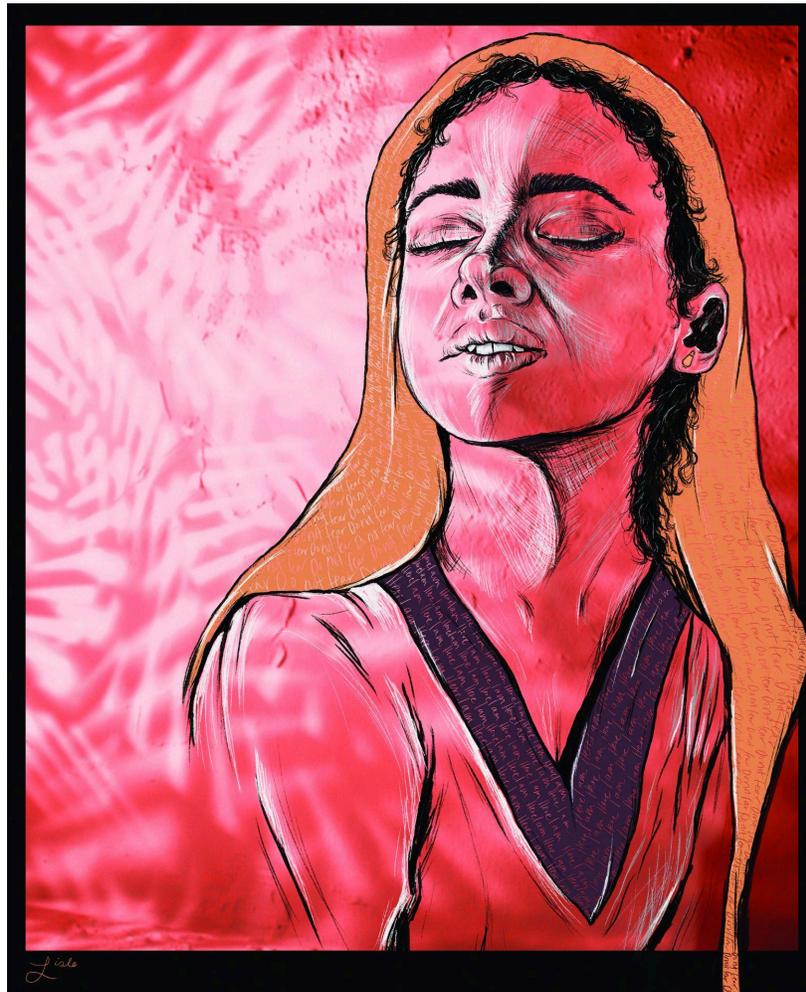




The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



*"Mary's Yes" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
from a sanctified art | sanctifiedart.org*

December 14, 2025 Third Sunday of Advent

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 'Prayground' to the right of the worship platform. There is also a Family Room across the hall from the Prayground 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!

Gathering Music

Carols for Recorders
arranged by Eric Hass

Nouri Newman, *soprano recorder*
Edward Cipullo, *alto recorder*

Brian Warnock, *tenor recorder*
Kate Hendrix, *bass recorder*

Sans Day Carol "The Holly Bears the Berry"

In Dulci Jubilo "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

*Chiming the Trinity

**means we invite you to rise in body and spirit*

*Introit

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

Chancel Choir

*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 ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*Lighting the Advent Wreath

Spencer-McKeown Family

*Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed,
A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.*

One: In a world full of fear, where do we see glimmers of joy?

**All: We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards,
in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents,
in meals around the table,
and in the singing of Christmas songs.**

One: You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

All: Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news.

One: May this flicker of light help us remember
that even in a fearful world, joy is here.

All: Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

One: Thanks be to God for that good news!

All: Amen.

***Hymn in Procession**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

All Sing

TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL



O come, O come, Bright Morn - ing Star, and bring us com-fort from ___ a - far!
O come, De-sire of na - tions bind all peo-ples in one heart ___ and mind.
Dis - pel the sha - dows of ___ the night and turn our dark-ness in - to light.
From dust thou brought us forth ___ to life; de - liv - er us from earth - ly strife.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Greetings

Kent French and Amy Norton-Benfield

Senior and Associate Pastors

Matisse Peppet

Seminarian

Anthem

Comfort, Comfort Ye my People
by Claude Goudimel

Recorder Quartet

Centering Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Courageous God,
you invite us to live into our call.
You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.
Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,”
we often hide our face.
We dig in our heels.
We look for someone else to volunteer.
Spark courage in us.
Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.
Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are not alone.
You invite us forward.
With baby steps we hope and we pray...**

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.**

Anthem

Rorate Caeli
by Joseph Reinberger

Chancel Choir

*Let the heavens rain down righteousness;
Let the clouds shower salvation.
Let the earth open up and salvation sprout,
And let righteousness flourish with it; I, the Lord, have created it.*

Reading from the Gospel

Luke 1:26-39

Laurel Whitfield

One: For the Good News of Jesus Christ,

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word

Magnificat
by Alan Hovhannes
My soul doth magnify the Lord.

