

It's Saturday



Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 20, 2025

4:30 p.m.

Love

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." - Matthew 1:19-21

OUR STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We are:

PROGRESSIVELY UNTRADITIONAL: 21st century minds in a 1717 Meetinghouse!

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

Angels We Have Heard On High

Green #135

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

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 love as we continue our four-week journey towards Advent. Hello, I'm Pastor Christie, and here is Pastor Reed, and Steve Gregory is our music director with Debbie Barrette and Mary O'Neill are leading us today in 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!

A RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Madeleine L'Engle

One: Christ didn't wait till the world was ready, till nations were at peace.

Many: Christ came when the heavens were unsteady and prisoners cried out for release.

One: Christ didn't wait for the perfect time.

Many: He came when the need was deep and great.

One: Christ didn't wait till hearts were pure. He came to a people wounded within and without.

Many: To a world like ours, he came, and his Light would not go out.

One: Christ came to a world that didn't mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

Many: In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.

One: To come to him and give our feelings voice we need not wait till all is well.

Many: For to share our grief, to touch our pain, he came with Love: Emmanuel.

CANDLE LIGHTING

(Maren Tirabassi & Howard Thurman)

We will light four candles
and I will be willing to light
every taper in my life,
for love asks for all that is needed
and then ... for everything else,

for this is how incarnation happens,
how God comes.

We light four candles
or a hundred or a thousand more
whatever it takes
to remind ourselves to live in love.

As ordinary and gentle as the holy welcome
that turns the world upside down,
comes hope, peace, joy, and love
to illuminate our 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.



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

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Matthew 1:18-25

MEDITATION

Love Will Be Born Among Us

Rev. Christie Burns

GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Green #151

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight!**

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to us on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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.

CLOSING MUSIC

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Irving Berlin



Poinsettia Sponsors



Steve & Mindy Abbott	in loving memory of our parents: Howard & Lois Abbott and Fred & Martha Strauss
Barbara Cameron	in memory of Vincent Conroy and Jean Birch
Rik & Sandy Clark	in memory of our parents
Rev. Betsy Garland & Kim Baker	in celebration of great-grandchildren: Willa and Itsuki
Paul & Lisa Fackler	in celebration of Henry Fackler Chen and Chloe Fackler Chen
Bobbie Jordan	in celebration of family
Ken & Diane Juthe	in memory of our loved passed family members
Greg & Jane Ketchen	in memory of Gould & Charlotte Ketchen Clara & Arlan Skinner and Susan Emery
Liz Knox-Lupfer & Dan Lupfer	in celebration of our children & grandchildren
Heiti & Bill Manning	in celebration of our children, grandchildren, and loved ones
Toni & LeRoy Malouf	world peace
Laura Murphy	in celebration of family and friends
Gretchen & Bob Naylor	in memory of Anna & Ray Naylor and Phyllis & Herb Hoffman
Jan Scarpato	in memory of my husband, Bob
Peter & Betsy Smith	in memory of Dr. Harold R. & Helen C. Smith, Newton J. & Muriel P. Buren, and Carol R. Woodruff and James W. Buren
Bob & Shirley Stolte	in memory of Elizabeth & Alfred Hodgkins and and Lucia & Albert Stolte
Annie Taber & John Linhares	in memory of family who are no longer with us
Sharon & Bob Wyman	in memory of Sunny & Wesley Merritt and Evelyn & Edward Wyman
The 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation in memory of Thomas Davis, Russ Gessner, Donald Foster, Steven Howland, Everard Munsey, Barbara Rogers, Rick Serodio, and Jay Tracy	

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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES—Bring your relatives and friends!

4:30 p.m. Candlelit Family Service

8:00 Candlelight Service

No worship service on Saturday, December 27th

We resume worship on **January 3rd and celebrate Epiphany with STAR GIFTS.**

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 December 20, 2025

Saturday	12/20/25	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	12/21/25	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship AA (J)
Monday	12/22/25	5:00 pm 7:00 pm	AA (J) AA (J)
Tuesday	12/23/25	11:00 am 4:30 pm 5:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (M) Bell Choir Rehearsal (M) AA (J)
Wednesday	12/24/25	4:30 pm 8:00 pm	Family Candlelight Service Candlelight Service
Thursday	12/25/25	5:00 pm	MERRY CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED AA (J)
Friday	12/26/25	5:00 pm	OFFICE CLOSED AA (J)
Saturday	12/27/25		

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**

