

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 Cathy Huycke and Janet Johnson.

The flowers on the pedestal today are given by Diane and Joe Jordan in loving memory of their son, Frederick Jordan.

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: Dec. 12, January 23

Scituate Life Care: Dec. 19, January 16

Norwell Royal: January 9, February 6



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 11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

CALL OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Deborah Spratley

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The Promise of Joy

Sue Jevne Will Larson

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

Christ, Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell;

Arr. Joel Raney

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.
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

Leader: Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God and our spirits rejoice in you.

All: We will praise you as long as we live. We will sing praises to you our whole lives long. We will not trust in the powerful of this world, but will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth,

Leader: the One who gives food to the hungry, the One who enacts justice for the oppressed. Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

All: We come to worship you in the light of the candles of hope, joy and peace.

*HYMN

#153 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* v. 1,2,4

CAROL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Anne Marie Holloway

God, in this season of sales, shopping, and stress, we confess how easy it is to slip off your path. We are so focused on having good times, we forget to do good for your people. We find Jesus Christ an uncomfortable fit for our lives. We may be jealous over gifts others receive, yet have trouble accepting the gift of peace you offer so freely. Forgive us. Help us walk the streets of your kingdom, being alert for the signs of your grace and hope in our midst. Teach us your ways of peace and reconciliation, that we may truly live as the disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...

(silent time of reflection)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

ANTHEM *A Little Child Shall Lead Them* John Purifoy

We Receive God's Word

SCRIPTURE Luke 1: 39-45, 56

SERMON *Waiting: A Time for Compassion* Rev. Deborah Spratley

***HYMN** #160 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* *ES IST EIN ROS*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Anne Marie Holloway

Response (all) #128 *One Candle Is Lit v.3* *CRADLE SONG*
Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR RESOURCES

Offertory *Noël* Michael Helman
Celestial Ringers Brad Moses, bass

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 Baptism

Isaac Michael Chicko

Son of Amy Chicko and Christopher Pollini
Grandson of church member Joanna Chicko

Godparents: Frank Chicko, Todd Chicko, Dr. Brett Chicko, Zena DeBarros

Invitation

Vows of the Parents

Vows of the Community of Faith

Deacon: Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care to Isaac.

Pouring of the Water

Prayer of Consecration

Act of Baptism

Prayer for the Baptized

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

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***HYMN** #155 *Angels We Have Heard on High* v. 1-3 *GLORIA*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Finale on "Wake, Awake"* *WACHET AUF*
Karen Harvey, organ Arr. Wayne Wold

(Please remain seated and enjoy the Postlude music.)

*Standing to praise God



Third 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
Danielle Biggins ❖ newnurserydirector@gmail.com, 781-659-2535 ❖ The New Nursery School

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