

*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 Mark Nittel.

**The flowers on the pedestal** today are given by Lorraine Olsen in loving memory of Bob Olsen.

**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 Christmas or New Year's Day.**

**Church School for Children and Youth:** (Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) meets at 9:00am downstairs. Our "Happenings..." faith formation group for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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**



**December 25, 2016**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**9:00 a.m.**

We Gather in God's Name

**CALL OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Leanne Walt

**CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT**

*Christ, Be Our Light*

Bernadette Farrell;

Arr. Joel Raney

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.  
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**

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Many: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.**

One: The light shines in the darkness.

**Many: And the darkness did not overcome it.**

One: For Christ is born in Bethlehem.

**Many: Come, let us adore him.**

**\*HYMN**

#148 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* v. 1, 3, 4

*ADESTE FIDELIS*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

God of goodness and light,

Be with us on this day of birth and rebirth

As we confess how we have not fully embraced the Christmas gospel.

You sent Jesus to be born as a helpless Child,

And yet children still suffer among us.

You chose Mary to be mother of our Lord,

And yet women still struggle among us.

The holy family could not find room in Bethlehem,

And yet the homeless among us still cry out for a place of comfort and rest.  
Come, honor us with the presence of your grace-filled Spirit.  
Forgive our lack of attention and free us for genuine love  
That we may know the birth of Christ in serving others. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

**ANTHEM** *Ring the Bells on Christmas Day* Mark Wilson  
Susan Domey-Allen, handbells

We Receive God's Word

**SCRIPTURE** John 1:1-14

**SERMON** *Word and Light* Rev. Leanne Walt

**\*HYMN** #143 *Joy to the World* v. 1, 2 *ANTIOCH*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.  
Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dispersing of the Doves

Response (all) #128 *One Candle Is Lit* v. 5 *CRADLE SONG*  
Come, listen, the sounds of God with us ring clear,  
and signs of a cross in the distance appear.  
The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.  
One candle is lit for the Christ birthday here.

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR RESOURCES

Offertory *Angels from the Realms of Glory* *REGENT SQUARE*  
Celestial Ringers Arr. Karen Harvey

*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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**\*HYMN** #151 *The First Noel* v. 1, 2, 4 English Carol

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* *MENDELSSOHN;*  
Karen Harvey, organ Arr. Gordon Young

(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.*