

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTBOROUGH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 11, 2011

10:00 AM

Third Sunday of Advent

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Our Living Church*

INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jack and Kathy Barry

Voice 1: We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together.

Voice 2: But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised.

Voice 1: So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

[Three candles are lit]

All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you as we walk in the light of Christ, welcoming new possibilities, and offering ourselves to God's goodness in hope, and peace, and joy. Amen

SUNG RESPONSE *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn* REJOICE, REJOICE
(verse 3)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

One: God of all creating, you have given us the most beautiful gift of all—your love in the form of a tiny baby. We await with joy the birth of this fragile, elegant gift.

All: God of all creation, we have waited long years for your incarnation. Our stories and our memories are filled with songs of hope and praise for the one who is to come.

One: God of all creation, you create miracles that astound us. Through your grace, flowers bloom in winter, and love shines through barriers of hatred.

All: God of all creation, even in the middle of the darkest night you are present with your sustaining love and grace. Creating God, we await your miraculous, vulnerable birth in a manger. Amen.

*HYMN #160

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS

*UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

Come O Come and be with us, Emmanuel, for you are God-With Us and promise your presence when we gather in your name. Bless our worship with joy this morning. Open our ears to hear your word for, us as we hear the story of Jesus' birth, so that we may be born anew this day, and open our mouths to proclaim your praise; Be with all those whom we love this day and surround them with your loving care. Amen.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us bring our hearts into the light of God's compassionate Grace.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, God: Bring light to our eyes and reveal to us whatever is hidden in darkness. Show us the secret intentions of our own hearts so that we will not be bound to our weaknesses. You call us to new life in Christ. Help us to use our freedom to act with fairness and speak the truth, stand with the poor, and live by faith. Through Christ we pray...

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Debt*)

Our Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We are forgiven! God loves us. God blesses us with new beginnings and new life. Let us put aside our old ways and become new! God gives a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning. Sing, dance, and rejoice! Let us never forget the gift of God's redeeming grace.

(Congregation joins the singing)

**He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness**

**And wonders of his love. And wonders of his love
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

SOLO

Oh Holy Night

sung by Judy Ellis

ANTHEM

THE FRIENDLY BEASTS
Directed by Sue Menzel

Youth Choir

CAROL

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

(sung by Three Kings & manger animals)

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star.

(congregation joins in)

**O---o, Star of wonder, star of light
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to rein.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Parkman Bells, directed by Jen Keeler
Chimes Duet – Audrey Lord & Rachel Keeler

“ONE SOLITARY LIFE”

Pedro Silva

FINALE

HYMN # 150

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
(congregation joins in verse 2)

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 the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

**Christ by highest heav'n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come;
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

HYMN #148

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Photos may be taken during the singing

ADESTE FIDELES

**O Come All Ye Faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

**O Sing, choirs of angels. Sing in exultation,
Sing all that hear in heaven God's holy word.
Give to our Father glory in the Highest;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

**All Hail! Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
O Jesus! for evermore be Thy name adored.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

A MOMENT OF APPRECIATION

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

SERVICE OF RESPONSE

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation As Mary moved from tears to acceptance she sang, “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior... surely from now on all generations will call me blessed.” Mary said yes to God. Mary accepted the burden and the responsibility of being God’s chosen. She gave her whole self over to God. God calls to each of us. How do we respond? What do we bring? In the spirit of Mary’s “yes,” let us bring forth our offerings and gifts.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The First Noel

arr. By Lloyd Larson

*DOXOLOGY (*Unison*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low; Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune whom we adore.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, grant us the affirmation of responding with “Yes!” to you. Yes, we will serve you. Yes, we will bring our whole selves to the effort. Yes, we will sing your praises to the universe. Accept these offerings as tangible proof of our collective “yes.” May they be magnified for your use in our time so that the world may know your peace, hope, and joy. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Worship Note: The Advent Candle Hymn comes from the New Century Hymnal @1995

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Julie Labbe serves as liturgist.

Roland, Sarah, Ali and Paul Regnier greeted you this morning.

Pam Faustine and **Ed Newton III** are Deacons of the week.

Brett Borglund is Trustee liaison.

Flowers are given today in memory of Coralyn Borglund and Ellen Bennet by **Brett & Linda Borglund** and **Sterling & Shawn Fitzgibbons**.

Join us for refreshments and fellowship downstairs following worship

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS DECEMBER 11, 2011

Bereavement: Betty Gray and family upon the passing of her great nephew, Aaron; Margaret Roche and family upon the loss of her sister, Helen Gerden; Philip Salah and family upon the death of his wife, Shirley on December 4th.

