

# Wellesley Village Church

*Congregational † United Church of Christ*



10:00am Worship



November 27, 2022

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 27, 2022

10:00am

\*Please stand as you are able.

What a blessing it is to have you here today!  
Please use this QR code to register your presence.



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## PRELUDE

“Overture” from *Messiah*, HWV 56  
Kristjon Imperio, organ

*G.F. Handel*

## WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

\***OPENING HYMN NO. 110** (*red Pilgrim hymnal*) "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

*Children are invited to gather on the chancel steps during the last verse  
for their time as young disciples before proceeding to church school.*

## TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Michaela McDonald

*Children may proceed to Children’s Church, which concludes at 11:15am.  
Parents of 1<sup>st</sup> grade and younger should go to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classrooms after worship.  
Grades 2-5 will be brought to Village Common after Children’s Choir rehearsal.  
Middle School Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades) meets on the lower level.*

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (*Please read bolded parts.*)

The Mathew Family

Veena, Amit, Amele, Ellora, and Sahana

*adapted from Isaiah 40:1-5*

As we begin to Draw Near to each other and to God this first Sunday of Advent,  
alongside Christians everywhere, we light the candle of hope.

*(The first candle is lit.)*

Listen to the voice of a prophet crying out: “In the wilderness, prepare the way of the  
Lord: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven  
ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.**

Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people shall see it together.”

**As we light the first Advent candle, let us fill our hearts with hope, for the Promised One is coming!**

RESPONSE (*sung*)

**Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Please read bolded parts.*)

Rev. Megan Berkowitz

God calls us to be people of hope, and yet, so often, we are not. Let us invite God's Spirit of grace to draw us near again.

**Holy God, sometimes we lose hope in our own lives. We believe our problems to be too big or too small for you to work with us towards change.**

Sometimes we lose hope in one another, leaning on assumptions and judgements and failing to see you at work in those around us.

**Sometimes we lose sight of the hope you offer to all your people, believing our world to be too broken for your beauty to shine through.**

Gracious God, forgive us and remind us again that you created us to hope. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

The news of Advent is good news! The coming of the Christ child is a gift from God for hope in our lives. We can place our hope in the God of the stars and the manger. May that hope sustain us in all things.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.**

*Please stand as you are able and share a greeting of peace with one another.*

CHORAL ANTHEM

*"Comfort Ye" from Messiah*

G.F. Handel

Chad Chaffee, tenor

Sanctuary Choir; Kevin McDonald, conducting

Kristjon Imperio, harpsichord

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:5-25, 57-64

Rev. Stacy Swain

SERMON

"Draw Near"

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 102 "O How Shall I Receive You" (*seated*)

COMMON LIFE, CALL TO OFFERING, PRAYER OF DEDICATION Martha Schick

Offertory "And the Glory of the Lord" from *Messiah* G.F. Handel  
Sanctuary Choir; Kevin McDonald, conducting  
Kristjon Imperio, organ

\*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.

To give:



PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 117 (*Black Hymnal*) "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

WELCOME TO VISITORS AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Allegro Maestoso" from *Water Music*, HWV 349 G.F. Handel  
*You are invited to remain seated until the conclusion of worship.*

†††

ALL ARE INVITED!

*Please join the gathering in Village Common  
for refreshments and conversation following the postlude.*

*If you are watching our livestreamed service,  
please join us after virtual worship  
for a brief time of fellowship,*

*followed by Faithful Questions led by Rev. Stacy Swain.*

Please use this link > Zoom Fellowship (11:15am) and Faithful Questions (11:30)

## TODAY

- 9:00am**      **Worship**, *Chapel*, Martha Schick, preaching; Rev. Megan Berkowitz
- 10:00am**      **Worship**, *Sanctuary and Livestream*, Rev. Stacy Swain, preaching; Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter; Rev. Megan Berkowitz; Martha Schick  
**Childcare**, *Family Worship Room*  
**Children's Church**, *Upper Level*, Michaela McDonald  
**Middle School Youth Group**, *Youth Room*, Rev. Pam Emslie
- 11:15am**      **Coffee and Fellowship**, *Village Common*  
**Zoom Fellowship**, to be followed by Faithful Questions  
**Handbell Choir Rehearsal**, *Sanctuary*, Kristjon Imperio
- 11:30am**      **Faithful Questions**, *Parlor and Zoom*, Rev. Stacy Swain  
*If you are participating by Zoom: Please use this Zoom link >*  
*for Zoom Fellowship (11:15am) and Faithful Questions (11:30)*  
**Family Life Advent Wreath Workshop**, *Upper Level Classrooms*
- 5:00pm**      **Worship at Congregational Church of Weston**, Rev. Megan Berkowitz
- 7:00pm**      **No High School Youth Group tonight**, Rev. Pam Emslie

### **Faithful Questions**, Today, 11:30am, Parlor and zoom

Gather with Rev. Stacy Swain for an open-hearted, non-judgmental conversation as we explore questions of faith. Today's question: **"How are we to understand the divinity of Jesus?"** If you are participating by Zoom, Please use this link

### **Family Life Advent Workshop** Today, 11:30am-1pm, Upper Level Classrooms

Join the advent wreath-making festivities. Enjoy pizza and fun with fellow church folk while you make a wreath for your home.

### **Next Sunday is Birthday Sunday!**



In worship we hear words that celebrate all who gather: "You matter to the church, and you matter to God." **That is worth celebrating!** We'd like to celebrate you! (and your children!) Let Stacy know you have a birthday in December, and we'll lift up your name in song during fellowship hour!

## ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

### **Giving Tree for Children of Hoops and Homework & Family Promise Metrowest**

*Drop-off starts TODAY in Village Common Lobby.* Gifts are due at the church for Family Promise children by Dec. 8. and Hoops and Homework children by Dec. 18. You may select a child's name and desired gift online. Please bring the gift in a gift bag with your child's name and program clearly labelled. Please see Enews for sign-up.

### **Alternative Gift Fair**

*December 4th In-Person and Online (see Enews or website) through Christmas 2022*

Make Christmas gifts to those in need through 9 organizations with strong Village Church connections, including For His Children, A Place to Turn, and Hoops & Homework. Come to the in-person fair to talk with these groups about giving and volunteering. Donations at the Fair may be made by cash, check, Venmo, and online.

### **Village Church Parents Group (VCPG) Sun., Dec. 4, 7:00-8:30pm, Parlor**

We are a group of Village Church parents walking in faith together who gather for conversation and support, especially when our kids -- or we!--struggle. All parents are welcome! Contact Pam Stazesky (pbstnt@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Moms Group, Thurs., Dec. 8, 7:15pm-9:30pm, Home of Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter**

All Moms are invited to join us for our annual Advent/Christmas gathering. We are eager to connect with you, whether you are an old friend or a new one, and celebrate the season. Please contact Kim Reohr at 917-544-9094 with questions or for more details. RSVP link is in the Enews.

### **H.O.M.E. Store is Back!**

*Sat., Dec. 10, 9am-4pm & Sun., Dec. 11, 9am - noon, Village Common*

Shop H.O.M.E. store this Christmas! Stop by, browse and purchase the lovely, handcrafted gifts from the H.O.M.E. (Homeowners Organized for More Employment) Store. H.O.M.E. Store is a craft cooperative in Maine that offers jobs, food, education, temporary shelter and home ownership to people in need.

### **Family Life Gingerbread House Decorating and Chrismon Tree Decorating**

*Fri., Dec. 9. 6-8pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Upper Level Classrooms*

Create a beautiful gingerbread house and decorate the Chrismon tree! (Houses and candy provided.) Come one, come all, for intergenerational fun!

### **Village Churchwomen Annual Holiday Tea, Tues., Dec. 13, 1 p.m.**

Please join us for holiday music by New Sound Assembly Barbershop Chorus. Tea and refreshments will follow the program. RSVP to normajeankamar@gmail.com by Monday, December 5th.



# Draw Near

ADVENT 2022

## *Draw Near to PEACE ~ Advent II ~ Dec. 4*

- 9am Chapel Worship
- 10am Sanctuary Worship
- Alternative Christmas Gift Fair, through 12/25

## *Friday, Dec. 9, 6pm Family Life Activity*

- Gingerbread House & Crismon Tree Decorating

## *Draw Near to JOY ~ Advent III ~ Dec. 11*

- 9am Chapel Worship
- 10am Sanctuary Worship
- H.O.M.E. Store to support residents of rural Maine

## *Draw Near to LOVE ~ Advent IV ~ Dec. 18*

- 9am Chapel Worship with Harpist
- 10am Sanctuary Worship, Intergeneration Nativity Story

## *Longest Night Service @ CCW ~ in Weston Wed. Dec. 21, 7:30pm*

## *CHRISTMAS EVE Services*

- 4:00 pm Family Service with Children's Pageant
- 5:00 pm CCW Christmas Eve Service in Weston
- 7:00 pm Candlelight Service with Sanctuary Choir
- 9:00 pm Candlelight Service with Youth and Alumni Choir

## *Christmas Day Service - ONLINE ONLY @ 10am*

### *January 1, 2023 ~ One 10am Service*

- New Year's Day Communion

### *January 8, 2023 ~ One 10am Service*

- Installation of the Reverend Stacy Swain, Assoc. Pastor

### *January 15, 2023 ~ One 10am Service*

- Sharing the Dream with Charles Street A.M.E. at WVC

## LAY LEADERSHIP

**John Snyder** ~ Moderator  
**Kathy Schleyer** ~ Vice Moderator  
**Cynthia Sibold** ~ Immediate Past Moderator

## PASTORS

**The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter,**  
**Sr. Pastor** [sarah@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:sarah@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**The Rev. Pam Emslie, Assoc. Pastor, Youth Minister** [pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**The Rev. Stacy Swain, Assoc. Pastor, Congregational Care and Engagement**  
[stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

## PASTORAL RESIDENTS

**The Rev. Megan Berkowitz,** 2<sup>nd</sup> Year  
[megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Martha Schick,** 1<sup>st</sup> Year  
[martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

## MINISTRY DIRECTORS

**Michaela McDonald** – Children’s Ministry  
[michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Dr. Kevin McDonald** –  
Director of Music & Youth Music  
[kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Kristjon Imperio** – Organist & Assist Music  
Director  
[kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Ilana Cady** – Chapel Worship Lead Musician  
[ilana@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:ilana@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Meg Sweeting** – Church Administrator  
[meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Christine Toppin** – Communications  
[christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Sharon Funk** – Admin. Assist.  
[sharon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:sharon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Marina Berga** – Financial Secretary  
[marina@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:marina@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

## WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

At Wellesley Village Church, we believe in a vision for God’s Beloved Community where all people are welcomed and enthusiastically affirmed, as well as honored and celebrated as made in God’s holy image. This intentional inclusivity welcomes people of all races, sexual orientations, gender identities/expressions, abilities, family dynamics and configurations, and so much more. We recognize that our world and our church community do not always live into this vision, and yet as a church, we are continually working to widen our welcome and witness. If you have suggestions for how we can better welcome you and those you love, please reach out to Rev. Megan Berkowitz at:  
[megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org).

## WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

For information, please visit our website at: [wellesleyvillagechurch.org](http://wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

For smartphone access →  
Or speak to any one of us!

2 Central Street,  
Wellesley, MA 02482

Church Office & Directory: 781-235-1988



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