



Be sure to stop by
the Social and
Environment table
after worship for
some Earth friendly
products.

Worship Notes.

Music licenses: One License with license #A-733437,
and CCLI License #A-2267261 and Streaming
#CSPL169342, Size A

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

Rev Thomas Bentley, Pastor
Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School
Alison O'Connor, Church Administrator



“Looking Toward
the End to have the
Best of Beginnings”

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

December 10, 2023

10:00 am

Prelude
O Christ Child Sweet

Lorenz

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Katherine Decker

Leader: The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here.

People: The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here.

Leader: The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here.

Leader and People: We come to prepare a way for the Lord, we come to ready ourselves for the transformation of our lives. For the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it.

Opening Prayer

Katherine Decker

Lord, in the midst of our busy time, when we are in the rush to Christmas, you burst into our lives with the tantalizing promise of something new. Open our hearts and spirits to the glorious possibilities of hope and peace to come. Help us to prepare our lives to receive you. We thank you for all the blessings you pour on us and for the privilege we have in sharing these blessings with others. Be with us all this day and all these days that we may serve you better by helping others in need. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Craft Fair Team

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of our God."

Leader and People : We hear God's voice and so we come to proclaim God's justice for all.

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of our God."

Leader and People: We hear God's voice and so we come to announce peace to all our neighbors.

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of our God."

Leader and People : We hear God's voice and so we come to live out God's call for Peace in this world. You cry out to us, O God, calling us to come to you.

***Opening Hymn**

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

#325

Sacrament of Infant Baptism ~ see insert

CENTRE CHURCH

*Advent and Christmas at
Centre Church*

Sundays
WORSHIP AT 10 AM
IN PERSON AND LIVESTREAM

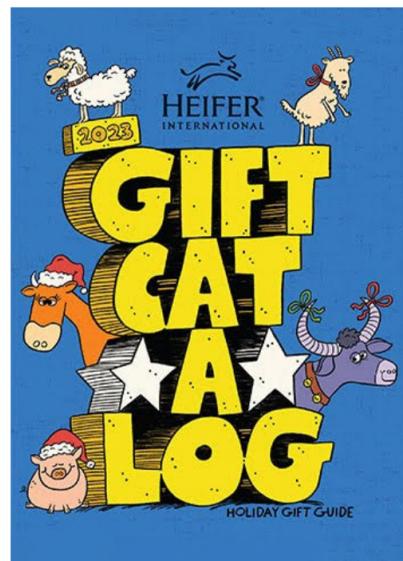
- 12/3 First Advent~Cleaned up for Jesus
Decorate Our Angel Tree after worship
- 12/10 Second Advent~Looking Towards
the End
- 12/17 Third Advent~The Thunder of Joy
Christmas Concert ~ 6:30 Sanctuary
- 12/24 Fourth Advent~ Love and the Birth
of Jesus

Wednesdays
11/29, 12/6, 12/13 & 12/20
7 -8 PM
Advent Journey session with
Pastor Tom in the Pastor's
lounge.
All are welcome!!

Christmas Eve
Sunday, 12/24
NO MORNING WORSHIP
5:00 pm, Worship for all ages
Candles, Lessons, and Carols
Sanctuary and Livestream

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

Monday, 12/25
MERRY CHRISTMAS
*** NO WORSHIP ***



**Heifer International Living Gift Market
Dec 17 after worship**

**Buy crafts and honor loved ones
with donations to Heifer**

New 2023 honor cards!



NEW TESTAMENT READING

Katherine Decker

2 Peter 3:8-16 ~ The Message

Don't overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change.

But when the Day of God's Judgment does come, it will be unannounced, like a thief. The sky will collapse with a thunderous bang, everything disintegrating in a huge conflagration, earth and all its works exposed to the scrutiny of Judgment.

Since everything here today might well be gone tomorrow, do you see how essential it is to live a holy life? Daily expect the Day of God, eager for its arrival. The galaxies will burn up and the elements melt down that day—but we'll hardly notice. We'll be looking the other way, ready for the promised new heavens and the promised new earth, all landscaped with righteousness. So, my dear friends, since this is what you have to look forward to, do your very best to be found living at your best, in purity and peace. Interpret our Master's patient restraint for what it is: salvation. Our good brother Paul, who was given much wisdom in these matters, refers to this in all his letters, and has written you essentially the same thing. Some things Paul writes are difficult to understand. Irresponsible people who don't know what they are talking about twist them every which way. They do it to the rest of the Scriptures, too, destroying themselves as they do it.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Call to Offering

***Offertory**

Were You There On That Christmas Night

Sleeth

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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, forever, Amen.

ANTHEM

Isaiah The Prophet Has Written Of Old

Carter

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

Katherine Decker

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

MESSAGE :“Looking Toward the End to Have the Best of Beginnings” Rev. Tom Bentley

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Word of Institution

Giving of Bread

Giving of the Cup

***CLOSING HYMN**

Go My Children. with My Blessing

#82

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gloria In Excelsis Deo

Kendall



Our ushers this morning are David Bjorkman, Phil Fisher, Margaret Waugh & Jeff Langill

The flowers on the altar today are given by Nina Emery, in memory of dear friend, Carolyn Walsh.

Our coffee fellowship host this morning is The Social and Environment Ministry Team