

It's Saturday



Let's Do Church!

WEST PARISH OF BARNSTABLE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 9, 2023

4:30 p.m.

BE THE CHURCH

Fight for the powerless.

Advent 2: Peace

“As he preached he said, ‘The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will change your life. I’m baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism - a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit - will change you from the inside out.’” Mark 1:7-8

“There is no way to peace along the way of safety. For peace must be dared. It is itself the great venture and can never safe. Peace is the opposite of security. To demand guarantees is to want to protect oneself. Peace means giving oneself completely to God’s commandment.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

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 echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

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 Pastor Reed is here, and we have Steve Gregory as our musician with Bob Moscato, 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

OPENING PRAYER

**Blessed are we, the fearful,
Though we long to be people of peace.
We can't lie:
We are afraid.**

**Afraid there won't be enough -
Enough resources,
Enough time,
Enough memories.**

**Blessed are we who ask you for wisdom,
Show us what to turn from,
What to set aside.
Come Lord, what we might
See you,
Move with you,
Keep pace with you.**

**Blessed are we who ask that this Advent
We might dwell together quietly in our homes.
Come, Lord, that we might be for others
The peace they cannot find.**

**Blessed are we who look to you and say,
God, truly we are troubled and afraid.
Come govern our hearts and calm our fears.**

**Oh Prince of Peace,
Still our restless selves,
Calm our anxious hearts,
Quiet our busy minds.
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



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Maren Tirabassi

The Second Saturday in Advent - Peace

Invitation

We come to the second week of the season of Advent and gather around a wreath to light candles. The wreath reminds us of the circle of our human community and the lights illuminate the many ways in which we bring ourselves to the Incarnation, God's longed-for presence among us - human and holy, Emmanuel - God with us and God coming to us.

Scripture (Luke 2: 11-14)

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth, good will to all!

Lighting the Candles and Illuminating the Places of Peace

Light the first purple candle and gently touch the Bible

We light this candle for the Christmas story that shines hope on our lives.

Light the second purple candle

We light this candle to shine on the places that bring us peace, including this church, and the places and people that need peace this day.

Naming our places of peace

The Advent season reminds us that God chooses real places to meet us. Our hopes and fears met, not in the clouds, but in the little town of Bethlehem. We renew our peace in very real places - from a grandmother's kitchen, to a seashore, from a decorated urban street to a snowy backyard.

Please name aloud some of the places you find peace ...

(let people name these aloud)

We pray for personal peace, community peace, global peace.

Please name aloud some of the places for which we pray ...

(let people name these aloud)

Unison Prayer

Emmanuel, we find peace in places near and far, expected and unexpected. Help us in this Advent season to pray for peace in our lives, our relationships, our communities, and our world. Amen.

A TIME FOR CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

A SONG OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS

We now accept Venmo, instructions can be found in the back of the bulletin.

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

Friends, Jesus invites us to share in this joyful feast!

**“People will come from the east and west,
From north and south,
And take their places at the banquet in the kingdom of God.”**

CALL TO GIVE THANKS

The Spirit of the Lord is among us!

The poor hear Good News!



PRAYER OF COMMUNION

Children: Why do we give thanks at this table?

We give thanks because God is with us.

We thank you, God, Creator of us all;

From the beginning you made the world and all its creatures.

You made people to live for you and for one another.

We praise you, O God.

Jesus came as one of us,

First an infant, then a child,

Later a youth, then an adult.

He rejoiced with those who rejoiced,

And wept with those who wept.

To the despairing, he spoke a word of hope.

To the sick, he gave healing.

To the hurting he was a friend.

Still, people turned away from him.

They betrayed Jesus and nailed him to a cross.

But he was lifted from the grave and restored to life,

That he might be with us and we with him, for evermore.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Children: Why do we eat bread at this table?

We gather at this table to remember that on the night before he died, Jesus ate with friends, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me.”

Children: Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

That same night, Jesus also took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: **“Drink. This cup, poured out for you, is the promise of God. Whenever you drink it, remember me.”**

Children: What do we remember at this table?

We remember Jesus’ death and celebrate his resurrection;
We await with hope his coming again to bring peace and justice to the earth and we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The gifts of God, for the people of God. All things have now been made ready.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, God of peace and promise.

Through the words of your prophets

And the faith of your followers

You prepare the way of our redemption

And bring hope to birth.

And though we often grow weary of waiting,

Your signs call us to keep watch for that day

When all things shall be made new.

In assurance of this hope,

We join with all the company of heaven and earth

To give you praise.

Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED



SPECIAL SONG

Peace On Earth / Little Drummer Boy

B. Kohen and D. Bowie



SACRED WORDS FOR SACRED SPACE

Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8

MEDITATION

Peace Must Be Dared

Rev. Christie Burns

GOD SENDS US FORTH



CLOSING SONG

Let There be Peace On Earth

Green # 512

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

WORDS OF SENDING

God who leads by a Star,
Show us the direction to Bethlehem.
Lead us to the place where love is to be born in our lives.
Give us signs along the road as we make our journey,
That we may follow in your way. Amen.

Love God.

SONG OF SENDING

Go In Peace

Sam Baker
Featuring Allen Nelson

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.



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. 12th
to Susan in the church office or P.O. Box 219, W. Barnstable, MA 02668

Donor(s): _____

Dedication to read: In memory / honor / celebration of

(please print)

The plants will be available to take after worship on Sunday, December 31, 2023.

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 Bread and Roses in Hyannis. Call, text, or email her 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”, just note that in the description.

Church Staff

Reed Baer, Pastor and Teacher
Donna Murphy, Music Director
Kristen Lind, Family School Director
Susan Moeller, Council Chair

Christine Burns, Associate Pastor
Susan McEwen, Office Administrator
Chris Haven, Sexton
Bobbie Jordan, Deacons Chair

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contact@westparish.org www.westparish.org

The week of December 9, 2023

Saturday	12/9/23	4:30 pm	Worship
Sunday	12/10/23	10:00 am 4:00 pm	Worship Holiday Uke Festival (M)
Monday	12/11/23	5:00 pm	AA (J)
Tuesday	12/12/23	10:00 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (M) Music Lessons (M) AA (J) Handbells (M)
Wednesday	12/13/23	9:15 am 12:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	FS Science (J) Bible Study (G & Z) FS Board (G & Z) AA (J) Women in the Spirit @ 8 Earl Rd. E. Sandwich
Thursday	12/14/23	8:00 am 9:15 am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Rooster Crows Articles Due Men's Breakfast @ Jack's Out Back FS Science (J) Foundation (G) AA (J)
Friday	12/15/23	9:15 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	FS Science (J) Knitting Group (G) AA (J)
Saturday	12/16/23	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**

