



# 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*



## November 29, 2020 First Sunday of Advent Hope

### PRELUDE

*We transition into  
our sacred time as our music  
invokes the spirit of God.*

*Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming  
To a Christmas Rose  
arranged by Sandra Eithun*

United Parish Ringers

**CHIMING THE TRINITY** *We call forth God the Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit in musical tones.*

### INTROIT

*We welcome the light of Christ with song.*

*Veni Emmanuel*

Kent French  
Senior Pastor

*Translation: O come, O come, Emmanuel! Redeem thy captive Israel that into exile drear is gone,  
Far from the face of God's dear Son. Rejoice, Rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**  
*We light the first candle of Advent.*

Merle Perkins, Peter Rempelakis, and Cy Perkins

One: In our homes  
we gather around wreaths  
to pray our lost hopes,  
broken peace, limited joys,  
and love so hard to find and share,  
in this season of coronavirus.  
We affirm that our candles mean  
we claim the power to call this season Advent  
when God's light comes into the world  
and nothing can overcome it.

All: **We light the candle of hope in the face of ...**  
*[all are invited to name aloud or in the chat something  
that opposes hope in their lives or in the world]*

One: God's hope shines on hopelessness,  
and brightens the path toward peace.

All: **Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come, lighting hope  
on the wick of our lives so that we may shine on our world. Amen**

**OPENING HYMN**  
*We re-gather with our voices.*

*People Look East*

Chancel Choir, 2020  
TUNE: BESANÇON



1. Peo - ple look east. The time is near of the crown - ing of the year.  
2. Fur - rows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plan - ted there.  
3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,  
4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.



Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.  
shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - ge - ther.  
Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.



Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day: Love, the Guest is on the way.  
Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day: Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day: Love, the Star, is on the way.  
Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day: Love, the Christ, is on the way.

LITANY OF PREPARATION *We set our intention for worship with this call and response.*

Lisa Weil  
*Discernment and Engagement  
Ministry Team*

One: The voice of one cries out, "in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the LORD!"  
How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

All: **With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.**

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

All: **With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.**

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

All: **With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.**

One: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

All: **By hearing again the words of the prophets,  
who foretold the saving work of God.**

One: For God did not send God's Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but that the world, through Christ, might be saved.

All: **Glory to God in the highest!**

GREETINGS *We warmly welcome all into our midst.*

Amy Norton and Kent French  
*Associate Pastor and Senior Pastor*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *in unison*

*Together, we confess the ways we have gotten out of step with God and seek to re-center ourselves in the Love of God.*

**God of Advent, God of new beginnings and patient expectation,  
we come into your presence  
aware of the ways in which we stray from your love,  
aware of the ways we tarnish the gift of life that you give us.**

**Forgive us and help us, we pray,  
when we bury you so deeply in our hearts that the world doesn't see you,  
when we ignore your teachings,  
when we do not follow Christ,  
when we lead lives of apathy, against your love,  
when we build fences and fortresses to push people away,  
and silence the cries of those in need.**

**Forgive us, we pray:  
Free us from our sin,  
Free us from our captivity,  
Free us into a life illuminated with Love,  
In which your light of Hope will shine brightly in our souls,  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.**

SILENT CONFESSION

*We continue praying in silence for up to one minute for our personal confessions and spiritual centering.*

One: O God, in your compassion;

All: **Hear our prayer.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *We receive the Good News that we are loved, forgiven and renewed in God's presence.*

**THE PEACE** *We share this Good News among ourselves with words of Peace and Love.*

**One:** The Peace of Christ and the Love of God be with you always;

**All:** And also with you.

**PEACE RESPONSE**  
*We re-gather with our  
voices in song.*

*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*  
Spiritual, arranged by André Thomas

Choir and Congregation  
Cy Perkins, hand drums

The choir will sing each section the first time. Please join them the second time.

