



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, December 4th, 2022 10am
Second Sunday of Advent
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
and Holy Communion

Please Join Us for Christmas Caroling immediately following the Christmas Tree Lighting on Wrentham Common, which begins at 6:00pm.

Order of Worship

PRELUDE **“Imagine”** John Lennon Monica Yohn, flute

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *of Hope and Peace*

Leader: In the season of Advent, life begins again.

People: We light a candle with great hope!

Leader: Our Lord will show us the way.

People: We light a candle for peace!

Leader: Come, thou long expected Jesus.

People: We await to see the glory of God!

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Notices for the program, ministries and people of the church are shared.

GATHERING OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

*OPENING HYMN No. 121 ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: By your eternal Spirit, O Lord, come and rule in our hearts alone. Set us free from our fears and release us from our sins. We confess we have tried to rely upon our own strength and our own views. Forgive us when our steps have taken us away from your path. Deliver us into a whole new time for divine love. May we share in your great vision for a peaceable world. Amen.

All: Amen.

***All who are able please stand**

(1)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: We hear in the words of John the Baptist our assurance in the power of God's love. Turn to the Lord. You are forgiven. The kingdom of heaven has come near.

All: Praise be to the Lord. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING *from Psalm 72*

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God.

People: Judge your people with righteousness.

Leader: Grant justice to the poor.

People: May the mountains yield prosperity.

Leader: Give deliverance to the needy.

People: May righteousness flourish.

Leader: May peace abound.

People: May the glory of the Lord fill the whole earth!

*ACT OF PRAISE No. 36 words: 3rd Century; music: 1851

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome Maverick Dakota, child of Amy and Nelson Zapata, for Holy Baptism.



HYMN No. 132 ***O Come, All Ye Faithful*** (Verse 1)

Please remain seated for the presentation of the newly baptized.

*CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING *unison*

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of baptism and the joy of new life. We promise our love, support, and blessing for the newly baptized. Grant to *Maverick Dakota*, strength for life's journey, courage in times of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love and the hope of new life everlasting through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10 "The Glorious Dwelling Place of Divine Peace"

ANTHEM

"Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?"

Robert Lau

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12 "John the Baptist Proclaims the Lord of Heaven is Near"

SERMON "Prepare the Way"

*HYMN No. 148

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

People: Christ is in our midst.

Leader: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO OFFERING & SERVICE

For the Lord has done wondrous things, let us build God's house together!

OFFERTORY **"Comfort, Comfort"** arr. John Ferguson

*DOXOLOGY No. 44 words: 1674; music: 1551

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear God, may our gifts and our lives create pathways to peace. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN No. 119 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (Vs 1 & 2)

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The bread and juice at the Lord's Table are offered to all who choose to receive.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sung*

Please see blue insert

BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR *all versions are welcomed in the Spirit.*

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 and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD *Sung*

Please see blue insert

SHARING OF THE BREAD

Please eat the bread when served.

SHARING OF THE CUP

Please hold the cup until all are served and instructed to drink as one in the Spirit.

PRAYER *in unison*

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

Send a blessing to your social contacts far and wide.

Take delight in how God is making you an instrument of God's peace!

*CLOSING HYMN No. 149 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (*Vs.* 1, 2, 5)

*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE **"Little Partita for Christmas"** (*Lo, How a Rose*) 4th Movement: Jubilant
James Woodman



Welcome to the OCC!

We are glad to enter the season of Advent with you in worship.

Please join us for refreshments following the service.

And please join us tonight at 6:00pm for Christmas Caroling (rain date) on our front steps!

May the Spirit be alive in your Holiday Preparations!

Notes on today's music:

"Imagine" was chosen to complement the vision of peace from today's reading from Isaiah. "Is Your Heart Prepared" (1993) reminds us to take some time to reflect, during this busy time of year. "Comfort, Comfort" originates from an early Protestant community in Geneva, Switzerland, 1551. The text (based on Isaiah 40) is quoted in today's reading from Matthew. The postlude is based on "Lo, How a Rose" but you may hear a bit of Grieg's "Morning Mood" in it as well (think of the orchestral music when Bugs Bunny sees a beautiful sunrise). The present piece was written when James Woodman was organist at a monastery near Harvard Square in the early 1990s.

