

It's Saturday



Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 4, 2025

4:30 p.m.

EPIPHANY!!

*There's a season for everything
and a time for every matter under the heavens:
a time for giving birth and a time for dying,
a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted,
a time for killing and a time for healing,
a time for tearing down and a time for building up,
a time for crying and a time for laughing,
a time for mourning and a time for dancing.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

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

We Are One in the Spirit

Green #386

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity will one day be restored:**

Refrain

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:**

Refrain

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride:**

Refrain

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 we have Steve Gregory as our director of music with the band, 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

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Lead your people to freedom, O God.

And banish all evil from our hearts and minds.

from the Book of Common Prayer

OPENING PRAYER

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away
from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Most merciful God,

**Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word, and deed.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy

forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be;

that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
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.

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.

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

Go Tell It on The Mountain



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

MEDITATION

Into the Mystery

Rev. Christie Burns

GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Green #162

**We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again.
King forever, ceasing never overall us all to reign.**

Refrain

**Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a deity nigh:
Prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.**

Refrain

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

“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
Alycia Williams, Family School Director

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 January 4, 2025

Saturday	1/4/25	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	1/5/25	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)
Monday	1/6/25	10:15 am 5:00 pm	FS Classes (J) AA (J)
Tuesday	1/7/25	9:15 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm 6:15 pm	FS Science (G) Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana Choir Rehearsal (J) AA (J) Bell Choir (M)
Wednesday	1/8/25	9:15 am 12:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Bible Study (G & Z) FS Faculty (G) AA (J)
Thursday	1/9/25	8:00 pm 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast at Jack's Out Back AA (J)
Friday	1/10/25	9:30 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	Friends of Wheldon Library (G) Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
Saturday	1/11/25	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**

