



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



December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Love

PRELUDE

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

Away in a Manger

Kate Hendrix
Recorders

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

TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel
 captivum solve Israel,
 qui gemit in exilio,
 privatus Dei Filio.
 R: Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel,
 nascetur pro te Israel!*

*Come, come Emmanuel
 Free captive Israel,
 Who mourns in exile,
 Deprived of the Son of God.
 Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel,
 is born for thee, Israel!*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We light the fourth candle of Advent.

Katy, Ben, and Malcolm McGraw

*Each week as we light the Advent wreath, we invite each person joining us for worship to contribute one word, or name several of the things which oppose **Hope**, that shatter **Peace**, the things we miss that seem so important to **Joy**, or the things that numb us to **Love**.*

We invite you to put those words on one or several small pieces of paper in the center of your wreath or next to your candle, or in the YouTube chat. Many of these may be similar each week – because the same things are quenching all four glowing points of our emotional compass.

One: In our church and 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 Advent candles mean
 we claim the power of this season,
 when God's light comes into the world
 and nothing can overcome it.
 We re-light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

All: **We now light the candle of love
 even when many things dim our sparkling:
 loneliness, racism both individual and systemic,
 discrimination and harm against Queer people,
 deaths of loved ones and community members.**

One: God's love illuminates hatred and a compassionate heart
 and brightens the path to the birth of Christ.

All: **Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come,
 lighting hope, peace, joy, and love on the wick of our lives
 so that we may shine on our world your unconditional welcome to all.
 Amen.**

CAROL

People Look East

Chancel Choir, 2020

*We lift our voices, bodies,
minds and spirits as a
community in a song of praise.*

TUNE: BESANÇON

We invite you to sing, speak or silently read the words together.



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.

GREETINGS

We warmly welcome all into our midst.

Amy Norton and Katharine Henry
Associate Pastor and Seminarian

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 and Peace and Joy 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.

Mary, You're on Mute!
A Very Zoom Christmas Pageant

By Rev. Billy Kluttz, of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean, Virginia

SCENE I: MARY TRAVELS TO BETHLEHEM

Jesse Givens and Melanie Chernin

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

McGraw Family, Chancel Choir,
String Quartet

*O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing—let "Glory!" ring
with peace to all on earth!*

SCENE II: THE SHEPHERDS TELL THEIR STORY

Jesse Givens, Geovanni and Armani Osorio,
and Anorah and Amyrah Morris

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

Kevin Shushan, verse 1
Chancel Choir, verse 2
TUNE: GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing oe'r the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire
your heav'nly song.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

SCENE III: THE MAGI RECOUNT THEIR TRAVELS

Jesse Givens,
Charles, Kendall, and Ellie Brainin

CAROL

We Three Kings

Jesse, Jude and Zachary Givens, *soloists*

Carolers, Chancel Choir

TUNE: KINGS OF ORIENT

*We three Kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

SCENE IV: MARY, REPRISE

Jesse Givens and Melanie Chernin

INSTRUMENTAL

Greensleeves

Elise Molloy

SCENE V: INTERVIEW WITH THE INNKEEPERS

Jesse Givens,
Paul and Roberto Lauro-Priestly

CAROL

Away in A Manger

Bianca Silverman, *soloist*

TUNE: AWAY IN A MANGER

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus
lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky
looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus,
no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus,
look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

SCENE VI: MARY SPEAKS!

Jesse Givens and Melanie Chernin

CAROL

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Ellie Brainin, Geovanni Osorio,

Armani Osorio, *soloists*

TUNE: AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Refrain: *Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born!*

*The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! Above the earth;
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain*

*While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. Refrain*

*Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain*

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.*

The Holly Bears a Berry

Kate Hendrix
Recorders

Please join us immediately after worship for Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom.

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

Meeting ID: 892 3031 1301

Password: 340421

Or call 646-558-8656

Christmas Poinsettias

Donated by:

In memory or in honor of:

Anonymous

In honor of the medical professionals who are keeping us safe, and those who work so we can eat.

Anonymous

In honor of Alice Cassidy and Betty Lindsay

Anne Waller Auerbach

In honor of our United Parish Family - all those who have stayed connected throughout this challenging year.

Kate Baker-Carr

In memory of loved ones

Beverly and John Bowman

In memory of Harry Lincoln

Terry Bruce

In memory of Jim and Mary Bruce

The Canty/Devavaram Family

In memory of Mercy Devavaram

The Delgado/Humm Family

In memory of Anna Bariy Spinner and George Matthew Spinner

Pat Howkinson

In honor of the Loved Ones of Pat Howkinson

Alicia Hsu	In memory of Moses and Charlotte Hsu, Rita Chernin, and M.C. Hwang In honor of all the helpers in our midst
Barbara Lianides-Chin	In memory of Robert W. Chin, Kenneth W. Chin, Chin Ancestors, and Lianides and Condos Ancestors
Paul and Roberto Lauro-Priestly and	In memory of Joyce Priestly, Lepha Pickford, Vena Pickford, Marcus and Louise Pickford In honor of Vena, Calvin, Geovanni, Armani, Anorah, Amyrah, and our dear friend Linda Percy, and the Lauro and Travaglione Family
Barbara Lynch	In memory of Allen MacPherson, and Edwin Lynch
The McGraw Family	In memory of Mary Harris, O'Reilly, Helen Burroughs Stern, and Betty Gray
Debra Morris	In honor of my loving sons, Jamaal and Terryl In memory of the Phillips and Morris Family, and Quentin, Michael and William
Karen Morris and Alan Fobes	In memory of George and Dorothy Fobes, and Michael and Mary Lou Morris
Karina and John Thompson	In memory of Eila Makey
Sam and Stella Trumble	In memory of Earl "Pop Pop" Smith
Erin Venkatesh	In honor of Sachin Venkatesh and Sanjay Venkatesh

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



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist

210 Harvard Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02446

617-277-6860

office@upbrookline.org

upbrookline.org