



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.

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 third candle of Advent.

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.

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.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
arranged by Roupen Shakarian

New Century Hymnal #116
United Parish Chancel Choir
TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL

*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, 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*

*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.*

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.*

*Comfort, Comfort
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*

Doxology

All Praise, Eternal Christ, to Thee

We re-join in thanksgiving with a song of praise.

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

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

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

New Century Hymnal #122

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.*

Hanerot Halalu & Chanukah Mi Chamocha

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

Meeting ID: 892 3031 1301

Password: 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
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

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