



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

Susan DeSelms

Minister of Music

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

DeSelms Family

TUNE: VENI EMMAUEL

*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.*

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

Penelope, Micah, Susan and Jim DeSelms

*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*Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

New Century Hymnal #127

TUNE: TRURO

*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.

1. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates; be - hold the King of__
 2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, -
 3. Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; - here, -

glo - ry waits! The Prince of Peace is draw - ing__
 set a - part from earth - ly use for heav'ns em -
 Lord, a - bid! Let me your in - ner pres - cence__

near; the Sav - ior of__ the__ world is here.
 ploy, a - dorned with prayer_ and__ love and joy.
 feel; your grace and love__ in__ me re - veal.

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 gather with our
voices in song.*

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Spiritual, arranged by André Thomas

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

We reflect together on this correspondence from the early church.

Anne Auerbach

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

CAROL

Of Eternal Love Begotten

TUNE: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

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.*

Katharine H. Henry and Amy Norton
Seminarian and Associate Pastor

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

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

We pray in thanksgiving to God

Chancel Choir 2020

for the gifts of communion, forgiveness, and love.

TUNE: TALLIS CANON

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

CLOSING HYMN

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

New Century Hymnal #131

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

TUNE: CAROL

*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

Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter auf Erde

Susan DeSelms

*We transition out of our
sacred time together.*

(Come now, Lord Jesus, from Heaven to Earth)

Organ

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83734335744?pwd=RUF2ZzNjdnlOZVZPdXlOa0l2c1hiQT09>

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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