Chancel Choir

Message

Matisse Peppet

Hymn in Response

Unexpected and Mysterious

All Sing

Text by Jeannette M. Lindholm; Music by Calvin Hampton TUNE: ST. HELENA

instrumental interlude



1. Un-ex - pec - ted and mys - te - ri - ous is the gen - tle word of_ grace.
2. In a mo - men - ta - ry meet - ing of e - ter - ni - ty and_ time,
3. We are called to pon - der my - ste - ry and a - wait the com - ing_ Christ,



E - ver lov - ing and sus - tain - ing is the peace of God's em - brace.
Mar - y learned that she would car - ry both the mor - tal and di - vine.
to em - bo - dy God's com - pas - sion for each fra - gile hu - man_ life.



If we fal - ter in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known,
Then she learned of God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy,
God is with us in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth,



God is faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.
and she ran to greet the wom - an who would re - cog - nize her boy.
while we watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

Prayers of the People

Amy Norton-Benfield and Kent French

One: O God, hear our prayer;

All: **And guide us with your love.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Away in a Manger
arranged by Eric Hass

Recorder Quartet

Offering Invitation

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

*We encourage everyone to participate in passing the offering plate,
as an act of our common life together.*



Ways to contribute:

1. Place cash, check, visitor card, or "I Give Online" card in the offering plate.
2. Scan the QR code.
3. Through Venmo (@unitedparishinbrookline), Paypal (paypal.me/unitedparish), Realm (internal directory/database), or at unitedparishbrookline.org.

Offertory Anthem

Gabriel's Message
arranged by James R. Rogers

Chancel Choir

*The Angel Gabriel from heaven came
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame
"All hail" said he thou lowly Maiden Mary
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria.*

*For known a blessed mother thou shalt be
All generations laud and honor thee*

*Thy son shall be Emmanuel by seers foretold
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria,*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head
"To me, be as it pleaseth God" she said
"My soul shall laud and magnify His Holy name"
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria.*

***Doxology**

Advent Doxology
We will sing it in unison once.
The choir will lead off in a round.

All Sing
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

***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**

***Blessing for Lucille Douglas, on the occasion of her 100th birthday**

***Postlude**

Carol of the Bells
Ukrainian Carol composed by Mykola Leontovych
Arranged by Eric Hass

Recorder Quartet

Thank you to those serving in worship today:

Acolyte: Sachin V.

Liturgist: Laurel Whitfield

Ushers: Tyler Smith, Emily Turkington, Carolyn Melbye, Madeline Cortés,
Karina Thompson, Cathy Quackenbush

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Take-Home Questions

What honest, practical question might you have for God right now?

Who can you reach out to for support, when you feel confused, uncertain, or fearful?

Artist's Statement

"Mary's Yes" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 1:26-39

Photography with digital drawing

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel goes to Nazareth to find Mary. I was six months pregnant with my second daughter when I reread this scripture and began this image, so at first, this detail seemed like a happy coincidence. But as I pondered it, I wondered if Elizabeth's pregnancy might have everything to do with Mary's willingness to say yes to this wild, wonderful—but risky and terrifying—undertaking.

Elizabeth's pregnancy provides reassurance that Mary can trust the angel's impossible news. By the sixth month, Mary will be able to see for herself that Elizabeth is truly pregnant. By the sixth month, Mary can place her hands on Elizabeth's belly and giggle as the baby leaps and kicks. By the sixth month, the risk of miscarriage has significantly decreased. By the sixth month, Elizabeth will be emotionally, mentally, and physically preparing for birth. Her miracle is real, even as it is yet to be born. Therefore, Mary can rest her hope in an emerging—not empty—promise.

Mary's willingness to say "yes" is also fortified by the assurance that she is not stepping forward alone. Even as fears surely surround her, Mary will go to Elizabeth for protection and comfort. She won't fulfill her calling without support. Her hope will be strengthened in solidarity.

In this image, we see the angel greeting Mary in the form of dappled light.⁶ Mary's back is turned to the angel, but we see her in the process of pivoting toward the warmth of the cascading light. I imagine this is the moment after the angel responds to her initial question, "How can this be?" After hearing the angel's response, Mary closes her eyes, imagining her cousin Elizabeth and perhaps her many ancestors holding her up as she prepares to step forward. The wrap around her head carries the angel's good news, anointing her with the promise that fear won't stop her. Embroidered along her neckline is Mary's willing response: "Here I am." Her lantern earring is a sign to each of us, to anyone who is fearful. It's as if Mary herself becomes a lantern, emanating courage in the face of a fearful calling, lighting a way forward.

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

⁶ I captured these textures by photographing the shadows cast by a lantern.

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	The People of the United Parish
Senior Pastor	Reverend Kent French
Associate Pastor	Reverend Amy Norton-Benfield
Minister of Music	Susan DeSelms
Seminarian	Matisse Peppet
Handbell Choir Director	Tricia Kopko
Choir Section Leader	Ruby Abreu
Choir Section Leader	Emma West
Choir Section Leader	Joey Timmons
Choir Section Leader	Valentine Umeh
Multimedia Producer	Jordan Wuth
Parish Administrator	Sarah Fitzpatrick
Accounting Administrator	Jim Smith
Building Manager	Rebekah Shore
Head Custodian	Violet Nowlan
Custodian	Emery Bibbins
Custodian	Joy Hanlon
Custodian	Jesse Kieffer
Nursery Supervisor	Katy Lum
Nursery Staff	Adrianna Dionisio
Nursery Staff	Anne Florient
Nursery Staff	Ione Madsen Hardy
Nursery Staff	Ashlyn O'Dowd
Pastor Emerita	Patricia Coughlin



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist
210 Harvard Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02446

617-277-6860

office@upbrookline.org

upbrookline.org