



# THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

*Christmas Eve*

December 24, 2024

4:30 p.m.

## 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 ADVENT CANDLES

*One: We have gathered at this wreath  
all this Advent season to light candles.*

*We claim that Emmanuel, God with us  
is Light and Darkness in a world  
that must work and rest  
be generous and self-careful,  
experience tears and laughter,  
in order to share  
both the hurt and humor of others.  
from the deep place of knowing it.*

*Let us light these candles on this holy night.*

Two: I light the candle of hope,  
and hopelessness cannot hide.

I light the candle of peace,  
and expose hatred as fear turned inside out.

I light the candle of joy,  
and everyone is welcome with a smile,  
a moment of beauty or wonder.

I light the candle of love,  
and hands are clasped around the world.

**All: THIS IS CHRISTMAS**

**The evergreen singing aloud its poem of constant renewal,  
The festive mood spreading liting magic everywhere,  
The gifts of recollection calling to heart the graces of life,  
The star in the sky calling to mind the wisdom of hope,  
The warmth of candlelight glowing against the darkness,  
The birth of a child linking past to future,  
The symbol of love absorbing all violence  
THIS IS CHRISTMAS.**

*One: O Holy God, we light the Christ candle.  
It shines on smiles and tears.  
It shines into the lives of everyone.  
It shines and we remember the story.  
It shines around angels  
who sing for the most vulnerable,  
and guides the long traveling  
of those from far away.*

Two: It shines on a manger,  
a child and parents,  
with animals gathered all around.  
It shines on here and now people  
just like Bethlehem long ago.

It can never be extinguished,  
because, Christ, you are tonight's candle,  
and we promise –  
to lift our wicks to tomorrow's flame. Amen.

\* HYMN #132 (Red)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Associate Pastor Christie Burns

*One: If you are like Joseph, and you are seeking truth,*

**All: There is room here for you.**

*One: If you are like Mary, and you are seeking rest,*

**All: There is a seat here for you.**

*One: If you are like the wise men, and you are looking for a sign:*

**All: These candles are here for you.**

*One: If you are like the angels, and you cannot help but sing,*

**All: There is a melody here for you.**

*One: Come in. You are in God's house. Love was born tonight, and there is love here for you.*

**All: Let us worship the God of love.**

PRELUDE

Christmas flute trio music

UNISON PRAYER

**We come before you this late afternoon in awe, O God, freshly aware of your glory and your love embodied in the midst of this world. Here amid the dirt and straw, amid noise of cattle and labor of birth, we preceive your work. We dare to believe that it is you, God, coming to be among us as Jesus, and so with songs of joy we praise you. Glory be to you, O God, now and forevermore.**

**In thanksgiving we pray, as Jesus taught us, saying together . . .**

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.**

### THE NATIVITY, IN WORD AND SONG

HAND BELL CHOIR

"Sussex Carol"

CHRISTMAS ON THE ROAD

Luke 2:1-5 (The Message)

CHRISTMAS TRIO

"Mary, Did You Know"

M. Lowry, B. Greene,

Sung by Katherine and Catriona Morris-King and John Murelle

CHRISTMAS WITH THE ANIMALS

Luke 2:6-7 (N.R.S.V.)

HYMN #122 (Red) (seated) "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" (v. 1, 4)

CHRISTMAS IN COMMUNITY, BELOW AND ABOVE

Luke 2:8-18

HAND BELL CHOIR

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

“No Need to Buy That Stairway to Heaven”

Pastor Reed

WE RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

\*HYMN #130 (Red)

“Joy to the World!”

with the Hand Bell Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER

*One: God be with you.*

**Many: And also with you.**

*One: Let us pray.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CHRISTMAS DUET

"Angel's Carol"

J. Rutter

sung by Katherine and Catriona Morris-King

INVITATION TO OFFERING OUR TITHES AND 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

"Calypso Lullaby"

J. Hairston

\*SONG OF PRAISE

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,**

**To Christ revealed in earthly night,**

**To God the Spirit now we raise,**

**Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**GOD SENDS US FORTH IN JOY!**

A CANDELIGHT LITURGY

*One: This, then, is how Love is born: like a seed planted in the darkest of soils that rises to meet the sun's warming rays, so love emerges from the deepest places. Despite our willing it, and without the force of hand, may love rise graciously to life.*

