

Our ushes today are Kathi Martin and Bob MacKendrick,



Please join us downstairs for Coffee Hour hosted by Janet Everson.



December Special Happenings!

Dec. 22nd

Christmas Concert - 6:30 pm - Sanctuary

Dec. 24th

Candlelight Service - 5:00 pm - Sanctuary

Candlelight Service - 11:00 pm - 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



Rev. Thomas Bentley

“A Woman-to-Woman Moment”

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

December 22, 2024

10:00 am

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Magaret Waugh

Leader: It's only days before Christmas! How quickly this time has come upon us!

People: We are breathless. Still so much to be done.

Leader: Calm your spirits. Take time to hear the wondrous news.

People: Open our ears to hear the Christmas Story.

Leader: Believe in the good news!

Leader & People: We believe and rejoice! God's love is here with us! AMEN.

Opening Prayer (*in unison*) Margaret Waugh
Lord, be with us this morning as we hear of the wondrous news of the coming of Jesus your son. Remind us that, like Mary his mother each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*) Margaret Waugh
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.

Lighting the Advent Candle
Margaret Waugh: Today in our Advent Journey we we light four candles in our Advent Wreath. This Sunday our candle lighting is being done by the members of the DiGiorgio family.

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Today we light four candles- the first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.

**1 Mary, woman of the promise;
Vessel of your people's dreams:
Through your open, willing spirit
Waters of God's goodness streamed.**

**2 Mary, song of holy wisdom
Sung before the world began;
Faithful to the Word within you,
As you bore God's wondrous plan.**

**3 Mary, morning star of justice;
mirror of the Radiant Light;
In the shadows of life's journey
Be a beacon for our sight.**

**4 Mary, model of compassion;
wounded by your offspring's pain:
When our hearts are torn by sorrow,
teach us how to love again.**

**5 Mary, woman of the gospel;
humble home for treasured seed:
help us to be true disciples,
bearing fruit in word and deed.**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

#128

**1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**2 Our God transcends all heaven, earth and its domain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes to
reign:**

**in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the
sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**3 Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air,
but only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.**

**4 What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but
what can I offer; all my heart.**

The second Candle is called PEACE, God’s gentle loving peace for our lives.

The third Candle is called JOY, because of God’s absolute presence in our lives.

The fourth Candle is called LOVE, because of God’s great love for us.
The family members in unison: Come, all is ready. Let the light of this
these candles, called HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE, bring brightness to
your spirits.

[The first, second, third, and fourth Advent Candles are lighted]

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Margaret Waugh

Lord, we are so excited. Christmas Day is almost here. We want to jump ahead to the Christmas Eve worship service and then the day itself. Help us to be patient to hear the whole story over the coming days. Slow us down again, Lord. Cause us to look at the blossoming of the branch and remind us that your love is blossoming in our lives. As we hear Mary say “Yes!” to God’s good news, help us to remember that God continually calls us to be those who will bear the good news to those in need. Forgive us when we forget to do that. Heal our wounds and bind up our spirits. Enable us to go into your world offering our lives, our gifts, our talents, for your glory. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Rev. Tom Bentley

God’s love and faithfulness have been at work in you. You are healed and forgiven. Rejoice in God’s love and blossom. AMEN.

*Opening Hymn

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

#128



Old Testament Reading

Psalm 80

Listen, Shepherd, Israel’s Shepherd— get all your Joseph sheep together.
Throw beams of light from your dazzling throne so Ephraim, Benjamin, and
Manasseh can see where they’re going.
Get out of bed—you’ve slept long enough! Come on the run before it’s too
late. God, come back! Smile your blessing smile: That will be our salvation.
God, God-of-the-Angel-Armies, how long will you smolder like a sleeping
volcano while your people call for fire and brimstone?
You put us on a diet of tears, bucket after bucket of salty tears to drink.
You make us look ridiculous to our friends; our enemies poke fun day after
day. God-of-the-Angel-Armies, come back! Smile your blessing smile:
That will be our salvation.

Call to Offering

Offertory	“Inkeepers Carol”	Eddleman
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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

Children’s Time

*Children ages 4 and up are invited to join us for Kid’s Classroom in Room 10
with Barbara Langill and Christine Marshall.*

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer



Margaret Waugh	Gospel Reading	Margaret Waugh
<i>The Message</i>	Luke 1: 39-56	<i>The Message</i>

Mary didn’t waste a minute. She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in
the hill country, straight to Zachariah’s house, and greeted Elizabeth.
When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She
was filled with the Holy Spirit, and sang out exuberantly, You’re so blessed
among women, and the babe in your womb, also blessed!
And why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord visits me?
The moment the sound of your greeting entered my ears, The babe in my
womb skipped like a lamb for sheer joy. Blessed woman, who believed
what God said, believed every word would come true!
And Mary said, I’m bursting with God-news; I’m dancing the song of my
Savior God. God took one good look at me, and look what happened—
I’m the most fortunate woman on earth!
What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very
name is holy, set apart from all others. His mercy flows in wave after wave
on those who are in awe before him. He bared his arm and showed his
strength, scattered the bluffing braggarts. He knocked tyrants off their
high horses, pulled victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a
banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold. He embraced his
chosen child, Israel; he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them
high. It’s exactly what he promised, beginning with Abraham and right up
to now. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then went back
to her own home.

Anthem	“An Advent Prayer”	Pote
Message:	“A Woman-to-Woman Moment”	Rev. Tom Bentley
*Closing Hymn	“Mary, Woman of the Promise”	#123
Benediction		Rev. Tom Bentley
Postlude	“Festal March”	Mansfield