

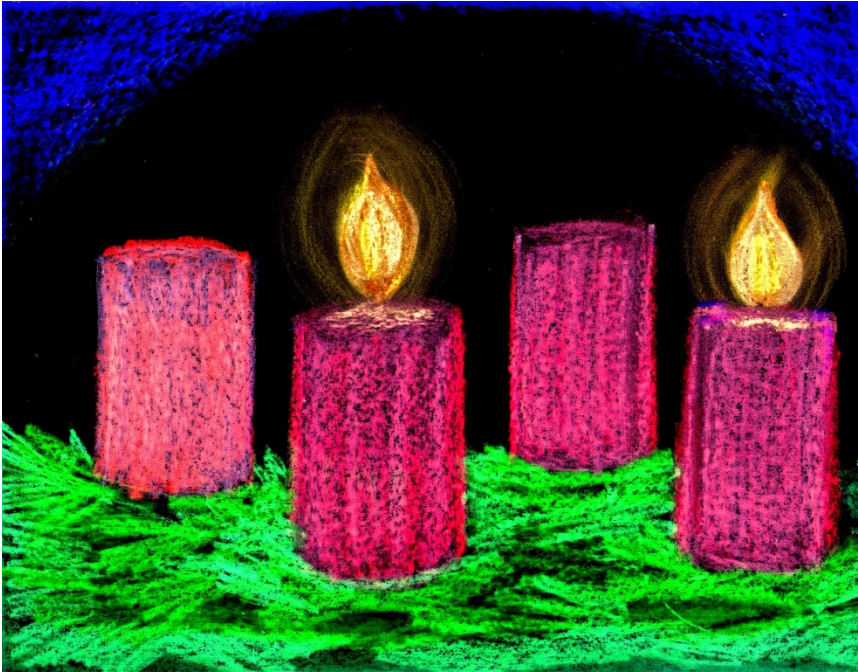
West Parish of Barnstable

Gathered in London 1616 - Present Meetinghouse Erected in 1717

A Church in the Congregational Tradition

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

West Barnstable, Massachusetts



THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

2nd Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2022

10:00 a.m.

“Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human.”
Philippians 2: 5-7 (The Message)

All are invited to stay for the full service today.

Church School is offered for the children at our 4:30 Saturday contemporary service.

OUR STATEMENT OF WELCOME

As a congregation which covenants to walk together in Christian love,
believes that all persons are created equal before God,
and affirms the inclusive love of Jesus Christ,
we welcome to our work and worship all people
regardless of race, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation,
ability, or economic circumstance.

Adopted at Annual Meeting, June 26, 2005

GOD GATHERS US

WELCOME

Pastor Reed Baer

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

One: I will wait for the sky to clear.

Two: I will wait for the plot to thicken.

One: I will wait for vacation to arrive.

Two: I will wait for snow to fall.

One: I will wait for dinner to be ready.

Two: I will wait for you to be confident.

One: I will wait for my child to walk.

Two: I will wait for the leaves to change.

One: I will wait for the dust to settle.

Two: I will wait for the lab results.

One: I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

Two: I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for peace.

One: This world is rampant with division, walls, grudge-holding, and self-doubt.

Two: I do not want to be a passive bystander in this division.

One: We do not want to be passive bystanders in this division.

Two: So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder that we have a role to play.

One: May the desire to sow peace kindle in us like a light in the darkness. Amen.

The second candle of Advent is lit

*HYMN #140 (Red)

"What Child Is This?"

GREENSLEEVES

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Associate Pastor Christie Burns

One: Prepare the way!

Many: Deck the halls and light the candles!

One: Prepare the way!

Many: Open the doors and sing a song of hope and peace.

One: Prepare the way!

Many: Make space in our hearts for a new kind of love.

One: Christ is coming!

Many: Prepare the way!

PRELUDE

A Rose Is Gently Blooming

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897), Op.122, No. 8

UNISON PRAYER

Ever-gifting God, you have sent us Jesus.

As Mary and Joseph came to Bethlehem long ago, seeking a home in which to bear love into the world, so we come this morning, seeking a home that Christ might be born anew in us.

Fill us, we pray, with the love Jesus brings, with a love that fulfills itself in acts of generosity of heart, which embrace a world in need.