**Many: This, then, is how Love is born: as the morning slowly dawns – first a**

**sliver, then a burning horizon – causing the night to fade away, so love transforms our sorrow and fear. Into our need, moving against resistance, may love change things in our lives and in the world.**

*Two: This, then, is how Love is born: as winter's gentle hibernation gives way to the bursting of spring and the delights of summer, so love is woven through every season. Amidst our doubts and disappointments, when the sands seem to shift under our feet, may love be steadfast and present at all times.*

**All: The light from even a single flame makes watching an easier task. Christ's flame reminds us that God is with us.**

*(The Meetinghouse will be darkened during this part of the service. The central candle in the Advent Wreath is symbolic of Christ's light. Lighting their candles from that candle, the pastors will light the candles of the ushers. The ushers will then light the aisle candles of each pew. In turn, the aisle candles will light the candles of those next, and so on. During the singing of the last verse of "Silent Night", the candles will be held aloft. To prevent the hot wax from dripping, please tilt your unlit candle as you receive the flame from your neighbor's lit candle. Please be age-appropriate with respect to sharing candles with children.)*

HYMN #138 (Red) (seated)

"Silent Night"

STILLE NACHT

WORDS OF SENDING

(Following the benediction and during the Postlude,  
please extinguish your candles and take them with you to the door as you leave.)

POSTLUDE

"Fantasia on Dix"

C. Kocher

\*All who wish, please stand.

A special word to our Christmas Eve visitors: We are *delighted* to have you with us this evening, particularly if you are from the area and are perhaps thinking it might be nice to find a church home. We hope you will consider coming back again – we gather at 4:30 each Saturday (but NOT this week, 12/28) and 10:00 each Sunday.

Thank you to: Becky Abbott, Ruby Abbott, Katherine Morris-King, Catriona Morris-King, John Murelle for sharing their talents with us.



## *Poinsettia Sponsors*



- Paul and Lisa Fackler in celebration of family and friends
- Jody Rice-Hines in memory of Kenneth Arden Hines, Jr. and Justine Williams Perry
- Heiti and Bill Manning
- Marianne and Greg Williams in memory of Max, Carmella, and Doug Stasiowski  
in memory of Howard, Constance, and Ken Williams  
in memory of Florence Stasiowski and Sharon Goguen
- Bobbie Jordan in memory of my parents, Lloyd and Ida
- Gretchen and Bob Naylor in memory of Anna & Raymond Naylor  
in memory of Phyllis & Herb Hoffman
- Peter and Betsy Smith in memory of our parents, brothers and sisters
- Sharon and John Hunt in memory of family members who are looking down from heaven
- Janet Scarpato in memory of my brother, Roger W. Porter
- Ken and Diane Juthe
- Steve and Mindy Abbott in loving memory of Howard & Lois Abbott and Fred & Martha Strauss
- Bob and Shirley Stolte in memory of Alfred & Elizabeth Hodgkins and Albert & Lucia Stolte
- Robin Fryer in memory of my nephew, Chad DeMarco
- Dan Lupfer & Liz Knox-Lupfer in celebration of our children and grandchildren
- Jane Skinner Ketchen and H. Gregory Ketchen  
in memory of our parents Clara Skinner & Arlan Skinner and Charlotte Ketchen & Gould Ketchen
- The Lee Family in memory of Jackie & Al Mague
- Sharon and Bob Wyman in memory of Sunny & Wes Merritt and Evelyn & Edward Wyman
- Rick Serodio in honor of the citizens of Ukraine
- Rik and Sandy Clark in celebration of our parents and faith
- Toni and LeRoy Malouf in memory of Alfred & Clara Malouf  
in memory of Anna & Warren Watts and Frederik Antoine
- The 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation in memory of:  
Jean Birch, John Doriss, Shirley Whitelaw, Judy Desrochers, Laurel Jenkins, Shirley and Richard  
Canning, Harold G. Andres, Jr. -Restoration Organ Builder, Ernest and Barbara Walsh, Hilda  
Goerhring and Benjamin B. Baker

**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

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