

***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 Larry Howell and Bob Hawk.

The flowers on the pedestal today are given in memory of Ryan Patrick Murphy, Gail O'Toole's son.

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!

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:

Scituate Cardigan: Nov. 28, Dec. 12

Norwell Royal: Dec. 5

Scituate Life Care: Dec. 19



United Church of Christ, Congregational
An Open and Affirming Church

Ministers to the World
Ministers to the Congregation

All the Congregation
All the Staff

November 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

CALL OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Deborah Spratley

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *Christ, Be Our Light*

Bernadette Farrell;
Arr. Joel Raney

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Almighty God, as we begin this Advent season, remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace, to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Make us ready to receive your Son. Slow our pace, and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits. We ask this in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING *The Promise of Hope*

Elise Burke, Lily Holloway, Ella Segall

***HYMN**

#129 *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* v.1,3,4

TRURO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Anne Marie Holloway

Waiting God, It is never easy for us to confess our sins. There are the hurts we have caused to others which we would like to forget. There are those whom we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are those who live on the edge of our society, and we turn a deaf ear to their cries for help. Forgive us, God. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Hear now the silent confessions of our hearts....

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God does not remember our sins, but does remember the promises He has made to us. God does not shame us, but lifts us to new life. God, lead us in hope as we await Christ's coming again and during that time we live freed from our sin in Christ's name. Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *Christmas Is Coming* Joel Raney

We Receive God's Word

SCRIPTURE Matthew 24: 36-44

SERMON *Waiting: A Time of Turmoil* Rev. Deborah Spratley

***HYMN** #136 *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming* v.1,2 *PLEADING SAVIOR*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Anne Marie Holloway

Response (all) #128 *One Candle Is Lit* v.1 *CRADLE SONG*
Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR RESOURCES

Offertory *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* Arr. Larry Shackley
 Karen Harvey, piano

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** *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore:
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN H.O.P.E. Puppet Ministry

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

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
 People: **And also with you**

***HYMN** #119 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* v.1,2,4 *VENI EMMANUEL*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates* Arr. Wilbur Held
 Karen Harvey, organ

(Please remain seated and enjoy the Postlude music.)

*Standing to praise God



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