

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 Donna Nelson and Janet Johnson.

The flowers on the pedestal today are given by Linda Goulding and 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!

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: 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 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

CALL OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anne Marie Holloway

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING *The Promise of Love*

Brenda Stewart and Caitlyn Fitzsimmons

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *Christ, Be Our Light*

Bernadette Farrell;

Arr. Joel Raney

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

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

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

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN** #149 *Angels from the Realms of Glory* v. 1,3,4 **REGENT SQUARE**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Adapted from *Touch Holiness*) Geoff Gordon

God of the loving heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused your entrance. We confess before you that at times we have refused to act with love. We confess that we have habits we never get around to changing, good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves and others. Come to us in the light of your Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us. Be known among us, now and forever. Hear what weighs upon our hearts as we enter into a moment of silent confession....

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

This is the good news in Jesus Christ: God loves us more than we love ourselves. God forgives us, encourages us and frees us to love others. Thanks be to God!

YOUTH REFLECTION ON THE HOLIDAY BALL

Cooper Dawson

The youth group successfully hosted its 18th annual Holiday Ball here at UCC Norwell last Saturday on December 10th. The Holiday Ball is an outreach event that invites young adults with developmental needs, their friends/chaperones and families to come and spend an evening of festive holiday celebration in an inclusive and supportive community setting.

ANTHEM

Carol of the Bells

Ukrainian Tune;
Arr. Kevin McChesney

We Receive God's Word

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

The Gifts of Waiting: Humility

Anne Marie Holloway

HYMN

#158 *Her Baby, Newly Breathing* v. 1

MERLE'S TUNE

Her baby, newly breathing, with wailing needful cry,
by Mary kissed and cradled, is lulled in lullaby.
Long months of hope and waiting, the thrill and fear of birth,
are crowned with exultation, and God is on the earth.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Geoff Gordon

Response (all)

#128 *One Candle Is Lit* v. 4
*Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.*

CRADLE SONG

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR RESOURCES

Offertory

Unto Us a Son Is Born

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Arr. Trevor Manor

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

*HYMN

#150 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"He Is Born!" The Angels Sing

Arr. Lloyd Larson

Richard Watson, trumpet Karen Harvey, organ

(Please remain seated and enjoy the Postlude music.)

*Standing to praise God



Fourth Sunday of Advent

The corn husk angel on the evergreen tree in the Sanctuary (with the doves) is from Candelabra 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 Candelabra 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.