We pray in the name of the One who came to us as a babe in the manger, Jesus Christ, praying together . . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

The Everlasting Light Phillips Brooks/Nancy Raabe

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2: 5-8

SOLO

I Know Now Ray Hildebrand/arr. Tom Fettke

MESSAGE "Christmas ABCs - Leaving Heavenly Mansions, He Came to Our House"

Pastor Reed

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS

*HYMN #122 (Red)

"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

GOD REST YOU MERRY

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO PRAYER

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*In thanksgiving to God and giving witness to generous hearts,
our financial gifts support our ministries here and in the wider community.
Text to Give instructions are on the back page.*

OFFERTORY

Shepherd's Pastorale

Roger C. Wilson

*SONG OF PRAISE

**All praise, eternal Christ, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE BREAD AND CUP ARE SHARED

Our service of communion is open to all seeking Christ's presence.
We will celebrate communion by intinction; come forward, take a piece of the bread,
dip it into the cup, and consume it on the way back to your seat.

If you would prefer to be served where you sit,
raise your hand and the deacons will come to you.

For those who prefer, please take the packaged communion-to-go.
(We offer a gluten-free, wheat-free alternative – in the plastic bags – for those whose diet so
requires. We serve cranberry juice out of respect for those who cannot consume alcohol.)

INVITATION

PRAYER OF COMMUNION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, for the life we have received, we thank you God. Grant that what we have done and have been given here may so put its mark on us, that it may remain always in our hearts. Grant that we may grow in Christian love and understanding, and that ours may be lives of faithful action, in Christ's name. Amen.

GOD SENDS US FORTH

*HYMN #134 (Red)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

A LITANY OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT (From the New Century Hymnal, adapted)

One: In that classic carol, we sing “yet in the dark street shineth the everlasting light.”

Tower Side: We, too, wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully.

Choir Room Side: The darkness is our friend. In the darkness of the womb, we have all been nurtured and protected. In the darkness of the womb, the Christ-child was made ready for the journey into light.

All: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

Tower Side: It is only in the darkness that we can see the splendor of the universe – blankets of stars, the solitary glowings of distant planets.

Choir Room Side: It was the darkness that allowed the Magi to find the star that guided them to where the Christ-child lay.

All: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

Tower Side: In the darkness of the night, desert peoples find relief from the cruel, relentless heat of the sun.

Choir Room Side: In the blessed desert darkness, Mary and Joseph were able to flee with the infant Jesus to safety in Egypt.

All: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

Tower Side: In the darkness of sleep, we are soothed and restored, healed and renewed.

Choir Room Side: In the darkness of sleep, dreams rise up. God spoke to Jacob and Joseph through dreams. God is speaking still.

All: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

Tower Side: In the solitude of darkness, we sometimes remember those who need God's presence in a special way – the sick, the unemployed, the bereaved, the persecuted, the homeless, those who are demoralized and discouraged, those whose fear has turned to cynicism, those whose vulnerability has become bitterness.

Choir Room Side: Sometimes in the darkness, we remember those who are near to our hearts – colleagues, partners, parents, children, neighbors, friends. We thank God for their presence and ask God to bless and protect them in all that they do – at home, at school, as they travel, as they work, as they play.

All: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

Tower Side: Sometimes, in the solitude of darkness, our fears and concerns, our hopes and our visions rise to the surface. We come face to face with ourselves and with the road that lies ahead of us. And in that same darkness, we find companionship for the journey.

Choir Room Side: In that same darkness, we sometimes allow ourselves to wonder and worry whether the human race is going to survive.

All: We know that you are with us, O God, and yet we still await your coming. In the darkness that contains both our hopelessness and our expectancy, we watch for a sign of God's hope. Amen.

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above - *Vom Himmel hoch*, 1539

Wilbur Held

(It is our custom to remain seated in silence during the Postlude)

* All who wish, please stand.

PRAYER LIST

*May the presence of Jesus Christ be with those on our prayer list and with those who care for them.
The prayers of the congregation are asked for:*

