

Wellesley Village Church

Congregational † United Church of Christ



10:00am Worship

Advent II

December 4, 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 4, 2022

10:00am

Hymns may be found in the New Century (black) hymnal or in this bulletin.

*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.



†††

PRELUDE

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”
Kristjon Imperio, organ

Paul Manz

WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

*OPENING HYMN

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

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



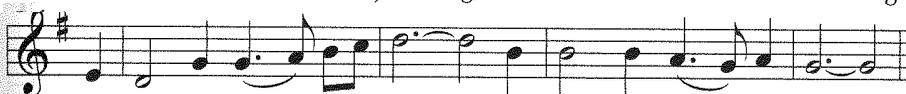
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Michaela McDonald

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING OF PEACE (Please read bolded parts.) The Lordi Family

Adapted from Isaiah 40:1-5

As we continue our Advent Journey today, we light the candles of Hope and Peace.

(The first and second candles are lit.)

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."

As we light the second Advent candle, let us brighten our hearts with hope and peace,

For the Promised One is coming!

RESPONSE (*sung*)

**O come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel! Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Please read bolded parts.)

Rev. Stacy Swain

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

Holy God, sometimes we fail to foster peace in our own lives. We let our worries overwhelm us.

Sometimes we fail to foster peace in our relationships with others. We remain entrenched in our ideas and patterns, comforted by familiar conflict rather than courageous enough to find a new, peaceful way.

Sometimes we fail to foster peace for all God's people, responding instead to those who call for war, who create false scarcity, who seek to divide us.

Gracious God, forgive us and remind us again that you created us for peace.
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 peace in our lives. We can trust that God's peace, made known to us in Christ, will prevail beyond all our human understanding. May that peace surround us.

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.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:2-18

Rev. Megan Berkowitz

SERMON

"A Simple Peace?"

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 101 "Comfort, Comfort, O My People" (*seated*)

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

This is Christ's open table and all who wish to partake are welcome!

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you; **All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts; **All: We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;

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

Sanctus

GLORIA

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts, all praise be given!

All your glory fills the earth; all your power fills the heavens.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Blessed is the one who came, bringing love and light divine.

Blessed is the One who comes in the bread and in the wine.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Song of Consecration

VENI EMMANUEL

O send your Spirit now upon these gifts;

make them to be Christ's body and Christ's blood.

All honor and glory are yours, for now and forever more.

Amen! Amen! To God the glory be. Amen! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

*The earliest moon of wintertime
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory
On the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria."*

*O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria."*

***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:



COMMON LIFE

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 122** *"Come, O Long Expected Jesus"*

WELCOME TO VISITORS AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Toccata on Veni Emmanuel"

Andrew Carter

You are invited to remain seated until the conclusion of worship.

†††

*Today's chancel flowers are given in loving memory of former church member
Wallace Irving Stimpson by the Stimpson family.*

*ALL ARE INVITED! Please join and gather in Village Common for refreshments and
conversation following the postlude. If you are watching our livestreamed service,
please join us for Zoom fellowship [by following this link >](#) (approx. 11:15am)*

TODAY

- 9:00am** **Worship**, *Chapel*, Rev. Pam Emslie, preaching; Rev. Stacy Swain
- 10:00am** **Worship**, *Sanctuary and Livestream*, Rev. Megan Berkowitz, preaching;
Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter; Rev. Stacy Swain; Martha Schick
Childcare, *Family Worship Room*
Children's Church, *Upper Level*, Michaela McDonald
Middle School Youth Group, *Youth Room*, Rev. Pam Emslie
- 10:50-11:20am** **Village Children's Choir**
- 11:15am** **Coffee and Fellowship**, *Village Common*
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*, Kristjon Imperio
- 11:30am** **Alternative Christmas Fair** in *Village Common*
- 5:00pm** **Worship at Congregational Church of Weston**, Rev. Megan Berkowitz
- 7:00pm** **High School Youth Group tonight**, Rev. Pam Emslie
Village Church Parents Group (VCPG) TONIGHT! 7:00-8:30pm, *Parlor*

Today 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 Rev. Stacy know you have a birthday today, and we'll lift up your name in song during fellowship hour!



Alternative Gift Fair Today! *Village Common and Online (see Enews or website) through 12/25.* Make Christmas gifts to those in need through organizations with strong Village Church connections, including For His Children, A Place to Turn, Hoops & Homework and more. Talk with these groups today about opportunities. Donations may be made with cash, checks, Venmo, and online.

Village Church Parents Group (VCPG) TONIGHT! 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.

No Faithful Questions today, *Faithful Questions will start up again in January.*

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Empty Nesters + (Walking Group) *Monday, December 5, 9:30am*

Please join us for a walk at the beautiful Elm Bank Reservation in Wellesley weather permitting. Contact Christina Oliver at: christina.oliver20@gmail.com

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.

Family Life Gingerbread House Decorating and Chrismon Tree Decorating

Fri., Dec. 9. 6-8pm, 2nd Upper Level Classrooms

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

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.

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.

Village Church Dads Group, *Tues., Dec. 20, 7pm* All dads are invited to meet up at The Local in Wellesley. Contact Bob Furlong: bobfurlong@bulfinchgroup.com.

Village Table wants to hear from you! As the Village Church meal ministry prepares to relaunch in January, they are looking for volunteers and would like to gather input regarding their food prep, cooking, and delivery processes. [You can help by following this link to fill out this brief survey of interest >](#) or scan qr code →



Giving Tree for Children of Hoops and Homework & Family Promise MetroWest
Signup via Enews. Drop-off 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 gifts online. Please bring the gift in a gift bag with your child's name and program clearly labeled. Please see Enews for sign-up.



Poinsettia Plant Donations and Dedications

Due by Wednesday, December 7

On Sunday, December 11th our Sanctuary chancel will be beautifully adorned with a plethora of poinsettia plants for our annual Poinsettia Sunday. Please consider helping by making a donation of \$20 per poinsettia plant. Then, submit a dedication in honor or in celebration of a loved one or of a favored church ministry. You may submit your dedication and payment online by using the QR code. Or you may fill out the form below and cut or tear it out and submit it along with your payment into the poinsettia gift bag. After worship on the 11th your lovely, donated plants will be delivered to church members in need of a little extra encouragement or support this season.

Online Poinsettia Form



Poinsettia Plant Donation



Return this form with your payment

to the gift bag on the table by:

Wednesday, December 7th, 5:00 pm

Given In (check only one)

- Loving memory of*
- Celebration of*

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

By (your name)

Cash \$ _____

Check \$ _____

*Plants are \$20 each, payable to
Wellesley Congregational Church.
Please note Poinsettia on your check.*

*Following services on December 11, the plants will be taken to those
in need of encouragement or support.*

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

The Rev. Pam Emslie, Assoc. Pastor, Youth

Minister 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 & Youth Music

kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Kristjon Imperio – Organist & Assist Music

Director

kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Ilana Cady – Chapel Worship Lead Musician

ilana@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Meg Sweeting – Church Administrator

meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Christine Toppin – Communications

christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Sharon Funk – Admin. Assist.

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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