

WELCOME to worship at United Church of Christ in Norwell. Whether you are a member or affiliate member of our church, a frequent attendee, or a first time visitor, we are truly glad you are here and invite you to participate in the many opportunities for worship, growth and service. We hope you will find your time here to be meaningful and the congregation welcoming. At the conclusion of the postlude, please join us for conversation and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

LISTENING DEVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, AND LARGE PRINT HYMNALS ARE AVAILABLE. An usher or deacon would be happy to assist you with any of these needs. A CD of this morning's service will be available for \$2.00 in the sound room (back left corner of the sanctuary), or you may borrow a copy through the church library.

The Deacons today are Bibsy O'Donoghue and Ella Segall.

The flowers on the pedestal are given by Carolyn and Kenneth Tatarian in appreciation of this faithful and caring UCC family.

Child care for infants through grade two is available downstairs in rooms 10 and 7.

Activity bags are available for children to use in the library (a Deacon or usher can direct assist you). Audio of the worship service can be heard in the library as well. Please note that a parent must remain with their child(ren) in the library to supervise them.

"Prayer Chairs" (with prayer shawls on them) are located in the back right corner of the sanctuary. You are invited to come to them any time during our service. A prayer partner from our Healing and Wholeness Ministry Team will lay hands on your shoulders and *silently* pray for you. You do not need to tell them your specific prayer concern, unless you choose to do so.

Parking notes: The front driveway and rear parking lot have reserved spaces for handicapped parking. Also, some members require easier access through the front door. Please save the entire front driveway and marked spaces in back for those who really need them.

Flower donations: A sign-up calendar is located in Fellowship Hall *on the bulletin board near the doorway to the elevator and back stairs*. You will receive a form a few weeks before the date you have signed up for inquiring about details for your donation (flowers cost \$35).

Allergy Alert! - We have children in our church community who have life-threatening allergies to nuts and eggs. Did you know that a simple smear of peanut butter (*or the oils not washed away with soap*) can cause a child to stop breathing within 1-2 minutes? (Anti-bacterial wipes or instant hand sanitizers *do not* take care of the problem.) Thank you for your help!

There will be no Church School or Youth Groups on New Year's Day.

Church School for Children and Youth: (Pre-K through 12th grade) meets at 9:00am downstairs. Our "Happenings..." faith formation group for 9th-12th grades meets in room 1.

Youth Groups: Both groups meet Sunday evenings downstairs in room 1, as follows:

4:00-5:30pm Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8)

6:00-7:30pm Senior High Youth Group (grades 9-12)

The Memory Lane Singers' Schedule: Join us and help spread joy on these Mondays, 2-3pm. Bring your friends! *No singing experience necessary!* Call Kay Spurr, 781-545-6405, if you have questions:

Norwell Royal: January 9, February 6

Scituate Life Care: January 16

Scituate Cardigan: January 23



United Church of Christ, Congregational
An Open and Affirming Church

Ministers to the World
Ministers to the Congregation

All the Congregation
All the Staff

January 1, 2017

NEW YEAR'S DAY

10:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

CALL OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Leanne Walt

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

Bob McGee

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Psalm 148)

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

All: Praise him, all his angels; praise him all his host!

One: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

All: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

One: Let us praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and all was created!

All: Let us all together, praise the name of the Lord. for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***HYMN**

#164 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Holy and loving God,

Our lives are so crowded and rushed, that even our holy days and vacations can leave little room for searching thought and prayer. We admit, that even though we are surrounded with abundance, we continue to search for something more; forgetting that all we need is found in you. Forgive us for those moments in which we get so caught up in the things of this world that we become insensitive to the wonder and awe found in the presence of your Holy Spirit. Help us to see your eternal Source of "light and holy joy" in each

other and in all that surrounds us. Help us to see the holy in all that you have created. Grant this we pray.
Through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

ANTHEM *Joy to the World* G.F. Handel;
Arr. Frank Kuykendall

We Receive God's Word

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 21-38

SERMON *I Wonder as I Wander* Anne Marie Holloway

***HYMN** #159 *There's a Song in the Air* CHRISTMAS SONG

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response (all) #163 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* v. 1 W ZLOBIE LEZY

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all!

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR RESOURCES

Offertory *Behold That Star* Spiritual; Arr. H.T. Burleigh
David Won, solo

Please sign and pass the Red Book (in aisle seats) so we may greet each other by name. If you are with us for the first time, please add your contact information.

*Doxology Greensleeves
So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

*Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Consecration

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine.

People: Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and that we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

(Gluten-free is available at center station. Grape juice, not wine, is served to all.)

***THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)** Hand in Hand

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***HYMN** #170 *How Great Our Joy!* v. 1, 2, 4 JUNGST

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *The Old Year Has Passed Away* David Johnson
Tim Steele, organ

(Please remain seated and enjoy the Postlude music.)

*Standing to praise God

The corn husk angel on the evergreen tree in the Sanctuary (with the doves) is from Candelaria de la Frontera, El Salvador. The angel was a gift to UCC Norwell upon the November Habitat for Humanity trip. Women in the village of Candelaria de la Frontera make these angels as part of an entrepreneurship training program to help them improve their lives and living conditions.

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We are a Christ-centered inclusive community called to ministry.