



The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



The Windsock Visitation by Brother Mickey McGrath OSFS

December 3, 2023 First Sunday of Advent How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Find Joy in Connection

Nursery care is available for all children up to age 5. Our professional caregivers provide activities, crafts, snacks, and a scripture-based curriculum. The nursery is upstairs in Room 203.

For families with children under 5 wishing to remain together in the Sanctuary, we have created a child-friendly "Prayground" to the right of the chancel. The Prayground has rocking chairs for parents/guardians, children's books, and some small toys — all on soft, foam flooring. For those with fussing babies who would like a quiet place to rock or nurse, there is also a "Family Room" in the Lindsay Room across the hall from the Prayground, complete with a crib, changing table, and livestream of the worship service.

Hearing devices are available from the ushers.

Scan the QR code to the right to fill out a visitor card, contribute to our offering, and more!



Gathering Music

Sleepers, Awake! The Watchman's Voice is Calling
by Johann Sebastian Bach

Susan DeSelms
Minister of Music

Introit

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL

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

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with your captive children dwell.
Give comfort to all exiles here, and to the aching heart bid cheer.*

We invite the congregation to rise as we sing:

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us as Love to dwell.

***Lighting the Advent Wreath**

Toby, Elizabeth, Justin L. and Rebecca S.

One: How does a weary world hope?

**All: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night,
and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.**

One: By praying for children as they grow,
and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

All: By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

One: There are a million ways to practice hope.
So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

All: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

O How Shall I Receive You

New Century Hymnal #102
TUNE: ST. THEODULPH

***Greetings**

Amy Norton and Kent French
Associate and Senior Pastors

Prayer of Confession

Adapted from the Reverend Sarah (Are) Speed

One: God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt it when we hear good news.

All: We move through this world
sometimes waiting for the next crisis to happen,
waiting for life to fall apart,
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.

One: Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

All: We lean into fear.
We lean into isolation.

One: Forgive us for forgetting how joy increases when we share it.
Help us when we give up on connecting with you and one another.
Heal our wounds from past hurts, our regrets from past failures.
Teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth does in today's story.
Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.

Silent Confession

We take up to one minute to pray our own private confessions in silence.

One: O God, in your compassion;

All: Hear our prayer.

***Assurance of Grace**

***The Peace of Christ**

One: The Peace of Christ and the Love of God be with you always;

All: And also with you.

***Peace Response**

Comfort, Comfort
traditional, arranged by John Ferguson

Adult Choir

<i>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!</i>	<i>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 a way! Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!</i>	<i>Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain! Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his 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.</i>
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Reading from the Gospel

Luke 1:24-45

One: For the Good News of Jesus Christ;
All: Thanks be to God!

Message

Kent French

Musical Response

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming
"To a Christmas Rose"
arranged by Sandra Eithun

Handbell Choir
Tricia Kopko, director

Prayers of the People

Amy Norton

Lord's Prayer

We invite you to use whatever word for God you choose: Mother, Father, 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.**