



The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



“In Too Deep” by Nicolette Faison

Inspired by Matthew 1:18-25; 30”x40” Acrylic and marker on canvas

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December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

When You’re Afraid, Give Me Your Hand

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!

Prelude

Susan DeSelms
Minister of Music and Organist

***Chiming the Trinity**

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

***Introit**

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

Soloist and Congregation

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

All: ***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 Candles**

David and Loechler Family

*Parts of today's worship liturgy come from the Reverend Sarah (Are) Speed
from A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org*

One: In a world full of fear, where do you see
the presence of love?

All: **We see love all around us.
We see love when people hold open the door.
We see love in a warm embrace,
a homemade casserole,
a phone call after a long day.
We see love in random acts of kindness
and intentional acts of empathy.
We see love all around us.**

One: Even in a fearful world, Love is all around us.
Today we light the candle of love
as a reminder of this good news,
joining our candles of Hope, Peace and Joy.
May these flickers of light help us remember
that even in a fearful world, love is here.
Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright.
We only have to look for it.

All: **Thanks be to God for a love like that!**

***Opening Hymn**

The Time Has Come

All Sing
TUNE: WEXFORD CAROL

*The time has come to wake from sleep. The night is long, the shadows deep,
yet soon the sun shall rise and wake; the night gives way, the shadows break.
Let us arise to greet the dawn: our hope reborn, our hatred gone.
Resplendent color streaks the skies; the time has come, let us arise.*

*The time has come to share the Word: God's justice comes! Good News is heard!
In Christ the world is turned around: the last are first; the lost are found;
the poor are lifted, loved, and fed; the children blessed; the table spread.
So, speak the truth and raise your voice; the time has come, let us rejoice.*

Greetings

Kent French and Amy Norton-Benfield
Senior and Associate Pastors

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Scene 1 The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary
The Victor Family

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

All Sing
TUNE: GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Scene 2 The Angel visits Joseph in a Dream
The Klaussen Family

Carol

Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear

All Sing
TUNE: JOSEPH LIEBER

If you brought an angel figurine, please bring it up to the nativity at this time.

*"Gentle Joseph, Joseph dear,
stay with me, for the baby's near;
God will surely your goodness hear,
as you will love this new-born child," says Mary.*

*"Gladly Mary, Mary mine,
I will cradle the child divine;
Here will heaven and earth combine,
for you will bear God's child, O dearest Mary."*

Scene 3 Mary & Joseph Journey to Bethlehem

If you brought a figure of Mary, Joseph, or a donkey, bring it up to the nativity while we sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

All Sing
TUNE: ST. LOUIS

***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

Scene 4 Jesus is Born in a Stable

The Klaussen and Shore Families

If you brought a figure of baby Jesus or a (non-sheep) animal for the stable, bring it to the nativity while we sing "Away in a Manger."

Carol

Away in a Manger

All Sing
TUNE: AWAY IN A MANGER

***Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

Scene 5 The Shepherds are Visited by the Angels

The Reed and Swain Families

If you brought a figure of a shepherd or a sheep, please bring it to the nativity while we sing "The First Nowell."

Carol

The First Nowell

All Sing
TUNE: THE FIRST NOWELL

***The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.***

Scene 6 The Magi visit King Herod

The Venkatesh Family

If you brought a camel or a magi, please bring it up while we sing “We Three Kings Of Orient Are.”

***Carol**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

All Sing

TUNE: KINGS OF ORIENT

***We three Kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.***

***Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.
O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.***

Scene 7 The Shepherds and the Magi Visit the Holy Family

***Carol**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

All Sing

TUNE: MENDELSSOHN

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”***

Offering Invitation

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

Carolyn Melbye

Mental Health Ministry Team

*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 Music

Valentine Umeh, *soloist*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn**

The Time Has Come

All Sing

TUNE: WEXFORD CAROL

***The time has come to bring to birth God's gracious dream for all the earth.
Let fear and falsehood fall away, as night at last gives way to day.
Though still we struggle to believe all that the Spirit can conceive,
God's dream will dawn, the shadows break; the time has come, let us awake.***

***Holy Business**

***Benediction and the Peace of Christ**

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

All: And also with you.

