



# The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



*Angel Gabriel by K.T. Baker-Carr*

## December 1, 2024 First Sunday of Advent You Are A Blessing

Nursery care is available for children under 5 years old, upstairs in Room 203, where our professional caregivers provide activities, crafts, snacks, and a scripture-based curriculum.

During worship, children are invited to explore our 'Playground' to the right of the worship platform. There is also a Family Room across the hall from the Playground for those who would like a quiet place to rock or nurse. Rocking chairs are also available at the back of the Sanctuary.

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!



**\*Chiming the Trinity** *\*means we invite you to rise in body and spirit*

**Introit**

*Veni Emmanuel*

Nathan Jeide-Dettweiler  
*Soloist*

*Veni, Veni, Emmanuel  
Captivum solve Israel!  
Qui gemit in exilio,  
Privatus Dei Filio.*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel;  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.*

*Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel  
nascetur pro te, Israel.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**\*Lighting the Advent Candle** *by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC*

One: God says,

All: **"Do not be afraid."**

One: God says,

All: **"I have called you by name."**

One: God says,

All: **"I will be with you."**

One: God says,

All: **"You are precious and honored in my sight."**

One: At the beginning of this season,

All: **at the start of this week,**

One: at the top of this hour, as we light this candle of hope

All: **may we wrap ourselves in these words.**

One: May we begin again.

All: **Let us worship our Holy God!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

All Sing

TUNE: HYFRYDOL



1. Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2. Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, you came to reign!  
From our fears and sins re-lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Born to rule on earth for-e-ver, come, be known to us a-gain.  
Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e-ter-nal spi-rit rule in all our hearts a-lone;  
Dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.  
By thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it, raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

**\*Greetings**

Amy Norton-Benfield, *Associate Pastor*  
Anna Jeide-Detweiler, *Seminarian*

**Centering Prayer of Confession in unison**

*Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

Affirming God,  
Your first words to creation were words of love.  
You looked at this earth and said, "It is good."  
You spoke affirmations through the prophets.  
You spoke blessings over Mary.  
You spoke belonging through Christ.  
At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing,  
made in your image, held in your love.  
Forgive us for forgetting this truth.  
Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours.  
We believe.  
Help our unbelief.  
In Christ's name we pray,  
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**

*He Came Down*  
Traditional Cameroon

All Sing

He came down that we may have love hope, He came down that we may have love, he came down that we may have love, Hal-le -lu - ya, e - ver - more.

The musical notation is for a song in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first line of music contains the lyrics 'He came down that we may have love hope,' with a triplet of eighth notes on 'may'. The second line contains 'He came down that we may have love, he came down that we may have love, Hal-le -lu - ya, e - ver - more.' with triplets on 'may' and 'ya'.

**Reading from the Gospels**

Luke 1:26-28; 46-55

Pegah Nikzat

One: For the Good News of Jesus Christ;

All: Thanks be to God!

**Message**

"There are Angels Hovering All Around"

Rev. Kate Baker-Carr

Human Resources Ministry Team

**Sung Response**

*Christmas Lullaby, from Songs for a New World*  
by Jason Robert Brown

Michel  Crowder  
Soloist

I'll never have the power to control the land  
Or conquer half the world  
Or claim the sun  
I'll never be the kind who simply waves her hand  
And has a million people do  
The things I wish I'd done  
But in the eyes of heaven  
My place is assured  
I carry with me heaven's grand design  
Glory, Oh, Glory I will sing the name of the Lord  
And He will make me shine  
And I will be like Mother Mary  
With a blessing in my soul  
And I will give the world my eyes  
So they can see  
And I will be like Mother Mary  
With a blessing in my soul  
And the future of the world inside of me  
In the eyes of heaven  
My place is assured

I carry with me heaven's grand design  
Glory, Oh, Glory I will sing the name of the Lord  
And He will make me shine  
And I will be like Mother Mary  
With a blessing in my soul  
And I will give the world my eyes  
So they can see  
And I will be like Mother Mary  
With a blessing in my soul  
And the future of the world inside of me  
And I will be like Mother Mary  
With the power in my veins  
To believe in all the things  
I've yet to be  
And I will be like Mother Mary  
And I'll suffer any pains  
For the future of the world  
For the future of the world  
Inside of me

One: O God, hear our prayer;

All: And guide us in your love.

