

It's Saturday



Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 3, 2026

4:30 p.m.

EPIPHANY!!

“When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.”

Matthew 2:9-12

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

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Green #160

Refrain

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

Refrain

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.**

Refrain

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

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

The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.

We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.

The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

The darkness what surrounds us is gone!

Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

God of Promise and mysterious Light, be with us this day as we journey in our faith; to meet your Gift. Give us courage and hope along our way, as your light will continue to glow brightly in our path, leading us to service and discipleship in Jesus' Name. 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 8.

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

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

Do You Hear What I Hear?



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

MEDITATION

Star Gifts to Guide Us

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 over us all to reign.**

Refrain

**Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping God on high.**

Refrain

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through earth and skies.**

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

Christie holds coffee hours at Nirvana in Barnstable Village on Tuesdays from 11 to noon.
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
Alycia Williams, Family School Director

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The Week January 3, 2026

Saturday	1/3/26	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	1/4/26	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)
Monday	1/5/26	5:00 pm 7:00 pm	AA (J) AA (J)
Tuesday	1/6/26	11:00 am 11:00 am 4:30 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Christie's Coffee Hours at Nirvana Choir Rehearsal (J) Bell Choir Rehearsal (M) AA (J) WITS at Pastor Christie's
Wednesday	1/7/26	9:00 am 1:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Bible Study (G & Z) FS Faculty (G) AA (J)
Thursday	1/8/26	8:00 am 3:00 pm 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast at Jack's Out Back J. Murelle Rehearsal (M) AA (J)
Friday	1/9/26	9:00 am 10:00 am 3:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Knitting Group (G) J. Murelle Rehearsal (M) AA (J)
Saturday	1/10/26	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**