**Refrain:** *Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning --- the time is drawing nigh. **All Repeat***

**Verse:** *Children, don't get weary, children don't get weary,  
Children don't get weary, the time is drawing nigh. **All Repeat***

**Refrain:** *Keep your lamps trimmed and burning.... (2x)*

**READING FROM THE GOSPEL** Mark 13:24-37  
*We reflect together on this sacred story from the life of Jesus Christ.*

Wilson Hood  
Seminarian, 2018-2019

**One:** The Good News of Jesus Christ;

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**REFLECTION**  
*We reflect together on how the Word of God plays out in our lives.*

Adam Sutton  
Adult Deepening Ministry Team

**CAROL**  
*We re-gather with our voices.*

*Lo, How a Rose*

Helen Hassinger,  
Margot Wegman, Nick Duffin  
TUNE: ES IST EIN ROS

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.  
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.*

*This Flow'r whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
O Flow'r beyond compare, bloom in our hearts' midwinter: restore the springtime there.*

**FIRST READING** Evergreen Wreaths  
*We learn about our Advent evergreen traditions.*

William and Elizabeth Klaussen  
Elementary Church School Class

**CAROL**

*We re-gather with our voices.*

***Of Eternal Love Begotten***

TUNE: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Of Eternal love begotten,  
 Ere the worlds began to be,  
 He is Alpha and Omega,  
 He the source, the ending, He,  
 Of the things that are, that have been,  
 And that future years shall see,  
 Evermore and evermore.*

**SECOND READING**

*We learn about our Advent evergreen traditions.*

**Holly and Ivy**

Kendall Brainin  
*Confirmation Class*

**CAROL**

*We re-gather with our voices.*

***The Holly and the Ivy***  
Traditional English Carol

Chancel Choir, 2020

Please sing all text in bold print.

*The holly and the ivy  
 When they are both full grown  
 Of all trees that are in the wood  
 The holly bears the crown.*

***Oh the rising of the sun  
 And the running of the deer  
 The playing of the merry organ  
 sweet singing in the choir.***

*The holly bears a blossom  
 as white as lily flow'r  
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
 to be our dear Saviour*

*The holly bears a berry  
 as red as any blood  
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
 To do poor sinners good.*

***Oh the rising of the sun  
 And the running of the deer  
 The playing of the merry organ  
 sweet singing in the choir.***

*The holly bears a prickly  
 as sharp as any thorn  
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
 On Christmas Day in the morn.*

*The holly bears a bark  
 as bitter as any gall  
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
 for to redeem us all.*

***Oh the rising of the sun  
 And the running of the deer  
 The playing of the merry organ  
 Sweet singing in the choir.***

**THIRD READING**

*We learn about our Advent evergreen traditions.*

**The Christmas Tree**

Justin and Ryan Fenton-Hilt  
*Middle and Elementary Church School Class*

**CAROL***We re-gather with our voices.***O Tannenbaum**  
verses 1 and 2Choir and Congregation  
Helen Hassinger, Margot Wegman,  
Nick Duffin, *Song Leaders*  
TRADITIONAL GERMAN CAROL

*Repeat*

1. O Tan - nen-baum, O Tan - nen-baum, wie grün sind dei - ne Blät - ter!  
 2. O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, with faith - ful leaves un - chang ing!  
 3. O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, your leaves will sure - ly teach me

Du grünst nicht nur zur Som-mer-zeit, nein, auch im Win-ter, wenn es schneit.  
 Not on - ly green in sum-mer's heat but in the win-ter's snow and sleet:  
 That hope and love and faith - ful - ness are pre-cious things I can pos-sess:

O Tan - nen-baum, O Tan - nen-baum, wie grün sind dei - ne Blät - ter!  
 O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, with faith - ful leaves un - chang ing.  
 O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, Your leaves will sure - ly teach me.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE***We pray together for our congregation,  
our surrounding community, the nation and the world.*Katharine H. Henry  
*Seminarian*One: O God, hear our prayer,  
All: And guide us in your love.



