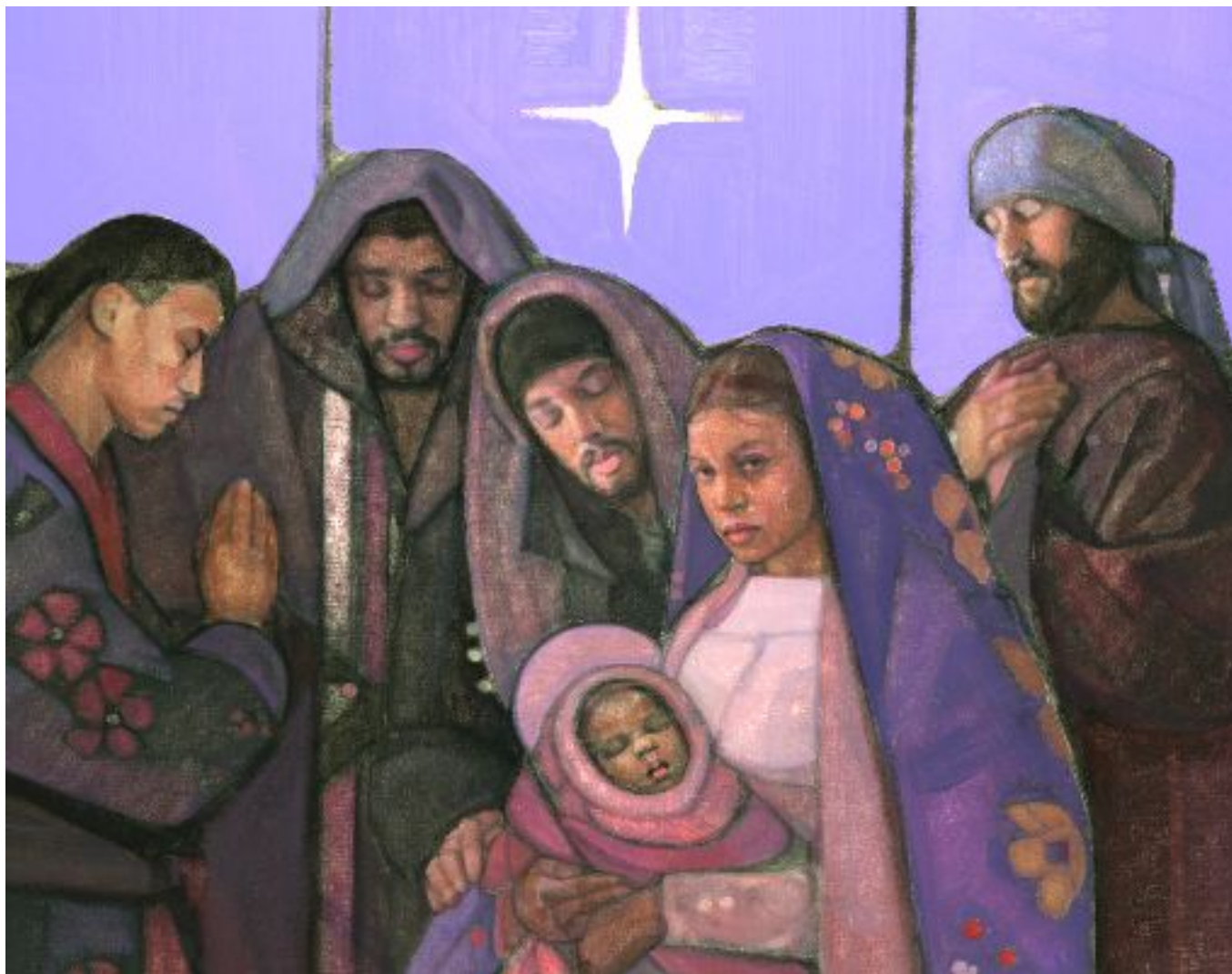




# The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist

*Rooted in the past, Reaching into our future*  
*Celebrating United Parish's 50th Anniversary*



*The Night Visitors* by Janet McKenzie, Collection of Mepkin Abbey

## A Festival of Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020  
7:30pm

## Prelude

*Music by Members of the United Parish Family*

*Thank you to our string quartet, Nicole Parks and Helen Hasinger, violin, Carrol Lee, viola, and Stephen Marotto, cello, and to our amazing section leaders - Helen Hassinger, Margot Wegman, and Nick Duffin who made tonight's music especially beautiful. And an extra special thank you to the many, many, many musical contributors from the United Parish community, and our friends from Shir Tikva in Wayland. All of tonight's music was created completely virtually, through sheer determination by our people, young and old, experienced and novice, out of love for the United Parish community, and a desire to breathe new life and new meaning into the Carols of Christmas. We hope you will join us, singing along with "choirs of angels," celebrating the birth of hope, joy, peace, and love into the world.*

