

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 Cathy Huycke.

The flowers on the pedestal today are given in loving thanks and honor to our wonderful choirs, musicians, helpers and Karen Harvey, who, every year, bring the sounds and joy with the message of Christ's birth. May it bring peace and hope to all who hear!

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:

Norwell Royal: Dec. 5

Scituate Cardigan: Dec. 12

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

December 4, 2016

First Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

CALL OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Leanne Walt

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING *The Promise of Peace*

Nicole Bliss and Carol Thornell
David Won and Jerry Thornell

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *Christ, Be Our Light* Bernadette Farrell;
Arr. Joel Raney

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.
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

***HYMN** #142 *People Look East* **BESANÇON**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) Anne Marie Holloway

Lord have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming.
You have sent us prophets and we have not listened.
We worship at the altars of materialism and pride.
We do not live in peace with your creation or your people.
Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise,
For the sake of the One who proclaims the good news
And for the sake of all the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

ANTHEM *Comfort Ye; Every Valley* George F. Handel
David Won, tenor

We Receive God's Word

SCRIPTURE Matthew 3: 1-12

SERMON *The Gift of Waiting: Living in the Now* Rev. Leanne Walt

***HYMN** #122 *Comfort, Comfort You My People* GENEVA 42

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Anne Marie Holloway

Response (all) #128 *One Candle Is Lit* v.2 CRADLE SONG
*Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR RESOURCES

Offertory *Come with Us to Bethlehem* James Green/
Valerie Crescenz

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

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

***HYMN** #125 *Come, O Long-expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Prepare the Way* 14th c. Swedish Folk Tune;
Karen Harvey, organ Arr. James Mansfield

(Please remain seated and enjoy the Postlude music.)

*Standing to praise God



Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Leanne S. Walt ❖ lwalt@uccnorwell.org, phone ext. 12 ❖ Interim Pastor
Rev. Deborah Spratley ❖ dspratley@uccnorwell.org, ext. 11 ❖ Associate Pastor
Cathy Benedict ❖ cbenedict@uccnorwell.org, ext. 25 ❖ Minister of Children's Education
Diana Dunphy ❖ contact through Debbie in church office ❖ Office Assistant
Karen Harvey ❖ kharvey@uccnorwell.org, ext. 16 ❖ Minister of Music
Anne Marie Holloway ❖ amholloway@uccnorwell.org, ext 28 ❖ Minister of Youth Education
Scott MacPherson ❖ contact through Debbie in church office ❖ Property Manager
Leanne Martin ❖ Child Care Coordinator
Heather McDevitt ❖ Child Care Coordinator
Jerry Thornell ❖ jthornell@uccnorwell.org, ext. 21 ❖ Executive Minister
Debbie Wheeler ❖ office@uccnorwell.org, ext. 10 ❖ Minister of Parish Life
Danielle Biggins ❖ newnurserydirector@gmail.com, 781-659-2535 ❖ The New Nursery School

P. O. Box 501, 460 Main Street, Norwell, MA 02061 ❖ (781) 659-2887
www.uccnorwell.org ❖ email: office@uccnorwell.org

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