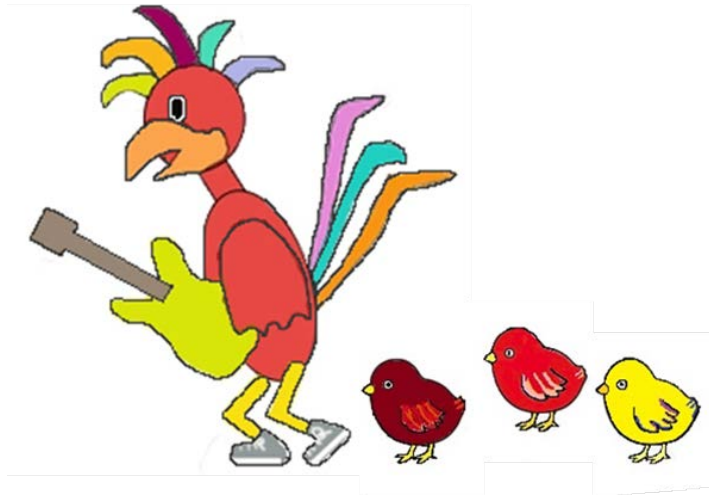


It's Saturday



# Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 11, 2021

4:30 p.m.

**BE THE CHURCH**

**Fight for the powerless.**

ADVENT JOY!

*"John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water  
but one who is more powerful than I is coming;  
I am not worthy to untie his sandals.  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'" - Luke 3:16*

## 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

*Joy to the World*

Hoyt Axton

**Jeremiah was a bullfrog  
Was a good friend to mine  
I never understood a word he said  
But I helped him drink his wine  
And he always had a pretty fine wine**

**(Refrain) Joy to the world  
All the boys and girls  
Joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea  
Joy to you and me**

**If I were the king of the world  
Tell you what I'd do  
I'd throw away the cars and the bars and the wars  
Tell you I love you**

***Refrain***

You know I love West Parish  
With Pastors' both Christie and Reed  
I got a free name tag and there's a song I can sing  
And I always get what I need  
It's a really good place to be....singin!

*Refrain*

Joy to the world  
All the boys and girls  
Joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea  
Joy to you and me  
Joy to you and me  
Joy to you and me

WELCOME

Pastor Christie

*One: Welcome to this old Meetinghouse. Welcome back old friends and welcome new folks. Today we will lift our hearts and voices in hope as we continue on our Advent journey with joy. May you hear God still speaking in the ways in which we love. May we find joy bubbling up in our lives and in those we meet. Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Hello, I'm Pastor Christie, here's Pastor Reed, here's Steve our musician, 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

Advent summons us

**With the exuberant hopefulness of a child.**

Advent holds us spellbound with child-like wonder.

**Advent challenges us to care for the littlest child.**

Advent amazes us, for God was made known in a tiny child.

A PRAYER

**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, O Promised One,  
As we travel through this time of Advent  
Awaiting your presence.**

**Give us wisdom to see meaning in these busy days.**

**Give us courage to wait in times of pain and trouble.**

**Give us the compassion to wait for one another.**

**Give us the faith to wait for the Messiah**

**When we are threatened by the Herods of the world.**

**Give us the hope to wait for the Savior**

**Even when we can't hear the angels singing.**

**Give us the love that does not wait**

**When it meets Christ in our neighbor.**

**Amen.**

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

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING by Maren Tirabassi

I 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.

**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.

**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.** (Howard Thurman)

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS

*Text to Give instructions are on page 9.*

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.)

INVITATION

On the day of his resurrection, Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, but they did not recognize him. Later while he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. May Christ's presence be made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

# Enjoy this life.

## PRAYER OF COMMUNION

**Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love. Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began; your ancient love still touches us and stirs within us. Even when we turn away from you, you keep faith in us. You send your messenger to prepare the way through the wilderness of our living, to guide us in the path of wholeness, to call us to repent. In Mary, a woman of your promise, you showed us courage and faith; in the fullness of time, you sent us your greatest gift, Jesus, the Christ, our prince of peace and herald of hope. So it is that we join the Advent prayer of all your people, “O come, Emmanuel.” And as we wait and watch for your coming, we proclaim your goodness. Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

(We offer a covid-safe communion cup and wafer system of grape juice and cracker.)

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.”*

## UNISON 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      *It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas*      Meredith Wilson

**Reject racism.**

SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Luke 3:7-18

MEDITATION

*Joy Can't Wait*

Rev. Christine Burns

### GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG #134

*Joy to the World!*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let earth her songs employ;  
let fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**



## WORDS OF SENDING

Be people of joy.

Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet.

Share joy by seeing the good in each other.

Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come.

Share joy by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share joy.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share joy, peace, and hope with those you meet. Amen.



## SONG OF SENDING

Go In Peace

Rob Leveridge

**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 by appointment at Nirvana Coffee shop in Barnstable Village or Snowy Owl in Sandwich. Call, text, or email her for an appointment. 508-494-6409 [associatepastor@westparish.org](mailto:associatepastor@westparish.org)



by recycling this bulletin.

### Text to Give!

We are excited to announce that West Parish is now accepting donations via text! It's easy:

1. Text 508-593-7761 (the give-by-text number for West Parish) and in the body of the message enter the amount you wish to donate and send.
2. You will receive a registration link. Click on it and enter your contact and payment information, and then press "Process."
3. After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text and receipt via email.

You only need to register and set up your payment information once.

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.

Add "West Parish Give by Text" as a contact on your phone to make it even easier!

### Church Staff

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher

Donna Murphy, Music Director

Kristen Lind, Family School Director

Wendy Northcross, Council Chair

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor

Susan McEwen, Office Administrator

Fred Clausen, Sexton

Susan Moeller, Deacons Chair

Box 219, West Barnstable, MA 02668

Tel. No. 362-4445

Fax No. 375-6431

E-mail: [contact@westparish.org](mailto:contact@westparish.org)

Web address: [www.westparish.org](http://www.westparish.org)

**The Week of December 11, 2021**

<b>Saturday</b>	12/11/21	4:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sunday</b>	12/12/21	10:00 am	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	12/13/21	5:00 pm	AA (J)
<b>Tuesday</b>	12/14/21	9:30 am	FS Science (J)
		10:30 am	FS Science (J)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
		6:30 pm	Study Group (G)
<b>Wednesday</b>	12/15/21	9:30 am	FS Science (J)
		10:30 am	FS Science (J)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
<b>Thursday</b>	12/16/21		<b>Rooster Crows Articles Due</b>
		9:15 am	FS Science (J)
		1:00 pm	Bridge Group (G)
		4:00 pm	Rouillard Wedding (M)
		4:30 pm	Rouillard Reception (J)
		5:00 pm	AA (M)
		7:00 pm	AA (M)
<b>Friday</b>	12/17/21	9:30 am	FS Science (J)
		10:30 am	FS Science (J)
		10:30 am	Knitting Group (G)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
		6:30 pm	Steve Gregory (J)
<b>Saturday</b>	12/18/21	4:30 pm	Worship

# 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**

