

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 6, 2020 Second Sunday of Advent Peace

PRELUDE

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

Wachet Auf by Johann Sebastian Bach

Sleepers, awake, the watchman Cries

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.

O Come. O Come Emmanuel

O Come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Susan DeSelms

Minister of Music

DeSelms Family
Tune: Veni Emmanuel

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

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 or Zoom 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. Together, we re-light the candle of hope.

All: We now light the candle of peace,
even in the midst of wars around the world,
of political division, of dangerous neighborhoods,
of gun violence, of social unrest fueled by enduring inequalities,
of personal demons that wreak havoc with our days.

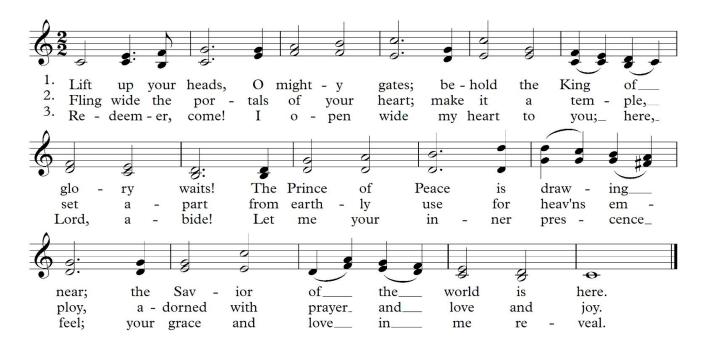
One: We light this candle remembering that God's peace illuminates the possibility of reconciliation and healing and brightens the path to joy.

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

OPENING HYMN

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

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



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 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning We gather with our Spiritual, arranged by André Thomas

voices in song. 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 EPISTLES 2 Peter 3:8-15a Anne Auerbach
We reflect together on this correspondence from the early church.

Church Council, Missions Giving Team
Stretching into Justice Team

One: For the Word of God in scripture, For the Word of God in Spirit, For the Word of God among us;

All: Thanks be to God!

HOMILY
We reflect together on how the Word of God plays out in our lives.
Kent French
Senior Pastor

We re-gather with our voices.

Of Eternal Love begotten
Ere the worlds were yet to be
God is Alpha and Omega,
God the Source, the Ending be,
Of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

This the One whom heav'n-taught singers sang of old with one accord, whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word; Emmanuel shines, the long expected; let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
We pray together for our congregation,
our surrounding community, the nation and the world.

One: O God, hear our prayer, All: And guide us in your love.

Katharine H. Henry and Amy Norton Seminarian and Associate Pastor

LORD'S PRAYER We pray together as 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.

Carolyn Melbye Gathering Ministry Team

THE FEAST OF COMMUNION

We remember the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples, receiving spiritual sustenance and re-membering ourselves as the living body of Christ.

Prayer of Consecration

We collectively invite God to bless our communion meal.

Emmanuel, God with us, in our lonely nights, under our guiding stars, with the hopes and fears of all our years, we come for comfort, for peace of mind and peace on earth, for a blessing on our hands and the bread in them, on our lips and the cup we lift to it.

We invite you to touch the bread before you, blessing it. And touch or pour into the cup before you, blessing it.

May this bread and cup be your holy Life, that we may ponder in our hearts, and pray in our community. Amen.

Sharing the Meal

Together we share this holy meal, re-membering ourselves as the living body of Christ.

One: The Holy Child of Bethlehem descends to us,

All: And is born in us in these days.

One: Let us share the bread.

All: We hear the Christmas angels, their great glad tidings tell.

One: Let us drink deeply, Christ abides with us.

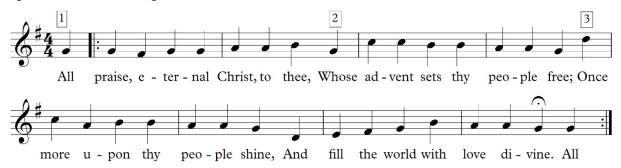
Prayer of Thanksgiving

All Praise, Eternal Christ, to Thee

United Parish Congregation Chancel Choir 2020

TUNE: TALLIS CANON

We pray in thanksgiving to God for the gifts of communion, forgiveness, and love.



CLOSING HYMN

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

New Century Hymnal #131

TUNE: CAROL

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

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.

O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

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.

Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter auf Erde (Come now, Lord Jesus, from Heaven to Earth) Susan DeSelms *Organ*

Please stay on the Zoom meeting for Coffee Hour after worship.

https://usO2web.zoom.us/i/83734335744?pwd=RUF2ZzNjdnIOZVZPdXIOaOl2c1hiQTO9

Meeting ID: 837 3433 5744 Passcode: 964445

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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