

WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL † UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



9:00 pm Christmas Eve 2022

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 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!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

*~ 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

“Breath of Heaven”
Georgia Spangler, Soloist, Youth Choir
Dr. Kevin McDonald, Director

Amy Grant

INTROIT

“Gabriel's Oboe”
Julie Verret, Oboist, Kristjon Imperio, Organist

Ennio Morricone

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter
Martha Schick

(Please read bolded parts.)

Adapted from Isaiah 40:1-5, 12:2-6, Micah 5:2-5, and Luke 2:10-14

In the spirit of hope, we hear the prophet proclaiming: 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.

In the spirit of peace, we hear the prophet proclaiming: How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace!

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the calf and the lion and the yearling will lie down together; and a little child shall lead them. They will not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be filled with Peace.

In the spirit of joy, we hear the prophet proclaiming: We will trust, and will not be afraid, for God is our strength.

Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

In the spirit of love, we hear the prophet proclaiming: From Bethlehem shall come forth the one who will rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

He shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of God. They shall live secure, for he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace.

We welcome Christ into the world and hear the angel proclaiming:

Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors! Amen.

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

***OPENING CAROL NO. 132** “O Come all Ye Faithful”

Brass, Clark Davis, Max Goldenson, Connor McDonald, Lao Yeung Wong

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:6-7

John Goss

The prophet Isaiah announces the reign of the Prince of Peace.

ANTHEM

“Will We Know Him?”

Don Besig

Youth and Alumni Choir

Dr. Kevin McDonald, Director

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-33

Martha Schick

The angel Gabriel tells Mary she will bear a son.

ANTHEM

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Traditional Polish Carol arr. David Willcocks

Youth and Alumni Choir

Dr. Kevin McDonald, Director

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Megan Berkowitz

The birth of the babe in Bethlehem.

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

MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

ANTHEM

“The Nativity Carol”

Francis Patrick O'Brien

Youth and Alumni Choir

Dr. Kevin McDonald, Director

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

Drew Spangler

An angel tells the shepherds of the birth.

*CAROL NO. 116 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Brass, Clark Davis, Max Goldenson, Connor McDonald, Lao Yeung Wong

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Stacy Swain

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

The shepherds travel to the manger.

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Megan Berkowitz

*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
by scanning this QR code →
or call our Financial Secretary,
at: 781-235-1988, ext. 18, for assistance.*



Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

“O Holy Night”

Youth and Alumni Choir

Dr. Kevin McDonald, Director

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
in the cup of sand at the end of your pew.*

***RECESSIONAL CAROL NO. 130** “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”
Brass, Clark Davis, Max Goldenson, Connor McDonald, Lao Yeung Wong

***BENEDICTION**

MUSIC OFFERING

“Come Emmanuel” arr. Dr. Kevin J. McDonald
Youth and Alumni Choirs

POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”, BWV 729
Kristjon Imperio, Organist

J.S. Bach

†††

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 will be closed on Sunday, December 25th
Sunday 10am Worship will be held ONLINE only at:
wellesleyvillagechurch.org or on our YouTube channel.

Church office will be closed December 26, and January 2,
in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day.

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

- **December 25 ~ online only!** at: wellesleyvillagechurch.org
- **January 1 ~ one 10am service** with communion, in the Sanctuary and livestream
- **January 8 ~ one 10am service**, installation of Rev. Stacy Swain, Family Life programming begins, and we'll worship together at 10am.
- **January 15 ~ "Sharing the Dream"** joint worship will be held at our sister church, The Charles St. A.M.E. Church

Sunday, January 22, we return to our regular worship schedule:
9am worship in the Chapel & 10am worship in the Sanctuary.

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 or use the qr code above 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 your gifts to Village Church!

FOR UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.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

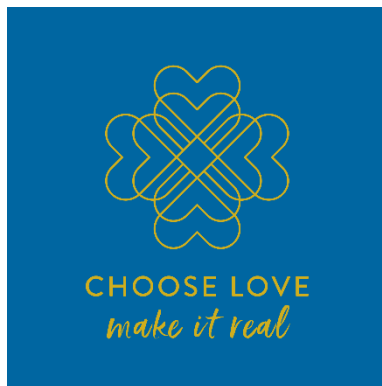
Community where all people are welcomed and enthusiastically affirmed, as well as honored and celebrated as made in God's holy image.

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

Congregational † United Church of Christ

John Snyder, Moderator

Kathy Schleyer, Vice Moderator

Cynthia Sibold, Immediate Past Moderator

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter ~ Senior Pastor

Associate Pastors

The Rev. Pam Emslie

The Rev. Stacy Swain

Pastoral Residents

The Rev. Megan Berkowitz

Martha Schick

Ministry Directors

Michaela McDonald – Children’s Ministry

Dr. Kevin McDonald – Music Director, Dir. of Youth Music

Kristjon Imperio, Organist & Asst. Music Dir.

Ilana Cady, Chapel Worship Music Lead Musician

Meg Sweeting – Church Administrator

Support Staff

Christine Toppin – Communication & Worship Support

Sharon Kuhn – Administrative Assistant to Senior Pastor

Marina Berga – Financial Secretary

Gerardo Ortiz - Sexton

Gladys Murillo - Sexton

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