New Prayers: Dirkje's mother-in-law (recovering from hip surgery); Michael Black (good friend of Steve & Diana Swets); Michael Newton (deployed to Afghanistan); Sheila Currie (a dear friend of Mary McLeod); Renee Jansen (sister of Deb Boucher's sister-in-law).

Continued Prayers: Kathleen (Susan & David Cochrane's sister-in-law); Beverly Campbell (friend of Nancy Walker); Fran Kelly (Megan Huber's mom); James Hight; Dave Russo; Ruth Burke and her children (friends of Kathy and Gabe Leblanc); Kyle Motta (age 1); Jose and Zoila Del Cid (friends of Carolyn Bent); Jamie (Judy Ellis' son); Adam Bent and wife Amanda (Carolyn Bent's nephew); Amy (friend of Gen Benton); Jean Newton; Thalia Genes and Susan Tobias (friends of Phyllis Newton); Joanne & Jim Gingras (friends of Kathy Todd); Joan Jacobs.

Home from Beaumont: George MacKendrick.

Beaumont: Marge Lightbody (awaiting a postponed surgery).

Hospitalized: Audrey Birch (Dick and Linda Birch's sister-in-law).

Out of the Hospital: Richard Nichols; Brandon (Betty Gray's nephew).

Visitation Request: If you have a prayer or visit request, please note it on the "A Note to the Pastors" card in the pews and put it in the offering plate or hand it to a Deacon. You can place prayer concerns on the church's email distribution list at eprayers@uccwestboro.org. If you would like a prayer request included in today's service, please let a Deacon know prior to the start of worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

It is truly heartwarming to see the number of pledges received and the increases for 2012. Thank you! But we are not quite done yet. Some of our members and friends have not submitted their pledge cards and we would love to hear from them. If you forgot - it's not too late! Just send your card to the office or place it in the offering plate. If you misplaced your pledge card, there are extra cards in the Narthex of the church or you can call the office and another will be sent. We would like to have all of the cards in by December 11th, but if you miss the deadline, do not despair! We will graciously accept your pledge card a little late. Thank you in advance for your faith and support. Pam Faustine, Stewardship Chair

GRANDMA'S UPPER ATTIC

Today after church, most items in Grandma's Upper Attic are half price.

HONEY BAKED HAM HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

A representative from HoneyBaked Ham Co. will be in the vestry after services today and again next Sunday, selling \$25 gift certificates that may be used at any of their six locations. Gift certificates may be used to purchase their famous hams, turkey breast, platters, side dishes and desserts. Certificates do not expire and they make nice gifts. The closest location is Route 9 in Framingham. 50% of the total sales will be donated to the church! This is a Trustee sponsored fundraiser and all proceeds will go toward the operating budget deficit. Thank you for your support.

COOKIE WALK IS TODAY!

The annual 'Cookie Walk' will be held today, **December 11th**, immediately following the Christmas Pageant Service. Come on down to the Vestry right after the service and feast your eyes on a grand selection of cookie treats. It's a great event for Kids and Adults alike. Grab a container and pile them up high! Cookies will be sold at \$6 a pound, with proceeds benefiting our Music Ministry.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING – DECEMBER 18th

Join us at 4pm in the vestry for pizza and we will "hit the streets" beginning at 5pm to bring our joyful voices to the front door of many of our church family shut-ins. Back to the vestry around 7pm for hot chocolate and yummy treats. Elves and angels of all ages are welcome! You'll want to make this church tradition part of your family tradition! Thanks so much! **Leigh Walker**, Parish Life Committee, 508-847-2575.

Congo Kids & Jr. High Youth Group will join the Christmas caroling and pizza at 4pm and return for a Yankee Swap Christmas party at 7pm. Each youth should bring a wrapped gift of \$5 or less.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Sunday December 11th – Immediately following the pageant the children will return to the classrooms to remove costumes and enjoy refreshments to celebrate this very special birthday party for Baby Jesus.
Sunday December 18th – "Christmas Stations" – children of all ages will travel through our classrooms enjoying stories, music, crafts, cookie decorating, and fellowship during our morning classroom time.

"SERVICE OF QUIET" – DECEMBER 21st

A Service of Quiet has been put on the calendar for Wednesday, December 21st from 6:00-6:45 PM. This will be a service of music, scripture and meditation.