Peter Abraham (Rich's brother)
Karolina Atsalis (friend of the Abrahams)
Margaret and Bill Brummel (Roger Henson's sister and brother-in-law)
Josephine Bugryn (Joy Indomenico's sister)
Faith Clark (sister of Rik Clark)
Ellen Davis
Judy Desrochers
Betsy Eidem (friend of Carol Allen)
Jay Griffin (Peggie Bretz' brother)
Sharon Griffin (Peggie Bretz' sister-in-law)
Christine Hayes (Stepmother of Lauren Abraham)
Mike Hovan (friend of Dan Enos)
Jason (nephew of Joy Indomenico)
J.P. Joakim (Joyce Joakim's son)
Martha Lant (sister-in-law of Peggie Bretz)
Marisa Lonkart (Georgia's daughter-in-law)
Nancy Opp (friend of Bobbie Jordan)
Jack Parmer (friend of Carol Allen)
Joan Perry
Sylvia Powers (friend of Barbara Rogers)
Savannah (friend of Sharon and John Hunt)
Sophie (Joyce Joakim's sister in law)
Marilyn Swain (Janet Joakim's aunt)
Alexis Teixeira (cousin of Barbara Walsh)
Mary-Ann Tu
Steve and Heather Walker (friends of Sharon and John Hunt)
Barbara Walsh
Nancy Walsh, John Kolf and Jake McGuire (friend of the Hensons and her grandson)
Joanne Wastrom (wife of former 1717 Trustee Bob Wastrom and friend of Donna & Tripp Grohe)
Tom & Rhys White (Bruce and Pat White's family)
Lee Williams (mother of Tripp Grohe's friend, Mark Williams)
Nancy Woodman (friend of Marianne Williams)

Please notify the church office (508-362-4445) of any additions, deletions or changes you wish to make.

The Week of December 4, 2022

Sunday	12/4/22	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship Village Tree Lighting & Carol Sing
Monday	12/5/22	11:30 am 5:00 pm	Christie's Coffee Hours at Bread + Roses AA (J)
Tuesday	12/6/22	9:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 1:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:15 pm	FS Science (J) FS Science (J) Music Lessons (M) Choir Rehearsal (M) AA (J) Handbells (M)
Wednesday	12/7/22	9:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) FS Science (J) Bible Study (G & Z) AA (J)
Thursday	12/8/22	1:00 pm 5:00 pm	Brisde Group (G) AA (J)
Friday	12/9/22	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) FS Science (J) Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
Saturday	12/10/22	1:00 pm 4:30 pm	Peter Jenkins Funeral (M) Worship
Sunday	12/11/22	10:00 am	Worship

Key: FS = Family School; G = Guild Room; J = Jenkins Hall; M = Meetinghouse; Z = Zoom

- ♦ **Please join us for Coffee Hour over in Jenkins Hall after the service.** Our hosts today are Peggie Bretz and Georgia Lonkart.
- ♦ **The flowers gracing the Meetinghouse today** were given by Sharon and Bob Wyman in celebration of their wedding anniversary. They were arranged by Sharon Wyman.
- ♦ **The Flower Calendar is full!** Thank you to all who have sponsored the flower arrangements this year. A new calendar will be posted soon.
- ♦ **The Coffee Hour sign up** is on the kiosk in Jenkins. If you can spare a little of your time to help with preparing and serving at our Sunday *Coffee Hour* it would be greatly appreciated. It's a wonderful way to socialize with old friends and to make new ones. Thank you.



Christmas Poinsettias

Sponsor our Christmas Poinsettias!

The plants are on order to grace the Meetinghouse during the Christmas season.

Use this form and drop it off or mail it with \$ 12.00 (cash or check) by Dec. 11th to Susan in the church office or P.O. Box 219, W. Barnstable, MA 02668

Donor _____

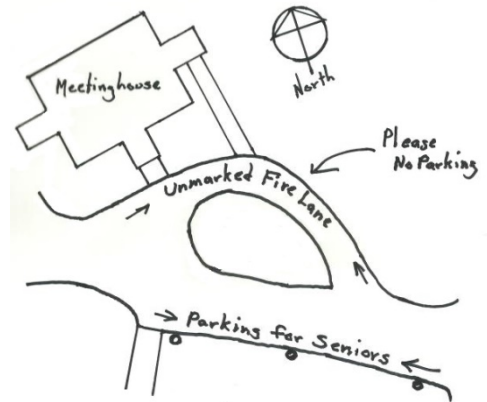
Dedication to read: In memory / honor / celebration of

(please print)

The plants will be available to take after the Worship service on Sunday, January 1, 2023.

We ask your cooperation in protecting the 1717 Meetinghouse by not parking your vehicle in or alongside the teardrop closest to the Meetinghouse. Although it is not marked, it is a FIRE LANE and preserves clear access to the Meetinghouse for Emergency Vehicles.

However, more parking is available. At least three, maybe four, spaces can be used on the west side of the Tear Drop for those with mobility issues.



Text to Give

If you haven't tried it out, it's easy:

1. Text 866-586-0169 (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, enter your contact and payment information 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!

If you have questions or would like help setting it up, see Marianne Williams.

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
Joseph Findlay, Sexton
Roberta Jordan, Deacons Chair

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