**Chiming of the Trinity** *please rise in body and spirit*

## Lighting the Christ Candle

The Bose-Gupta Family  
Jennifer, Tara and Abby

One: We have been waiting and watching,

**All: With candles of hope, peace, love and joy;**

One: We have been journeying toward Bethlehem,

**All: To welcome the Christ child;**

One: We have been following a star,

**All: That we might behold a miracle;**

One: Now on this holy night, let the light of Christ illumine our hearts:

**All: O come, let us adore him.**

## Carol

Once in Royal David's City

Penelope DeSelms, Soloist

Verses 1, 2, and 4

Helen Hassinger, Nick Duffin, Margot

Wegman, Jim SeSelms, Solo Quartet

TUNE: IRBY

The musical score is written for a soloist and a choir. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The first system contains verses 1, 2, 3, and 4. The second system contains the continuation of verse 2 and the beginning of verse 3. The third system contains the continuation of verse 3. The lyrics are as follows:

Solo 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
Choir 2. He came down to earth from hea - ven who is God and Lord of all,  
All sing 3. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, day by day like us he grew,  
All sing 4. And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re - deem - ing love,  
Where a moth - er laid her ba - by In a man - ger for his bed:  
And his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall.  
He was lit - tle weak and help less, Tears and smiles like us he knew.  
For that child so dear and gen - tle, is our Lord in heav'n a - bove.  
Ma - ry was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
With the poor, and mean and low - ly, live on earth our Sa - vior low - ly.  
And he feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.  
And he leads his chil - dren on to that place where he is gone.

## Greetings

Kent French  
Senior Pastor

## Bidding Prayer

Amy Norton  
Associate Pastor

Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Julian Weil, Soloist

Chancel Choir

TUNE: ADESTE FIDELES

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2. See how the shep - herds sum-moned to the cra - dle,\_\_\_\_  
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,\_\_\_\_  
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,\_\_\_\_

come ye, O come\_\_\_\_ ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh with low - ly fear;  
 Sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n\_\_\_\_ a - bove;  
 Je - su, to thee\_\_\_\_ be\_\_\_\_ glo - ry giv'n;

Come and be - hold him born the King of An - gels:  
 We too will thi - ther bend our joy - ful foot - steps:  
 Glo - ry to God,\_\_\_\_ Glo - ry in the high - est:  
 Word of\_\_\_\_ God,\_\_\_\_ now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him, O

come let us a - dore him\_\_\_\_ Christ\_\_\_\_ the Lord.

First Lesson

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-38

Sammy Norton,

Melon Benfield, and Coda Benfield

*Pastor's pups*

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Katy, Ben, Malcolm,  
Seanna and Annika McGraw;  
Peter Rempelakis, Merle Perkins,  
Cy Perkins, and Evelyn Perkins;  
Chancel Choir  
TUNE: ST. LOUIS

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2. For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to us on earth.  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Second Lesson

The Birth of Jesus  
Luke 2:1-7

The Trumble Family  
Lani, David, Sam, and Stella

**Third Lesson**

The Shepherds and Angels  
Luke 2:8-20

Theodora and Amalia Rodine

**Carol**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*  
by Gustav Holst, arranged by Sally DeFord

Theodora and Amalia Rodine  
Helen Hassinger, *Violin*

**Fourth Lesson**

The Magi  
Matthew 2:1-11

The Reed Family  
James, Myers, Emily and Stefan

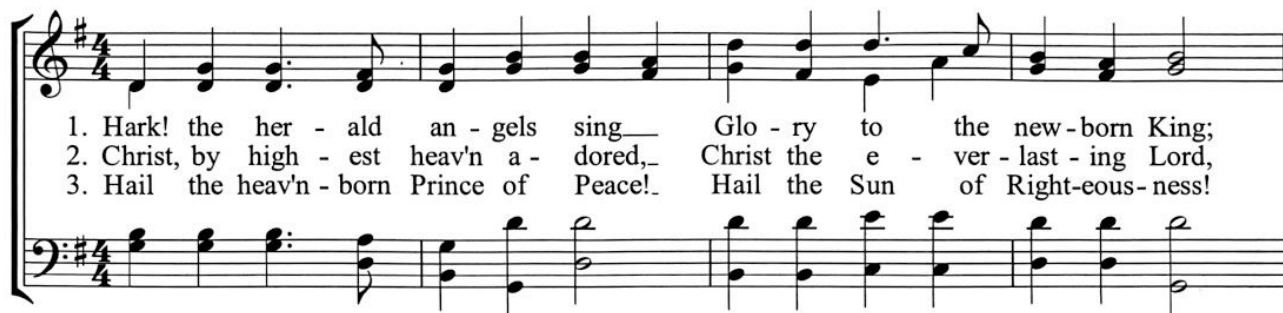


Carol

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Ellie Brainin, Soloist

TUNE: MENDELSSOHN



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing— Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored,— Christ the e - ver - last - ing Lord,  
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace!.. Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild— God and sin - ner re - con - ciled:  
 Late in time be - hold him come— off-spring of a vir - gin's womb:  
 Light and life to all he brings,— ris'n with heal - ing in his wings;



Joy-ful all ye na - tions rise,— join the tri-umph of the skies, With th'an-gel - ic  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see,— Hail th'in car-nate De - i - ty! Pleased on earth with  
 mild he lays his glo - ry by,— born that we no more may die,— Born to raise the



host pro - claim, Christ is— born in Beth - le - hem.  
 us to dwell Je - sus— our Em - ma - nu - el.  
 souls of earth, born to— give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Glo - ry— to the new-born King.