### 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.

### Prayer Response

### *There Are Angels Hovering 'Round*

All Sing  
Traditional

1. There are an - gels hov - 'ring 'round, There are an - gels hov - 'ring  
2. There is glo - ry all a - round. There is glo - ry all a -  
3. Let all who hear them come. Let all who hear them  
4. To sing in har - mo - ny. To sing in har - mo -

round, There are an - gels, an - gels hov - 'ring round.  
round. There is glo - ry, glo - ry all a - round.  
come. Let all, let all who hear them come.  
ny. To sing, to sing in har - mo - ny.

## Affirmation of Faith *in unison*

Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

We believe in a blessing God  
who calls us Beloved.

We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary,  
and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman,  
the poor in spirit,  
the children,  
the crowds,  
the Jews,  
the Gentiles,  
the faithful and the doubting.

So in faith,  
we trust that God's blessing,  
like ripples on the water,  
forever reaches toward us.

And with wild hope,  
we believe  
that because of this blessing,  
we are covered in love.

We are more than enough.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

## Offering

*No gift is too small or too large; all are precious.*

*Ways to contribute:*

1. Place cash, check, or visitor card in the offering plate.
2. Scan the QR code at right.
3. Through Venmo (@unitedparishinbrookline), Paypal ([paypal.me/unitedparish](https://paypal.me/unitedparish)), Realm (internal directory/database), or at [unitedparishbrookline.org/give](http://unitedparishbrookline.org/give).



## Offertory Anthem

*Bogoroditse Devo*  
by Arvo Pärt

*Rejoice, virgin mother of God,  
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.*

Chancel Choir  
Michelé Crowder, Ruby Abreu  
Valentine Umeh, Robbie Allen  
Solo Quartet

## Feast of Communion

*We share again the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples, receiving God's spiritual sustenance.*

Invitation

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Meal

Communion Music      *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*  
Text by Rory Cooney; music adapted from an Irish Ballad

Chancel Choir

*Mary, Woman of the Promise*

All Sing  
New Century Hymnal #123  
TUNE: QUEM PASTORES

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving      *All Praise, Eternal Christ, To Thee*

All Sing  
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

**\*Closing Hymn**

*People Look East*

All Sing

TUNE: BESANÇON

1. Peo - ple look east. The time is near of the crown - ing of the  
2. Fur - rows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plan - ted  
3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall  
4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to  
year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the  
there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in  
brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as  
earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the  
hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
course the flow - er may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
sun and moon to - ge - ther. Peo - ple, look  
word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look  
east and sing to - day: Love, the Guest is on the way.  
east and sing to - day: Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east and sing to - day: Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east and sing to - day: Love, the Christ, is on the way.

**\*Holy Business and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter*

Susan DeSelms

by J. S. Bach

*Come now, Jesus, from heaven down to earth.*

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Thank you to those serving in worship today:

Communion Preparers: Reed Family

Liturgist: Pegah Nikzat

Ushers: Alan Fobes, Geoff Sanzenbacher, Jesse Marshall, David Mann, Ella M.



# 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.

*We ask that you silence all electronic devices.  
Please see an usher if you would like a hearing assistive device.*

*Because our building is open to the public,  
an adult should accompany children if/when they leave the worship service.*

Ministers  
Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Seminarian  
Minister of Music  
Choir Section Leader  
Choir Section Leader  
Choir Section Leader  
Choir Section Leader  
Handbell Choir Director  
Multimedia Producer  
Parish Administrator  
Accounting Administrator  
Building Manager  
Custodian  
Custodian  
Custodian  
Nursery Supervisor  
Nursery Staff  
Nursery Staff  
Nursery Staff  
Nursery Staff  
Pastor Emerita

The People of the United Parish  
Reverend Kent French  
Reverend Amy Norton-Benfield  
Anna Jeide-Detweiler  
Susan DeSelms  
Ruby Abreu  
Robbie Allen  
Michelé Crowder  
Valentine Umeh  
Tricia Kopko  
Jordan Wuth  
Sarah Fitzpatrick  
Jim Smith  
Rebekah Shore  
Emery Bibbins  
Jesse Kieffer  
Violet Nowlan  
Katy Lum  
Melanie Caicedo  
Anne Florient  
Ione Madsen Hardy  
Emma Nelson  
Patricia Coughlin



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