

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTBOROUGH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 18, 2011

10:00 AM

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

**The Congregation is invited to stand.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Our Living Church*

GUITAR INTROIT

Winds Through the Olive Trees
I Saw Three Ships

John Arnold
Harry Cook
Pam Kapitz

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Bud, Cathy, Rachel and Sara Purcell

Voice 1: During the Advent Season, we have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love.

Voice 2: With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story.

Voice 3: There is no greater power than love. God's love is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death.

Voice 4: We love, because God loves us. God so loves the world that God sends the only begotten Child of Humanity to reveal God's holy love.

[Four candles are lit.]

Loving God, as these candles are lit, light our lives with your creative power of hope, the tranquility of your peace, and the spirit of your joy that cannot be contained. Magnify your love within us this day so that we go forth bearing your love and seeking your light in all. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

(verse 4)

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 89)*

One: Let us sing of God's unfailing love forever! Young and old will hear of God's faithfulness as enduring as the heavens.

All: All the heavens with myriads of angels praise God's great wonders and faithfulness, standing in awe of the Holy One.

One: Let the cosmos sing in praise of the Creator! Righteousness and justice are the roots of your rule. Love and truth are its fruits.

All: Blessed are the people who know the passwords of praise, who shout on parade in the bright presence of God.

One: Delighted, they dance all day long; they know who you are, what you do—they can't keep it quiet!

All: Your vibrant beauty has gotten inside us—you've been so good to us! We're walking on air!

One: All we are and have we owe to the Holy God of Israel, our Sovereign!

*HYMN # 165

Once In Royal David's City

IRBY

*UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani

Surprising God, you bring joy to an unexpected world. Into our busy days, you place Bethlehem moments -- a stillness that strengthens our hearts, a cry that kindles memories and wrinkles smiles across our faces, visitors who bless us with kind words and warm gifts, angelic music that lifts our weariness. Surprising God, usher us into the wonder of Bethlehem and the peace of the Christ Child and let our hearts abound with joy in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us lay down our busyness, our anxieties and all that keeps us separated from God-With –Us.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Holy One, creator of all things and of emptiness. We come to you full of much that clutters and distracts. Hollow out in us a space in which we will find room for birth, an expansive space of inner peace, a forgiving spirit, and holiness where springs of laughter bubble up, with the will to reach boldly for abundant life for our church and for the whole human family.

*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

At God's command the heavens open, the mountains quake and love descends as an ever-flowing stream. A light shines in the night and the night cannot endure. Trust that the Power that created you in love now forgives and renews you in the same divine spirit. Go forth to proclaim the awesome deeds of our loving God!

*ACT OF PRAISE #155 *Angels We Have Heard On High*
**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!**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S WORD

Pedro Silva

BELL ANTHEM

He Is Born, Hallelujah!
Festival Ringers, *dir. by Sue Menzel* Arr. V. W. Stephenson
He Is Born, Angels We Have Heard on High,
Hallelujah Chorus (Handel)

SCRIPTURE READING:

Luke 1:46b-55

Hymn #130 (everyone sings)

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

Luke 1:26-38 (*pew Bible pg. 831*)

ANTHEM

What Sweeter Music

John Rutter

SERMON

To Be Like Mary

Rev. Dr. Dirkje F. Legerstee

SERVICE OF RESPONSE

*HYMN # 162

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory

Brass Quintet Warren Anderson, Bill McDonald
Rich Reeves, Glen Dearth, Ben Miller

*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

*HYMN # 164

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Angel We Have Heard On High

Worship Note: The Advent Candle Hymn comes from the New Century Hymnal @1995
Pilgrim Press Permission is granted for this one time use

The **Chancel Choir** would like to share the words of our Anthem. John Rutter's music was inspired by this poem by Robert Herrick written in the 1600's.

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honor to this day,
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn, Thus, on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth, To heaven, and the under-earth.

We see him come, and know him ours, Who, with his sunshine and his showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers. The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart.

Which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour, who's our King, And Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring, than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?

Mary Ann Brayer serves as liturgist.

Carolyn Bent and **Linda Birch** are Deacons of the week.

Brett Borglund is Trustee liaison.