## Invitation to Offering

Robert Guthrie

*Tonight's offering will benefit common cathedral, one of our ministry partners, Missions Giving Ministry Team which provides weekly worship on Boston Common and other programs for unhoused and low income people.*

*Volunteers welcome. More info at [commoncathedral.org](http://commoncathedral.org)*

*Please make any checks out to the United Parish in Brookline and put "common cathedral" in the memo line and we will forward your donation. Mail to: 210 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA 02446 att'n: Christmas Eve Offering, or donate through PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=BEATLCH3GZBRW>*

## Fifth Lesson

The Word Became Flesh  
John 1:1-14, selected verses

Mary and Mike McConnell

## Sharing the Light

*recorded December 24, 2019*

Betty Lindsay

*Hearts & Hands, Human Relations  
and Discernment & Engagement Ministry Teams  
Jaz Buchanan, 2019-20 Seminarian  
and current Member-in-Discernment*

## Anthem

O Holy Night  
by Adolphe Adam

Helen Hassinger, Soloist

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.*

*A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices,  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His Gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.*

*Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we,  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.*



Carol

*Silent Night*

Melanie Hsu Chernin, Priya Devavaram,  
and Travis Wu, *Soloists*

TUNE: STILLE NACHT

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;

round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Christ the Sav - ior is born! Christ the Sav - ior is born.  
 Je - sus, Lord at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord at thy birth.

Carol

Joy to the World

TUNE: ANTIOCH

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her King;  
 2. Joy to the world, the Sa - vior reigns! Let all their songs em - ploy;  
 3. Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove

let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 while fields and floods rocks, hills, and plains  
 the glo - ries of God's righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 and won - ders of God's love, and won - ders of God's

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and  
 re - peat the soun - ding joy, re -  
 and won - ders of God's love, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of God's love.

heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 peat the soun - ding joy, re - peat the soun - ding joy.  
 won - ders of God's love, and won - ders of God's love.

Benediction

Kent French

## Benediction Response

*Still, Still, Still*

Chancel Choir

Austrian Carol, arranged by Norman Luboff     Helen Hassinger, Violin

<i>Still, still, still</i>	<i>Sleep, sleep, sleep</i>	<i>Dream, dream, dream</i>
<i>One can hear the falling snow</i>	<i>'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth</i>	<i>Of the joyous day to come</i>
<i>For all is hushed</i>	<i>The night is peaceful</i>	<i>While guardian angels</i>
<i>the world is sleeping</i>	<i>all around you</i>	<i>without number</i>
<i>Holy Star its vigil keeping</i>	<i>Close your eyes let sleep surround you</i>	<i>Watch you as you sweetly</i>
<i>Still, still, still</i>	<i>Sleep, sleep, sleep</i>	<i>slumber</i>
<i>One can hear the falling snow.</i>	<i>Tis the eve of our Savior's birth.</i>	<i>Dream, dream, dream</i>
		<i>Of the joyous day to come.</i>

Join us for a brief post-worship reception on Zoom:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/82102275663?pwd=dWx3amZMTk1xcXBjUU01QoY3cEZLQT09>

Meeting ID: 821 0227 5663

Passcode: 168142

# WELCOME

We at the United Parish in Brookline believe that all people are made in the image of God and embrace and cherish every person and every kind of family. Jesus Christ welcomed everyone; we seek to follow his example in our own life and worship, by extending God's love and grace abundantly and equally to everyone. We affirm and welcome all people to share in worship, fellowship and leadership with us, to join us in a diversity of race, gender, sexual identity, physical and mental ability, ethnicity and economic means.

We have joined with other Open and Affirming (United Church of Christ) and Welcoming and Affirming (American Baptist Churches USA), as well as with the Reconciling Ministries Network (United Methodist Churches) to declare that we are and will remain open to all people.

We invite you to consider becoming a member of the United Parish family. You may become a member by transferring membership or by a statement of faith. If you desire to retain ties with a former church, we invite you to become an associate or affiliate member for the time you are with us.

## Ministers

Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Seminarian  
Minister of Music  
Parish Administrator  
Facilities Manager  
Multimedia Producer  
Building Usage Coordinator  
Accounting Administrator  
Nursery Supervisor  
Pastor Emerita

## The People of the United Parish

Kent French  
Amy Norton  
Katharine H. Henry  
Susan DeSelms  
Sarah Fitzpatrick  
David Dunphy  
Jason Yu  
Helen Hassinger  
Donald Firth  
Jenna Bergquist  
Patricia Coughlin



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