GROCERY CARD SALES

Goal for 2011 Budget: \$12,000 **Year to Date Sales:** \$10,077.00 **Left to sell** \$1,923.00
Only 2 more Sundays to reach our goal! We think we can! We think we can! We know we can! We know we can successfully fulfill our commitment of contributing \$12,000 to the annual Church budget. In this season of shopping, Stop & Shop and Roche Bros. not only have food items, they have an incredible selection of gift cards to stores and restaurants, iTunes and gas stations, and more. So buy your grocery cards at Church and use them to buy your gift cards at these locations. You'll be supporting our Church at the same time. See us at Church, stop by Kirkside, or contact us for delivery. Thanks! Sue Menzel 366-1268 Sally Petersen 366-5169 or sbpetersen4@gmail.com, Nancy Quimby 898-3463 or nquimby11@charter.net.

2012 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Contribution envelopes will be available in the library after church on Sunday, December 18th. If you did not have envelopes last year, please contact me at sharkey53@charter.net, phone 366-4023 or drop a note in the offering plate. You have a choice of either weekly or monthly envelopes. ***I urge everyone to use envelopes.***

Any contribution you would like recorded on your 2011 records must be dated before December 31, 2011 and received by the church office no later than Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Thank you, Linda Sharkey

THE EVANGEL – **Note the change -deadline DECEMBER 7, published DECEMBER 14

BULLETIN – deadline WEDNESDAY

HOSTING COFFEE HOUR – call **Linda Borglund** 870-5784.

BAPTISM – Call the church office 366-2000 or speak to a Deacon.

SUNDAY GREETERS – Contact **Linda Birch** 870-9911.

LITURGIST – Contact **Lynne Caldwell** 366-7635.

CHANCEL FLOWERS – Sign chart in the Vestry or call **Chris Mosher** 366-2250 or **Nancy Gage** 366-9266.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE – For a member or friend who needs meals, call **Betty Gray** 366-1039.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Call **Rich Lord** 366-3835 to serve on church boards or committees.

The Rev. Dr. Dirkje F.Legerstee, Interim Pastor - dlegerstee@comcast.net

The Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani, Associate Pastor - revelaineg@aol.com

Mr. Pedro Silva, Student Minister – Psilva@ants.edu

Curtis Richardson, Director of Music

Church Office Phone 508/366-2000

Office hours: Mon. Tue. Thur. 9am-2pm; Wed. Fri. 9am-1pm

General Church email – WestboroUCC@Verizon.net

Church web site www.UCCwestboro.org

U.C.C. web sites - <http://www.macucc.org> (Mass Conference) & <http://www.ucc.org> (National)

*Our vision: Embodying Compassion, Embracing
Change, Growing Together in Faith and Love
(ECC vision in process as of May 2011)*



CALENDAR

- Dec 11 Sunday Advent III**
10:00 AM Christmas Pageant during worship
 Cookie Walk following worship
11:30 AM TPC/Board Room
- Dec 12 Monday**
4:00 PM GSA/Vestry
6:30 PM Search Committee/Board Room
7:30 PM BSA/Historical Room
7:30 PM AA/3rd Floor Kirkside
- Dec. 13 Tuesday**
9:00 AM Called to Care/Board Room
11:00 AM Westborough Woman's Club/Vestry
7:00 PM BSA/Vestry
7:30 PM Festival Ringers/Bell Loft
- Dec. 14 Wednesday**
EVANGEL PUBLISHEED
4:00 PM "Journey Home"/Choir Room
4:00 PM GSA/Vestry & kitchen
6:00 PM Confirmation Class/3rd Floor
6:30 PM Rev. Gaetani's PPRC/Board Room
- Dec. 15 Thursday**
4:15 PM Parkman Bells
5:00 PM Youth Choir
7:00 PM "Bosom Buddies"/Study
7:30 PM Chancel Choir
- Dec. 16 Friday (no events scheduled)**
- Dec. 17 Saturday**
9:30 AM GSA/Vestry
- Dec. 18 Sunday/Advent V**
10:00 AM Worship & Church School
4:00 PM Pizza/Vestry
5:00-7:00 PM Christmas Caroling, back to church for hot chocolate

Congregational Church of Westborough

United Church of Christ

Westborough, Massachusetts

December 11, 2011



Christmas Program

" and a little child shall lead them."

Isaiah 11:6

Come Join Us for our Christmas Services

December 24th
Christmas Eve Services

6:00 pm

&

8:00 pm

December 25th
Christmas Morning Service
10:00 AM