**LORD'S PRAYER** *We sing together the prayer Jesus taught us.  
We invite you to use your chosen words for God: Father, Mother, Abba, Allah or ...*

Our Creator, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
On Earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

**OFFERING** *We offer our gifts for God's service and our visitor cards. No gift is too small or too large. All are precious.*

**Invitation** *We hear from community members about why they take part.*

Deb Hall  
Adult Deepening Ministry Team

**Doxology** *All Praise, Eternal Christ, to Thee*  
*We sing a song of praise and thanksgiving.*

United Parish Congregation  
Chancel Choir 2020  
TUNE: TALLIS CANON

1 2 3

All praise, e - ter - nal Christ, to thee, Whose ad - vent sets thy peo - ple free; Once  
more u - pon thy peo - ple shine, And fill the world with love di - vine. All

**Prayer of Dedication** *We ask God's blessing over the gifts.*

CLOSING HYMN

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

United Parish Congregation, 2019

Together in song, we set our intention in leaving this sacred space.

Chancel Choir 2020

TUNE: HYFRYDOL

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy  
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
 yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
 now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of  
 spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



**HOLY BUSINESS** *We share news of God's work in our community's activities.*

**BENEDICTION** *We receive a blessing as we prepare to depart this sacred gathering.*

**POSTLUDE**

*We transition out of our  
sacred time together.*

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Elise Molloy  
*Tower Bells*

Please join us for Coffee Hour after worship on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89230311301?pwd=SXk3d2dKSTNlNmRwbGZ4aW1meDJsQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 3031 1301

Passcode: 340421

Or call 646-558-8656

# 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  
Building Usage Coordinator  
Accounting Administrator  
Nursery Supervisor  
Pastor Emerita

## The People of the United Parish

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



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist

210 Harvard Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02446

617-277-6860

[office@upbrookline.org](mailto:office@upbrookline.org)

[upbrookline.org](http://upbrookline.org)

# ABOUT THE EVERGREENS

## Wreaths

In many ancient civilizations, it was believed that all objects possessed spirits. Since it was believed that most trees possessed kindly spirits, it became customary for people to bring home sprigs and branches of trees in order that their homes might be blessed by their presence. When Christianity came into existence, the newly converted pagans held onto this custom, so it eventually became part of our tradition. We decorate our homes and places of worship. The evergreens symbolize God's eternal and everlasting love for us, even after death. The wreath, round with no beginning and no end, symbolizes the victory and glory of the fulfillment of Scripture in the coming of the Christ.

## Holly and Ivy

Because holly and ivy bear their berries in the dark, cold winter months, our ancestors hung them in their homes to symbolize the hope and expectation of spring. Today we use holly as a reminder of Christ's passion during the otherwise joyous Christmas celebration. Legend has it that a shepherd brought a sprig of holly to the stable on Christmas night as a gift to the Christ child. Its leaves glistened in the moonlight, and its berries were snow white. As the Child reached to receive the gift, the berries suddenly turned a deep red. For Christians today, the prickly leaves represent the crown of thorns which Christ wore during his crucifixion and the berries represent his blood. The ivy represents humanity clinging to divine strength.

## The Christmas Tree

The first use of the Christmas tree was in the medieval German Paradise Plays, held outdoors and portraying the creation of humankind. The Tree of Life was a fir tree decorated with apples. Later other ornaments were hung upon them, such as paper flowers and gilded nuts. In England branches or whole trees were forced into bloom indoors for Christmas. From these beginnings the use of a tree at Christmas was established. Martin Luther was perhaps the first to use a lighted tree.

The story is told that on one Christmas Eve Martin Luther wandered outdoors and became enraptured with the beauty of the starry sky. Its brilliance and loveliness led him to reflect on the glory of the first Christmas Eve as seen in Bethlehem's radiant skies. Wishing to share with his wife and children the enchantment he had felt, he cut from the forest an evergreen, glistening with snow, and took it home. He placed upon it candles to represent the glorious heavens he had seen. The use of a candle-lighted tree spread to all Europe, then America came to regard it as the central ornament of Christmas.

## The Poinsettia

Most Christmas greenery reflects European traditions. But one colorful plant, which looks like a flaming star, the poinsettia, is a native to the American continent. It was named after Dr. Joel Robert Poinset, an ambassador to Mexico who first introduced it to the United States in 1828. The people of Mexico and Central America call the brilliant tropical plant the "Flower of the Holy Night." The Poinsettia is a many-pointed star that has become a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem.