WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL † UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Time of Holy Wonder
8:00 pm Christmas Eve 2021
Candlelight Service
Welcome to Wellesley Village Church!
We Are an Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ.

Whoever you are, wherever you are on the journey of life and faith, we are delighted you are here!

Dear Christmas Eve worshippers,

Lowly shepherds, worldly travelers, heavenly angels, and a young girl with her betrothed were among those who first experienced the marvel and mystery of God born among us. It’s a reminder that God desires to be at home among ordinary people, and often calls the most unlikely together. With gratitude for the story of the first Christmas, we extend to you this Christmas Eve a welcome as broad as the outstretched arms of God.

We hope you will return again and again to experience more of life together here. Wellesley Village Church is a holy place to be, belong, and become, and we would love sharing the journey of life in faith together as we Choose Love, and Make it Real.

Tonight, may this sanctuary be a holy place for you. Wherever you are on the journey of life and faith, may you experience the profound love of God made known in Emmanuel.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas!

~ Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter, Sr. Pastor, on behalf of the members and staff of Wellesley Village Church
ORDER OF WORSHIP

This evening all hymns are found in the Red Hymnal.
*Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE
“Divinum Mysterium”
Ed Broms, Organist

INTROIT
“Grosser Herr und Starker Koenig”
J.S. Bach
Thomas Valle Hoag, Solo
Ed Broms, Organ
Robert Thorpe, Trumpet

Great Lord, o powerful King,
dearest Savior, o how little
you care about the glories of the earth!

He who sustains the entire world,
who created its magnificence and beauty,
must sleep in a harsh manger.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES
Rev. Megan Berkowitz

WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

CALL TO WORSHIP
“The Mighty Pilgrimage”
by Christine Rodgers
Rev. Pam Emslie

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL NO. 132 “O Come All Ye Faithful”

FIRST LESSON
Isaiah 9:2-7
Rev. Diane Seaborn
The prophet Isaiah announces the reign of the Prince of Peace.
ANTHEM  “Tollite Hostias”  Camille Saint-Saëns
Sanctuary Choir
Dr. Kevin McDonald, Director
Kristjon Imperio, Piano

Bring forth your offerings, and adore the Lord, your God,
and worship Him in his Holy place.
Rejoice in heaven, exult all ye peoples,
for the Lord now comes in glory. Alleluia.

SECOND LESSON  Luke 1:26-33  Rev. Megan Berkowitz
The angel Gabriel tells Mary she will bear a son.

ANTHEM  “Dolce”  Georg Telemann
Dr. Robert Thorpe, Trumpet
Ed Broms, Organ

The birth of the babe in Bethlehem.

*CAROL NO. 140  “What Child is This, Who, Laid to Rest”

FOURTH LESSON  Luke 2:8-14  Rev. Megan Berkowitz
An angel tells the shepherds of the birth.

ANTHEM  “Through the Watches of the Night”  Francis Patrick O’Brien

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER  Rev. Diane Seaborn

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

FIFTH LESSON  Luke 2:15-20  Rev. Pam Emslie
The shepherds travel to the manger.
OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION  

Rev. Bob Feeny

We are grateful for your offerings to God in support of the ministries of Wellesley Village Church. Checks may be made payable to Wellesley Village Church. You may donate online or by QR code here or by calling our Financial Secretary, ext. 18, for assistance.

Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM  

“O Holy Night”  Adolph Adam

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Please pass the light carefully, keeping lit candles upright and tipping unlit candles into the light.

Proclamation  

John 1:1-5, 9-14  Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

The Light of the World

Carol Medley (remain seated)

“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. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

“ Silent Night, Holy Night”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven a-far, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!
Silent night, holy night! Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Moment of Dedication

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

Before standing for the hymn, please extinguish your candles.

*RECESSIONAL CAROL NO. 120  “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”  Ed Broms

Ed Broms, Organist

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We wish you and yours a blessed Christmas!

Family Worship Room Available
The Family Worship Room, located just outside the Sanctuary, on the piano side, is open for families to be together in a child-centered space.

Holiday Church Office Hours
The church office will be closed on December 25, 31 and January 1, in observance of Christmas and New Year’s Day.

Sundays, December 26 and January 2,
10am worship service in the Sanctuary.
Sunday, January 9, we return to our regular schedule:
9am worship in the Chapel & 10am worship in the Sanctuary.
Family Life programs meet at their regular times.

Your Gifts Make a Difference

Giving Options Our community is sustained by the gracious gifts of time, service, and financial resources that we share. In an effort to make financial giving more streamlined, we now offer online options. You can find the link in the weekly Enews or scan this QR code. Gifts may always be mailed to the church office or left in collection baskets. May God bless the giving and receiving of gifts and make more of us together than we can be apart.

Year-End Giving Notes
Special year-end gifts to Wellesley Village Church are a wonderful way to express gratitude for the blessings of the past year. Your gifts help the church with unmet needs and enable us to end the year with financial strength. Checks may be mailed to the church. Please visit our website for on-line giving, or call Marina at 781-235-1988 ext. 18 or email her at marina@wellesleyvillagechurch.org for any questions, or to notify her of a stock transfer.

Thank you for ALL of your gifts to Village Church!

FOR UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Cynthia Sibold, Moderator
John Snyder, Vice Moderator
Leif Hille, Immediate Past Moderator
The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter ~ Senior Pastor

Associate Pastors
The Rev. Pam Emslie
The Rev. Diane Seaborn

Pastoral Residents
The Rev. Bob Feeney
The Rev. Megan Berkowitz

Ministry Directors
Michaela McDonald – Children’s Ministry
Dr. Kevin McDonald - Interim Director of Music
Kristjon Imperio, Piano
Ed Broms, Organ
Meg Sweeting – Administration

Support Staff
Christine Toppin – Communications & Worship Support
Sharon Kuhn – Administrative Assistant to Senior Pastor
Douglas Baskett - Facilities Administrator
Marina Berga – Financial Secretary
Gerardo Ortiz - Sexton
Gladys Murillo - Sexton

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