Join us for refreshments and fellowship downstairs following worship

PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS DECEMBER 18, 2011

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

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 epayers@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

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

The Missions Committee wishes to thank everyone who bought gifts for the Westborough Giving Tree as well as gifts for children through the Framingham Department of Children & Families this holiday season. Our Church members bought over 120 gifts for 60 children this year. A special thanks to Marilyn & Jerry Lyle, Charlotte Bramley and Kathy LeBlanc for delivering the gifts that went to Framingham. Helping a child's wishes come true is yet another way the Congregational Church of Westborough can consider itself blessed!

2012 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Contribution envelopes will be available in the library after church today. 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. ***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

FINANCIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

Kindly have your reports into the church office **ON OR BEFORE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4**. Reports are needed from:

Church Clerk

Board of Trustees

Church Treasurer

Stewardship Committee

Missions Committee

Capital Campaign Committee

Auditor

Reports will be available Sunday, January 15. The Annual Fiscal Meeting is Sunday, January 22. (*Committee reports are due in early April.*)

BLOOD DRIVE – DECEMBER 27th

An American Red Cross holiday blood drive will be held in Westboro on Tuesday, December 27th at the Westboro Senior Center, 4 Rogers Road (off Rte.30) from 2:00-8:00 pm. This drive is open to the public and residents from all surrounding towns are invited to participate. Appointments are preferred, but walk-in donors are also welcome. The Red Cross is hoping to collect at least 65 life-saving pints of blood at this drive. All donors will receive a complimentary Wachusett Mountain Lift Ticket and a free Boston Bruins t-shirt! Donors will also receive a coupon good for a free appetizer or dessert from Chili's Grill & Bar.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING – TODAY, 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.

6:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S/FAMILY SERVICE

You are invited to join with us for our annual children's and families Christmas Eve. This year's theme will focus on how Jesus' birth is for all children, for all people, throughout the entire world. The story The Baby Who Changed The World written by Sheryl Ann Crawford, will be presented and read by **Rev. Elaine S. Gaetani**. Special theme-related Christmas ornaments will be distributed to each child. Battery operated candles will be used as we sing, "Silent Night". Come and worship with us as we learn for the very first time, or remember once again, that Jesus came for all the Children of the entire World! Christmas Blessings to All!

MANY THANKS FROM SANTA'S ELVES

First, we would like to thank all of you for your contributions to Santa's Workshop. Santa's Elves used all of your new unwanted lotions, soaps, scarves, sports items, tools, candles, kitchen items, etc, to create wonderful gift baskets for the children to purchase in Santa's Workshop. Every child who came to Santa's Workshop was able to buy wonderful gifts for their family and friends. Many thanks to all the elves that helped in Santa's Workshop, especially Susan Cochrane and Sandy Horton, for all the time spent making and wrapping baskets, and decorating the room. This year, we also had assistance from the Sr. High Youth Group. Thanks to all the teenagers and Linda Borglund for providing additional helping hands. Special thanks to Ruth Ding (Kristi Allen's Mom) who, collects hundreds of baskets and boxes of donations throughout the year and brings them all the way from South Carolina and Pennsylvania for Santa's Workshop. It was a pleasure to have her work with us over Thanksgiving weekend.

And, believe it or not, we are already starting to plan for next year! **Before you get rid of those unwanted gifts or put away all of your holiday decorations, please consider donating them for next year's Santa's Workshop.** If you don't have any items, please consider all those after Christmas sales and end of season sales to get some great items for Santa's Elves. We especially need gift items for men. **All new gift items, as well as baskets, can be placed in the Santa's Workshop bin in the Vestry.** We would like to thank all of you for your contributions. May the joy of Christmas be with you all year long.

- Regards, *Santa's Elves*

If you have questions please contact Kristi Allen (508-435-9424; kristinallen@comcast.net) or Kathy Reynolds (kreynolds118@comcast.net)

“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.

CHURCH SCHOOL

December 18 – Christmas Stations around our Church School classrooms including: Christmas stories and music, cookie decorating, and special crafts. Congo Kids/Jr. High Youth Groups will join the All Church Caroling event at 4PM followed by a “Yankee Swap” party at 7PM. (See more info in the announcement below.)

December 25 and January 1 - *There will be no Church School these Sundays. Children are invited to attend worship with their families.*

January 5 - All are welcome to attend our “Teacher Training”/Adult Education session at 6:30 to learn more about the focus scripture lessons in our lectionary curriculum for January.

