



CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

5 Summer St. Lynnfield MA 01940

781-334-3050 www.Centre-Church.org

We Welcome Everyone: An Open and Affirming Church

The Rev. Nancy Rottman, Senior Pastor
Laraine Wilson, Director of Faith Formation
Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School
Alison O'Connor, Church Administrator

**BLUE CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP
7:00 PM**

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5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

December 08, 2021

*Don't miss this moment -
By wishing it was 5 years ago,
By wishing it was your childhood Christmas,
By trying to rush it through so that we get to next year...
Don't miss this.
This is the once in a life-time Christmas.
If the darkness is so dark,
This is when the light shines the brightest.*
-Rev. Grace Imathiu

Gathering Music

arr. David Lanz

Angels We Have Heard On High

Noel Smith

Welcome and Introduction

Rev. Nancy Rottman

Call to Worship

L. Wilson: In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

L. Wilson: In him was life, and that life was the light for humanity.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to overcome it.

Prayer of Invocation

Larainne Wilson

Musical Meditation

Uddis-Kessler

When Christmas Brings More Pain Than Joy

Noel Smith



COMING UP AT CENTRE CHURCH

SUN., 12/19, FOURTH ADVENT WORSHIP

10:00 am, "A Room with a View (Love)"
Sanctuary and Livestream

6:00 pm, Christmas Concert Sanctuary

WED., 12/22, CANDLELIGHT LABYRINTH WALK

7 - 8:30 pm, Narthex

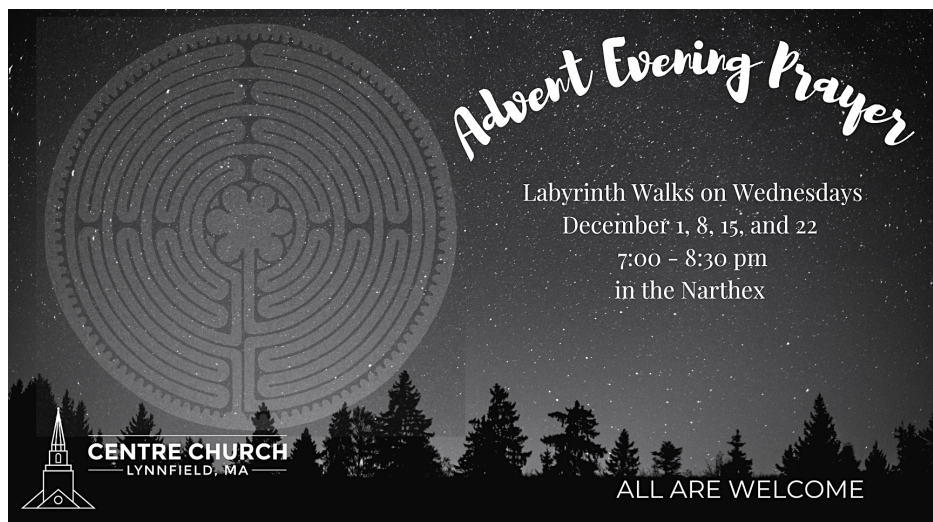
FRI., 12/24, CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 pm, Worship for all ages, Candles, Lessons and Carols
Sanctuary and Livestream

11:00 pm, Worship, Communion, Candles, Lessons and Carols
Chapel

Rev. Nancy gives thanks for Rev. Jeffrey Spencer from whose Longest Night Liturgy this service was adapted. Jeff serves as Senior Pastor and teacher at Niles Discovery Church (a new church formed by the merger of Niles Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) and First Christian Church of Fremont (Disciples of Christ) in Fremont, California, USA. We are fellow collaborators in the Worship Design Studio.

Rev. Spencer blogs at: <https://jeffsjottings.wordpress.com/>



All are welcome to experience evening, candlelit walks on the labyrinth to cultivate hope, peace, joy, and love this Advent. No matter who you are or what faith you live by, or don't, you are welcome to experience this ancient spiritual practice to center yourself in the midst of the busy holiday season and the ongoing stress of pandemic.

	Good News for the Excluded	
First Reading	Luke 14:15-24 Message Lighting a Candle Prayer Time for Quiet	Rev. Nancy
	Good News for the Grieving	
Second Reading	Luke 6:17-23 Message Lighting a Candle Prayer Time for Quiet	Laraine Wilson
	Good News for the Weary and Heavy-laden	
Third Reading	Matthew 11:28-29 Message Lighting a Candle Prayer Time for Quiet	Rev. Nancy
Hymn	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	<i>booklet #4</i>
	Good News for the Resentful	
Fourth Reading	Hebrews 12:14-15 Message Lighting a Candle Prayer Time for Quiet	Laraine Wilson

Good News for the Depressed and Anxious

Fifth Reading Psalm 46 Rev. Nancy
 Message
 Lighting a Candle
 Prayer
 Time for Quiet

Musical Meditation

Nordeman *Small Enough* Noel Smith

Good News for Everyone

Sixth Reading Psalm 121 Larainne Wilson
 Message
 Lighting a Candle
 Prayer
 Time for Quiet

Hymn ***O Little Town of Bethlehem*** booklet #23

Holy Communion

 Invitation
 Communion Prayer
 Breaking the Bread, Blessing the Cup
 The Bread and Cup are Shared

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, thank you for holding our pain and grief, and feeding us at your table tonight. Having received your gifts, those of hope offered through brokenness and peace poured out of sorrow, may we be filled with comfort that we do not face our emptiness alone. Where we have been healed by your grace, allow us to be messengers of your mercy to others in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of Response

Aside from our singing, most of our service has been in silence, so now we have an opportunity to give voice to our prayers, to offer our hearts to God by sharing our concerns, our hopes, and our thanksgivings. Your prayer will become the prayer of us all when we respond, **"O God, hear our prayers."** So, when the Spirit moves you, if the Spirit moves you, speak aloud your prayers. Let us pray...

The Words of the Prophet

Seventh Reading from Isaiah 9 Rev. Nancy

Blessing of the Gifts

Benediction

Sending Music

Arr. Lanz *Silent Night* Noel Smith

*Our worship participants this evening are:
The Rev. Nancy Rottman, Pastor
Larainne Wilson, Director of Faith Formation
Noel Smith, Guest Accompanist and Soloist*

Our ushers this evening are Annmarie Pendola and Stephen Riley.

You are encouraged to take with you a **Nativity of our Lord** ornament as a reminder of Emmanuel, God-With-Us, always.