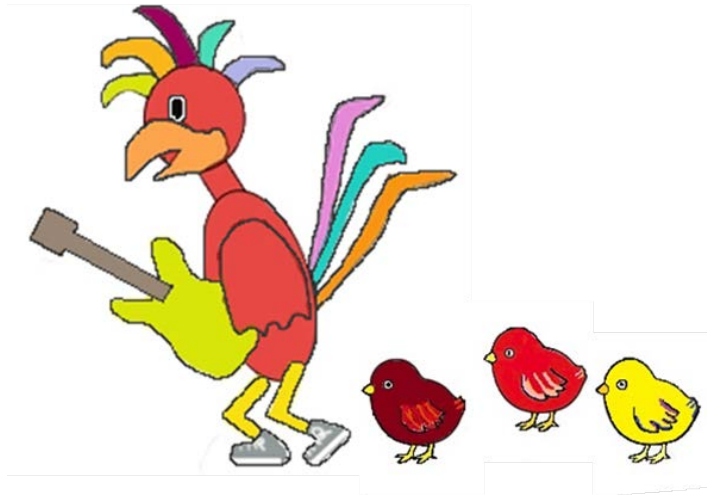


It's Saturday



Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 18, 2021

4:30 p.m.

BE THE CHURCH

Fight for the powerless.

ADVENT LOVE

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.'" Luke 1:46-49

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 #132 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and adore him, born the King of angels;**

Refrain

**O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

Refrain

**Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?**

Refrain

**Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Eternal, now in flesh appearing;**

Refrain

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 love. We remember the power and strength of Mary who said yes to God and boldly called forth in her Magnificat. She knew that she would carry the Son of God in her womb. May we be inspired by the love and power of Mary this week and all year long. 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

God is making great changes to our world. Are you ready to take part?

We have come to do God's will: to work for justice, to bring balance back to our living.

God is making great changes to our world. Are you ready to take part?

We have come to do God's will: to seek and celebrate God's will: to seek and celebrate God's surprising love, to establish God's realm here on Earth.

Come let us worship God, who comes into our world to reconcile and make things new.

A PRAYER

Loving God, as the prophet Mary tells us,
You sent Jesus into the world to turn things upside down and right side up.
As we remember the message of Jesus:
To work for justice and fairness,
To bring balance to our living,
To share your love with all people,
And to make your reign become real here on earth.
We pray in Jesus' name. 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 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.*

**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 11.

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 #135 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**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!

**Shepherd 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 new-born King.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!



MAGNIFICAT RESPONSIVE LITURGY

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed in a loud voice, "Blessed are you who believe!"

Sing praise to the God who brings justice and joy.

The God of Justice calls us together and looks with favor on us.

Sing praise to the God who brings justice and joy.

The Mighty One is doing great things among us.

Sing praise to the God who brings justice and joy.

There is good news for the hungry in this place.

Sing praise to the God who brings justice and joy.

The poor will be lifted up.

Sing praise to the God who brings justice and joy.

The promise of God is alive in us.

Sing praise to the God who brings justice and joy.

MEDITATION

The Revolutionary Love of Mary

Rev. Christine Burns

GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG #137

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the ever-lasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise all souls on earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born King!"**

WORDS OF SENDING

Wrap yourself in your arms.

Feel your warmth—that life within you;

Feel your chest fill with air as you breathe—that life within you;

Feel your heartbeat softly thudding—that life within you.

Go now into the world,

Knowing the life God has placed within you.

It is a reason for hope;

God's promise is alive in you.

God's love is breathing in you

And the world is changing with each and every breath you take.

Go, and birth Jesus in your world, that all may be turned upside down-and right-side up.



Love God.

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



by recycling this bulletin.

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

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E-mail: contact@westparish.org

Web address: www.westparish.org

Text to Give!

We are excited to announce that West Parish is now accepting donations via text!

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!

The Week of December 18, 2021			
Saturday	12/18/21	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	12/19/21	10:00 am	Worship
Monday	12/20/21	12:45 pm	Music Lessons (M)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
		7:00 pm	Zoom Book Club
Tuesday	12/21/21	2:45 pm	FS Christmas Show (J)
		5:00 pm	Voices at Christmas (M)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
		6:30 pm	Study Group (G)
		7:00 pm	Finance (J)
Wednesday	12/22/21	5:00 pm	AA (J)
		6:15 pm	Handbells (M)
Thursday	12/23/21	1:00 pm	Bridge Group (G)
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
		7:00 pm	AA (J)
Friday	12/24/21		Office Closed
		4:30 pm	Candlelight Service
		5:00 pm	AA (J)
		8:00 pm	Candlelight Service
Saturday	12/25/21		Merry Christmas!

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**