January 9 - Youth Work Camp Service -Children in grades 4 through 8 are encouraged to attend this service with their families. Church School classes will be provided for children grades K-3.

January 16 - Church School Classes Resume

Please note we are currently still in need of a few teachers and assistants for the month of January.
contact Kathy Reynolds at kreynolds118@comcast.net if you are able to help this month or even just sub one Sunday.

ATTENTION 4TH-8TH GRADERS

Annual Congo Kids / Jr. High Youth Group Christmas Party December 18 4:00-8:00 PM

*We will meet at 4:00 in the vestry to join with the all church Parish Life pizza and Christmas caroling. Please feel free to bring your family and/or a friend!

*Following the all church pizza dinner, we will join the congregation in caroling to some of our church friends around Westborough, returning to the church around 7:00 for our youth group celebration and yankee gift swap. For adults who wish to join in the pizza and caroling, there will be fellowship back at church while the youth celebrate upstairs.

*Those who are interested in the Yankee Swap may bring a gift of no more than \$5-10.

Please contact Nancy Cavanaugh (nriccav@verizon.net / 508-544-2880 with any questions) I would love to have a couple of extra adults for supervision and driving for the caroling...please let me know if you are interested and able!

*RSVP is not necessary, but will help with planning purposes.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEEDS YOUR VOTE!

The Senior High Youth Group has entered a local contest called “Winter Wish List”. We need everyone’s help to vote for us. The grand prize is \$5,000 which would be a significant contribution to our fund-raising efforts towards our July 2012 work camp in Clendenin WV. My request is for everyone to go on-line and vote for our group – Senior High Youth Group – Congregational Church of Westborough MA. Please have your family members vote for us, and consider putting the word out to your address book and any social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Linked-In, etc.) We need this to go viral; worldwide. We will need about 10,000 votes to win. HERE’S THE LINK:

<http://www.thedailygrifton.com/promotion/wwl/centralmass>. Page down until you see our name and our picture (green T-shirts) from in front of the church from last year’s work camp trip (Keansburg NJ).

GROCERY CARD SALES

Goal for 2011 Budget: \$12,000

Year to Date Sales: \$10,547.00 **Left to sell** \$1,453.00

This Sunday was the biggest Sunday ever! We made \$470 for the week. Can we do it again for our last week to get to \$11,000? 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

THE EVANGEL – Deadline JANUARY 18, published JANUARY 25.

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.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF OR HONOR OF

The Arnold families in memory of Kenneth A. Arnold, Jr and Charles Wojnar

The Arpante family in loving memory of Albert W. Bowman

Karleen and Steve Chase in memory of our parents

Bob Brown and family in memory of Bobbie Brown

The Cochrane Family in memory of Gordon & Eleanor Cochrane,

The Cochrane Family in memory of Philip & Ruth Reed

The Cochrane Family in memory of Elena and Courtney

With love from Coco in memory of Coralyn Borglund, my Grammy

With love from Coco in memory of James Fitzgibbons, my Grampy

Dorothy Collins in memory of my daughter Linda Lewis and my mother Laura Perron

Harry & Nancy Cook in memory of Ann & Phil Purrington, Charles & Fran Cook and Susan Cook

Sue and Carol and their families in loving memory of Joan, Tom and Lessa Davenport; Fond memories of Julia and Henry DeMichele

