



Christmas Concert

December 22 – 6:30 p.m.

Followed by fellowship and refreshments

Join Us on Christmas Eve

December 24 - 5:00 p.m.

Family Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

December 24 - 11:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service in the Chapel



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

Bella Travaglini, Administrative Assistant



CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

10:00 am

Rev. Thomas Bentley

Prelude

“In a Manger Bed”

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Raden Sorli Hawk

Leader: In the times of darkness and fear, God is ever near to love and guide us.

People: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts singing your verses of love.

Leader: In the times of joy and dancing, God is ever near in celebration.

People: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts singing in harmony.

Leader: At all times and in all places, God is always with us, sustaining, healing, loving.

Leader & People: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts with Joy singing your song of Love over and over again throughout the whole world.

Opening Prayer (In unison)

Raden Sorli Hawk

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules.

We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus name. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Raden Sorli Hawk

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.

Thywill 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.

Lighting the Advent Candles

Leader : Today we continue in our Advent journey as we light three of the candles in the Advent Wreath. This Sunday our candle lighting is being done by the Provencher and Teixeira family.

(The first, second and third Advent Candles are lighted)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Child of God appear.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and help us in that way to go.**

Refrain

**6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night,
and death's own shadows put to flight.**

Refrain

**7 O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

Refrain

*Closing Hymn

Benediction

Postlude

“O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright”

“For All the Saints”

p. 158

Rev. Tom Bentley


Wilson



Our thanks to Laurel and Peter Caputo for arranging the poinsettias on the chancel this morning. Flowers may be picked up next Sunday after the worship service.

Our ushers this morning are Margaret Waugh and Scott Barke.

Please join us for refreshments and fellowship following the service. We thank Nancy Lauzon for being our host today.



“O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright”

1 O Morning Star, how clear and bright, your beam shines forth in truth and Light! My Sovereign meek and lowly! O Root of Jesse, Promised One, my God and Ruler, you have won my heart to serve you solely! You are holy, great and glorious, all victorious, Rich in blessing, rule and might o’er all possessing.

2 Come heavenly Brightness, Light divine, and deep within my heart now shine, there makes yourself an altar! Fill me with joy and strength to be your member, joined eternally in love that cannot falter; Longing for you does possess me; turn and bless me; Here in sadness eye and heart long for your gladness.

Prayer of Confession (In unison)

Raden Sorli Hawk

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can’t meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else’s burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Rev. Tom Bentley

The messenger has been sent to you, proclaiming that there is One who is Coming who will heal and lead you. Know that this is a great gift from God, who has always and will always love you. AMEN.

*Opening Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

P. 116 (vs. 1,2,6,7)

Scripture Reading

Raden Sorli Hawk

Luke 1: 26-38

Pew Bible pp 931-932

Call to Offering

Offertory

“All Earth is Wating”

Taule

Doxology

*Hymn of Praise (in unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Living God, whom we adore.

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

**Paper Bag Pageant Based On
The Christmas Pageant by Jacqueline Rogers**

Scene 1: Mary and Joseph

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 2: The Inn (actually – The Stable)

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Scene 3: Shepherds and Angels

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

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!"

Scene 4: Shepherds Spread the Word

O Come All Ye Faithful

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.

Scene 5: Wise Men Follow a Star

We Three Kings of Orient Are

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 night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Scene 6: The Promise Fulfilled

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.