

Wellesley Village Church

Family Christmas Eve Service



*"Behold, I bring you good news of great joy
for unto us is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*

Luke 2:10-11

December 24, 2022

4:00 PM

Welcome to Worship on This Holy and Exciting Night!

Prepare to Worship the newborn King!

To help us tell the story, you will need some props available on the tables at the back and front of the sanctuary. Children may take a bag and decorate/wear a crown and make sure you have a star, which can be found at the ends of the pews.

We Welcome All

We extend a welcome as broad as the outstretched arms of God, who calls us together to pray, sing, and rejoice in God's glorious presence.

This service is for families and especially for children. Your wiggles, giggles, messes, and cries. If you need a quieter, child-centered space in which to be together, the Family Worship Room, located just outside the sanctuary, is open for your use. There is not a childcare attendant.

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.

If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will return again and again to experience more of life together here. Wellesley Village Church's mission is to make God's transforming love real in this beautiful and broken world, and everyone is invited to be part of our life together.

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*

O Come Let Us Adore Him!

*Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE Christmas Medley Kristjon Imperio

INTROIT "Will We Know Him?" Don Besig

Youth Choirs

Dr. Kevin McDonald, Director of Music

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter and Rev. Pam Emslie

One: Come, into this sacred place, into this sacred night,
into this sacred story!

All: O come, let us adore him!

One: All Advent long, we have waited for hope,

All: And hope has come in a tiny baby!

One: All Advent long, we have waited for peace,

All: And the Prince of Peace has been born!

One: All Advent long, we have waited for joy,

All: And the angels now proclaim good news of great joy!

One: All Advent long, we have waited for love,

All: And love is as abundant as the stars!

One: Our waiting is over; Christ has been born!

All: O come, let us adore him!

*CAROL "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.

Refrain: **O come, let us adore him, o come, let us adore him,**

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

Glory to God, glory in the highest. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

YOUTH CHOIRS

“Tonight Emmanuel”

Marty Parks

“LISTEN TO CHRISTMAS”

*Adapted from “Listen to Christmas,” by Judy Gattis Smith.
Produced by special arrangement with Contemporary Drama Service.*

Please remain seated for all hymns during the pageant.

INTRODUCTION – Gabriel Comes to Mary

Luke 1:26-38

SCENE 1 – Shepherds on the Hillside

Luke 2:1-14

CAROL “The First Nowell”

**The first Nowell the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

**They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***

SCENE 2 – The Manger

Luke 2:15-19

CAROL “Away in a Manger”

**Away in the manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the 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 cradle till morning is nigh.**

CAROL “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.**

Refrain: **O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.**

**Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain***

CONCLUSION

CAROL REPRISE “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:**

Refrain: **O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

*OFFERING OUR GIFTS

*During the carol, please bring your gifts forward to the
manger at the front of the church.*

*The manger offering will support "Neighbors in Need"
as we seek to make God's love real in this world.*

*“Neighbors in Need” is a special offering of the United Church of Christ
that supports ministries addressing hunger, poverty, violence, human rights, peace-making,
social justice, environmental concerns, and public policy advocacy.*

*Checks may be made to Wellesley Congregational Church,
with a notation that your offering is for Neighbors in Need.*

*You may also donate online at www.wellesleyvillagechurch.org;
use the link found in your enews; or scan this QR code.*

Thank you for your generosity.



***CAROL "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angel host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**Hail the heaven born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

CAROL "Silent 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 streams from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, loves pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

BENEDICTION

One: Because we have seen and heard and received the gift of the Christ Child,

All: We go in Hope.

One: Because Christ comes to nurture and bless each one of us,

All: We go in Peace.

One: Because God's glory reigns in our hearts this night,

All: We go in Joy.

One: Because God's love is born into the world once again,

All: We go in Love.

One: Because we have seen and heard and received the gift of the Christ Child,

All: We go in Christ.

One: And Christ goes with us.

*CAROL "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 earth! 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.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

*POSTLUDE

One: Go in Peace. Merry Christmas!

†††

Join us again for worship!

Tonight, candlelight services @ 7pm & 9pm.

Dec. 25th @10am worship online only.

Jan. 1 @10am one service with communion.

Beginning January 8th, Family Life programming begins
and we will worship together at 10am.

Visit our website for information on our faith formation: wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

Thank you to our Pageant Costume Crew ~

A big thank you to Maeliss Kounakowitch and her volunteers who have spent an entire year refreshing and repairing our pageant costumes. They have worked on over 50 costumes and put in over 100 hours of cumulative work. Thank you Maeliss and crew!

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

The Rev. Pam Emslie, Assoc. Pastor, Youth
pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

The Rev. Stacy Swain, Assoc Pastor,
Congregational Care and Engagement
stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Pastoral Residents

The Rev. Megan Berkowitz, 2nd year
megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Martha Schick, 1st year
martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Ministry Directors

Michaela McDonald – Children’s Ministry
michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Dr. Kevin McDonald – Director of Music
kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Kristjon Imperio – Organist &
Assistant Music Director
kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Iana Cady – Chapel Worship Lead Musician
ilana@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Meg Sweeting – Church Administrator
meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Christine Toppin Riordan – Communications
christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Sharon Funk – Administrative Assistant
sharon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Marina Berga – Financial Secretary
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.

WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

For information, please visit our website at: 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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2 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02482
Office: 781-235-1988 – Urgent Pastoral Care Cell: 781-591-7451
www.wellesleyvillagechurch.org