Ina Donahue in memory of loved ones

The Faustine family in memory of Frank Faustine

Charlie and family in memory of loved ones

Charlie and family in memory of Janet Flood and Anne Marie Flood

Charles & Nancy Gage in memory of Herbert & Hazel Berry and Walter & Evelyn Gage

Jean Hall in memory of Arthur & Lucy Nichols

Jane & Dick Kruse and family in memory of Jeanette & Ernest Pero

Jane & Dick Kruse and family in memory of Jane & Richard Kruse

Serena Leiser in memory of Serena Leiser-Lanz & William Leiser

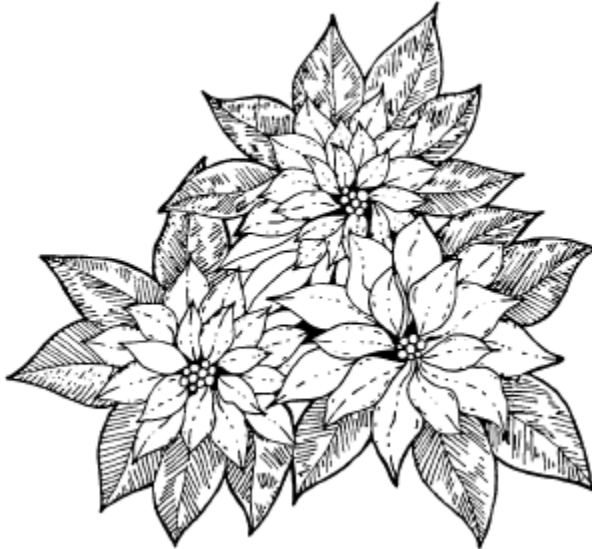
Sue Menzel and Jen Keeler in memory of Grace & Carl Lawton

Elaine R. Moore in memory of Florence & Wilfred Cook

Alan & Christine Mosher in memory of our parents and grandparents

Alan & Christine Mosher in honor of Christine's mother (Nana)

Kari & Ulrich Oevermann & their children in memory of our loved ones.
Karen Gavel in memory of our loved ones
Paul & Kathy Reynolds in memory of John Millar
Maggie & Alex Reynolds in memory of Great Nana Dorothy Reynolds
Parkman Bells in honor of Kathy LeBlanc
Bob, Sally, Mark & John Peterson in memory of Paul & Marion Blois
Bob, Sally, Mark & John Peterson in memory of Kenneth & Rachel Peterson
The Purcell Family in memory of Margaret Sugden, Russ Purcell and Edwin Purcell
Adam, Tyler and Benjamin Ridley in memory of Hazel & Edgar Ridley
Adam, Tyler and Benjamin Ridley in memory of Helen & Robert Gay
Charlie & Nancy Quimby in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Clyde W. Quimby and Mr. & Mrs. James M. McDonald
Bonnie Rossi in memory of my sister, Toni Stewart
Linda & Art Sharkey in memory of Doris & Joseph Furciato and Lillian & Arthur Sharkey
The Swets family in memory of Philip Murray and in honor of loved ones
The True family in memory of Robert & Edith True
The True family in memory of August & Elizabeth Buschmann and Caroline Barnes
Parker & Nancy Uhlman and family in memory of Edwin E. & Marjorie Heckman
Jack and Judi Wilson & family in memory of Mr. & Mrs. H. T. Chang
Jack and Judi Wilson & family in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jack & Ruth Wilson
Kenny and Susie in memory of Allen & Bea Moore, we love you.
Kenny and Susie in memory of Bob, Norene, Bobby Wightman, we love you.
Women's Fellowship – Merry Christmas



CALENDAR

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
 GSA/Kerygma Room

Dec 19 Monday
 4:00 PM BSA/Vestry
 5:30 PM BSA/Vestry
 6:30 PM Search Committee/Kerygma Room
 7:00 PM AVPCC/Board Room
 7:30 PM AA/3rd Floor Kirkside

Dec. 20 Tuesday
 9:00 AM AVPCC/Board Room
 6:30 PM BSA/Board Room, Historical Room
 7:00 PM BSA/Vestry
 7:30 PM Festival Ringers/Bell Loft

Dec 21 Wednesday
 4:00 PM “Journey Home”/Choir Room
 6:00 PM “Service of Quiet”

Dec. 22 Thursday
 12:00 PM Staff Meeting
 1:00 PM Staff Christmas Lunch
 2:30 PM GSA/Kerygma Room
 7:00 PM “Bosom Buddies”/Study

Dec. 23 Friday (no events scheduled)

Dec. 24 Saturday/Christmas Eve
 6:00 PM Family Candlelight Service
 8:00 PM Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

Dec. 25 Merry Christmas
 10:00 AM Worship
 2:30 PM Beaumont Nursing Home

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)*

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



The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

West Main & Church Streets, Westborough, Massachusetts



WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!

Our mission is to create a safe place to worship God, and to honor and explore God's promises, fulfilled in Jesus Christ; where Christ calls us to transforming relationships; and where we embrace gifts of the Spirit and build them into a ministry of love, care, acceptance, diversity, grace and hope within our church, our community and beyond.

