeth is Surprised* Luke 1:39-45 N.R.S.V.

ANTHEM "Christ Be Our Light" B. Farrell

SCRIPTURE *The Shepherds are Surprised* Luke 2:8-14 N.R.S.V.

ANTHEM "Song of the Stable" T. Smith, D. Haas

SCRIPTURE *Our Turn to Surprise!* Luke 2:15-18 The Message

ANTHEM "Go Tell It On the Mountain" African Amer. Spiritual

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS

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.
We now accept Venmo, the qr code and instructions are on the back page.*

OFFERTORY

"O Come Divine Messiah"

*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 #134 (Green)

"Joy to the World!"

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

L. Beethoven

(It is our custom to remain seated in silence during the Postlude)

* All who wish, please stand.

All are invited to join together for fellowship and refreshments following the service.

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:

Karolina Atsalis (friend of the Abrahams)
Bunny and Bart Chase (friends of Rik Clark)
Doug Clay (brother of Sharon Hunt)
Ginny Dolan (friend of the Haven Family)
Betsy Eidem (friend of Carol Allen)
Susan Emery (Jane Ketchen's sister)
Ned Flynn (Ted's father)
Tom Fuller (friend of Jane and Greg Ketchen)
Judy Ginns (friend of Sandy Clark)
Bob Gravino (friend of Greg and Jane Ketchen)
Jay Griffin (Peggie Bretz' brother)
Sharon Griffin (Peggie Bretz' sister-in-law)
Steve Howland
Deidre Hunt (daughter-in-law of Sharon and John Hunt)
Dick Kiusalis (friend of Joanna Wallace)
Martha Lant (sister-in-law of Peggie Bretz)
Adrienne Locklear (family of Kelly and Macayla Washburn)
Sue Maki (friend of Joanna Wallace)
Norma McElhenny (friend of Jane Ketchen)
Greg Miller
Judy Moakler (friend of Jane Ketchen)
Brian Murphy
Peggy Nelson
Diane Ollerhead (friend of Robin Fryer)
Paul (friend of Ellen and Tom Davis)
Savanna Ramotar (friend of Sharon Hunt)
Cyndi Rausch (Allison McNaughton's sister)
Blake Schroeder (friend of Robin Fryer)
Joanne Stubbins
Nancy Sturgis (friend of Joanne Wallace)
Gary Toye (brother of Bobbie Jordan)
Mary-Ann Tu
Linda Watson (friend of Barbara Rogers)
Bruce and Tom White
Nancy Woodman (friend of Marianne Williams)
Gina Yacinto (friend of Joanna Wallace)
Rev. Dr. Craig Yohn

Please notify the church office (508-362-4445) of any additions, deletions or changes you wish to make.

The Week December 15, 2024

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
Sunday	12/22/24	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)

Key: FS = Family School; G = Guild Room; J = Jenkins Hall; M = Meetinghouse; Z = Zoom

- ◆ **Please join us for Coffee Hour over in Jenkins Hall.** Our hosts today are Shirley and Bob Stolte.
- ◆ **Thank you to all who sponsored flowers last year!** The 2025 calendar is on the kiosk in Jenkins Hall, so sign up early for special dates that you may want. Sponsorship is still \$32 payable to Susan in the office. On the calendar, please write your name legibly as well as whether you would like the arrangement to be in honor or in memory of special. A member of the Flower Committee will contact you about any specific requests, put the arrangement together and have it in place in the Meetinghouse for you.
Also, a big THANK YOU to the arrangers - Lynn Parker, Kelly Washburn, Sharon Hunt, Carol Allen, and Kenyon Gregoire. If anyone would like to join us on this committee that brightens up the Meetinghouse every week, please let me know.
 Chris Haven, Flower Committee chair (since 2004!)
- ◆ **The Coffee Hour sign up** is on the kiosk in Jenkins. If you can spare a little of your time to help 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.



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", just note that in the description.

Church Staff

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher
Paula King, Music Director
Susan Moeller, Council Chair
Alycia Williams, Family School Director

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor
Susan McEwen, Office Administrator
Roberta Jordan, Deacons Chair
Chris Haven, Sexton

P.O. Box 219, West Barnstable, MA 02668
Tel. No. 508-362-4445 Fax No. 508-375-6431
contact@westparish.org www.westparish.org