THE ORIGINAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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Senior Pastor: Reverend Kenneth C. Landin
Interim Music/Choir Director: Justin Kisch
Bells Director: Martha Goodman
Sextons: Bob & Sandy Cummings Office Administrator: Donna Charbatji

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LIFE OF THE CHURCH

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Lynnete Beaudro, in our prayers of safety in Qatar.

Peg Mercier, for prayers of peace and continued healing.

Les Burch, for continued progress, strength and wellness.

Jean Dusty, needing thoughts and prayers for healing and strength.

Walter Landin, Pastor Ken's Dad, as he continues to recover from a recent fall.

Today's Flowers are Dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGISTS: **Gordon Wetmore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Ralph Lambalot, Bob & Kathy Boissy, Heather Castelo, and Kim Kelly**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Alison Wade and Bob Casavant**

TODAY WE WELCOME TO THE CHURCH the family and friends of Amy and Nelson Zapata as they celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism for their son *Maverick Dakota Zapata*. Standing in honor as Godparents are Jillian Barraclough and Joseph Blodgett Jr. Congratulations to all and May God Bless.

CALLING ALL CAROLLERS Tonight, Sunday, December 4th Rain date

"Tis the season to be jolly!" and "Fla-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!" We are calling all Christmas Singers of all ages, friends and family and neighbors to a special Old Fashioned Christmas Carol event on the front steps of the OCC immediately following the 6pm Christmas Tree lighting on Wrentham Common!

We would love to gather everyone, bedecked in holiday festive outfits, to invite the public holiday goers to celebrate the joy of the season in song!

CALLING ALL KIDDO'S....

As you are aware, Christmas is just around the corner and so is the Christmas Eve, 5pm service. Justin (our Interim Music Director) and Monica (our staff soprano) would like to begin 11am rehearsals for no more than 30minutes, on the four Sundays of Advent, beginning Sunday, November 27th. The idea is to prepare the children for the Children's Christmas Eve sing along. So spread the word and bring the children for fun and participation as we rebuild our post Covid holiday season!!

Thank you to all who pledged for 2023 during our pledge campaign!

While pledges are a bit down for next year, we are reminded that "Stewardship, simply put, is what we do with what we have." We are blessed to have a congregation that contributes to and supports the OCC in so many ways, serving each other and our community through volunteering, donating, praying. Our table is set with the bread and cup, and we are all invited to share in God's love.



Wishing you joy of the season! *The Stewardship Committee Jen Chace, Ralph Lambalot, Lesley Whittemore*

PLEDGE ENVELOPES HAVE ARRIVED. Please look for your pledge envelope on the table, at the bottom of the stairs to the Sanctuary. And please pass the word to your neighbors to notify them. Thank you.

**Please support the following businesses that have supported the
2022 Gingerbread Fair**

Altitude Trampoline Park
An Unlikely Story
Bedrock Granite Company
Big Y
Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum
Briggs Nursery
Café Assisi
Cataldo's
Charles Riverboat Company
Christmas Tree Shops
Cottage Car Wash
Dana Ana Meat Market
Evviva Trattoria/110 Grill
F&W Pest Control
Fore Kicks
Franklin Car Wash
Horse N' Carriage
Lake Pearl
Long Horn Steak House
Luciano's
Michael's Deli

Nail Sensation
Nicky's
Novatos Bar and Grill
Only Prettier Design
Parker's Pub
Pat's Peak Ski Area
Plimoth Patuxet Museum
Proctor Mansion Inn
Regional Tire & Service
Roche Brothers
Shaws
Sierra's Brick Oven Pizza & Pub
Southwick's Zoo
Stop & Shop
Trader Joe's
UNO Pizzeria & Grill
Village Griddle
Village Ski & Snowboard
Wampum Corner Liquors
Wrentham Cooperative Bank
Wrentham House of Pizza
3 Pug Creamery



Welcome to the OCC!
affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Our faith is rooted in God's love and grows into the mission and service in Christ's compassion to all people regardless of physical or mental ability, race, age, culture, family status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

You can find more information about us on our website and our ONA Board in Fellowship Hall.

