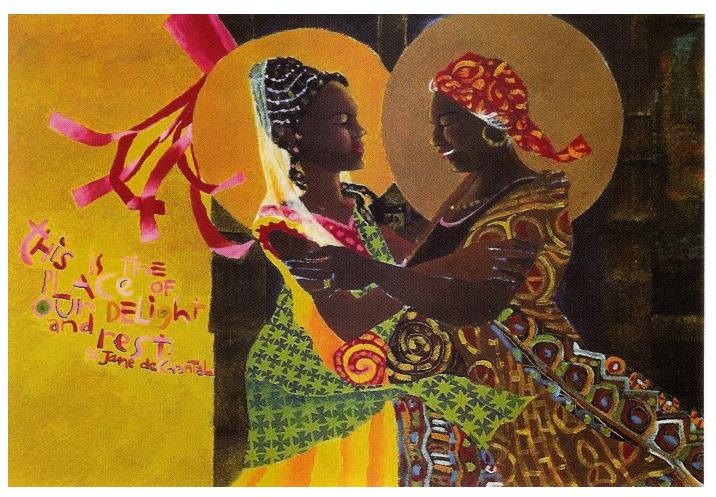


The United Parish in Brookline



American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist

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



"Windsock Visitation" by Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS

December 13, 2020 Third Sunday of Advent

Joy

PRELUDE We transition into our sacred time as our music invokes the spirit of God. *Comfort Comfort* by Johann G. Olearius Kate Hendrix *Recorders*

CHIMING THE TRINITY We call forth God the Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit in musical tones. We welcome the light of Christ with song.

Veni. veni. Emmanuel captivum solve Israel, qui gemit in exsilio, 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!

Bethany Lynch, Meghan Hodgdon, Barbara Lynch, Isabella Campisano, Alexis Pellegrini

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 and peace.

- All: We now light the candle of joy in spite of missing so many things we thought were joyful essentials for this season: like parties big and small, in-person worship, photos on Santa's lap, school sports and concerts, welcoming and hugging friends and family from far and near.
- One: We light this candle remembering that God's joy ignites embers under loss and sorrow and brightens the path to love.
- All: Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come, lighting hope, peace and joy on the wick of our lives so that we may shine on our world. Amen.

INTROIT

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

OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel arranged by Roupen Shakarian New Century Hymnal #116 United Parish Chancel Choir TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL

We lift our voices, bodies, arranged by Rouper minds and spirits as a community in a song of praise. We invite you to sing, speak or silently read the words together.

> Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer, Our spirits by your advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel. Oh, come, true Wisdom from on high, And order all things far and nigh; To us the path of knowledge show, And cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel

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 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.

PEACE RESPONSE We gather with our voices in song.		<i>Comfort, Comfort</i> arranged by John Ferguson	United Parish Chancel Choir
"Comfort, comfort now my people; Tell of peace!" So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness Mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim That God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!		For the herald's voice is crying In the desert far and near, Calling us to true repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away! Let the valleys rise to meet him, And the hills bow down to greet him!	Straight shall be what long was crooked, And the rougher places plain! Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign! For the glory of the Lord Now on earth is shed abroad, And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken.
READING FROM THE GOSPEL We reflect together on this story of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.		Luke 1:39-56	Pat Howkinson Exalting Ministry Team, Hearts and Hands Team, Chancel Choir
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. Katharine H. Henry Seminarian **ANTHEM** We reflect on the message through poetry and song. My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord by Randall Thompson Helen Hassinger United Parish Chancel Choir

My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoic'd in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: For, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; And holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats: and exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel: in remembrance of his mercy As he saith to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for ever. Amen

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

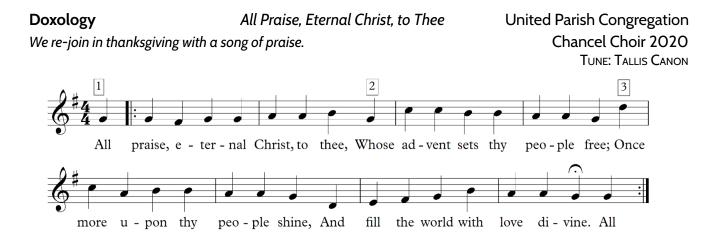
OFFERING

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.

Tyler Smith Missions Giving Ministry Team, Stretching into Justice Team



Prayer of Dedication *We ask God's blessing over the gifts.* CLOSING HYMN Together in song, we set our intention in leaving this sacred space. New Century Hymnal #122 Chancel Choir 2020 TUNE: HYFRYDOL



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

Hanerot Halalu & Chanukah Mi Chamocha

We transition out of our sacred time together.

Temple Shir Tikva Zoom Choir Micah DeSelms, guitar

HAPPY CHANUKAH!

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT TEMPLE SHIR TIKVA IN WAYLAND!

We kindle these lights, remembering the miracles and wonders which You have performed for our ancestors. Throughout Chanukah, these lights are sacred, and we gaze at them, offering our thanks and praise to Your great Name for Your miracles, for Your wonders and for Your salvation.

> Who is like you, O God, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders.

Please join us immediately after worship for Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom. https://usO2web.zoom.us/i/89230311301?pwd=SXk3d2dKSTNlNmRwbGZ4aW1meDJsQT09

> Meeting ID: 892 3031 1301 Password: 340421 Or call 646-558-8656

WFICOME

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



American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist 210 Harvard Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02446 office@upbrookline.org

617-277-6860

upbrookline.org