***Postlude**

Susan DeSelms

Thank you to those serving in worship today:

Acolyte: Travis W.

Liturgist: Carolyn Melbye

Ushers: Geoff Sanzenbacher, Carolyn Melbye, Livia Imada, Lori Miller, John Halbrook

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Christmas Poinsettias

Donated by:

Anonymous

Kate Baker-Carr

Louise Bowler

Beverly and John Bowman

Anita Breslaw

The Canty-Devavaram Family

Koda DeSelms

Ross, Chelsea, Lauren, Casey,
Riley and Tully

The Fenton-Hilts

The Fitzpatricks

Dot Gorenflo

Chelsea Hathaway and Ross
Doty

Pat Howkinson

Paul and Roberto
Lauro-Priestly

Barbara Lianides-Chin

Barbara Lynch

In memory or in honor of:

In memory of Dan McKeown

In memory of Janet Baker-Carr, John and Arlene
Leech, Elizabeth and Alex Kennan

In memory of Stephanie Ewing, John and Dianne
McKinney, Charles Arena

In memory of Dorothy and Gordan Rodda, Helen and
Ed Bowman

In memory of Haven Breslaw

In memory of loved ones

In memory of Betty Gray

In memory of Ann Taylor Gillis Lind

In memory of Neil Hilt and Charles Fenton
In honor of Gail Hilt and Wanda Fenton

In memory of Annie Fitzpatrick, Michael Fitzpatrick,
Bill and Ethel Fitzpatrick, Marilyn Clarke

In memory of Maurine and Walter Gorenflo, Peter
Amidon
In honor of Tatiana, Joe, Amaya, and Pierce Lamson,
Connie Gorenflo

In memory of Craig Hathaway

In memory of loved ones

In memory of Joyce Priestly, Lepha Pickford, Vena
Pickford, Marcus and Louise Pickford
In honor of Vena, Calvin, Geovanni, Armani, Anorah
and Amyrah; our dear friend Linda Percy; the Lauro
and Travaglione Family; the Todd and Bogiages
Families

In memory of Kenneth W. Chin, the Thomas Lianides
Family Ancestors, the Jeffery Chin Family Ancestors

In honor of Bethany, Caregiving friends, Nicole Dunn,
RN

Mary and Mike McConnell	In honor of Ariel Chernin, Gwen Lindquist, Kate Hendrix, Donna Treece, Karina Thompson, Anne Auerbach, Cliff Reid, Beverly and John Bowman, David Rockwell, St Mark's Methodist Trustees: Denise Patmon, David Rockwell and Prabhu Devararam
The McGraw Family	In memory of Mary H. O'Reilly; Juern Juergens; Catherine B. McGraw
Lori Miller and John Halbrook	In memory of Ruth and Stan Miller, Greg Halbrook
Kathleen O'Neill	In memory of Jan Wilson In honor of Penny and Tom Phelps, Clayton Dawson
Clifford Reid	In memory of Karen P. Reid, Charles and Alice Reid
John and Karina Thompson	In memory of Harold Leino, Walter Leino
Donna Treece	In memory of Margaret & Cat Metzger
Sam and Stella Trumble	In memory of Earl Smith, Diane Trumble and Edward Hardy Sr.
Emily Turkington	In memory of William Edward Turkington, Gail Turkington, Dorothy Evelyn Dewar Turkington
Ryan Van Slyke	In memory of Melissa Nicandri, Steve Blydenberg, Johanna Hoyt

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
Minister of Music
Seminarian
Handbell Choir Director
Choir Section Leader
Choir Section Leader
Choir Section Leader
Choir Section Leader
Multimedia Producer
Parish Administrator
Accounting Administrator
Building Manager
Head Custodian
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
Susan DeSelms
Matisse Peppet
Tricia Kopko
Ruby Abreu
Emma West
Joey Timmons
Valentine Umeh
Jordan Wuth
Sarah Fitzpatrick
Jim Smith
Rebekah Shore
Violet Nowlan
Emery Bibbins
Joy Hanlon
Jesse Kieffer
Katy Lum
Adrianna Dionisio
Anne Florient
Ione Madsen Hardy
Ashlyn O'Dowd
Patricia Coughlin



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