

Wellesley Village Church

Congregational † United Church of Christ



Sunday, November 28, 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 28, 2021

10:00 am

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

*Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
Kristjon Imperio, Organist

Gerald Near

WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

***OPENING HYMN NO. 110** “Now Bless the God of Israel”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy God, with the blessings and tensions of Thanksgiving barely behind us, Advent beckons us onward, calling us to draw near to one another in hope.

All: We confess that the holidays bring with them emotions and expectations that can overwhelm us. We become immersed in planning menus, gifts, travel, and family interactions, seeking control through preparation. We do not leave time to wait in awe and hope for the coming of Emmanuel, and so we do not prepare our hearts fully for you.

One: Forgive us. **Clear away the clutter and silence the noise, that we may hear your voice of hope.** Help us to make a way through the wilderness of a sometimes-frenzied season into the comfort of presence you offer us through your Promised One.

(time for silent prayer)

One: Help us to truly prepare a way for our Messiah to come into our lives anew.

All: In Jesus’ name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S HOPE

One: God has great hope for each of us, for our congregation, and for all the world. Friends, proclaim the good news:

All: Our hope is in the ever-renewing promise God makes to draw near to us. As God’s people, we are called to offer this hopeful witness to the world as we prepare for the birth of Emmanuel. Thanks be to God! Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Charles, Maeliss & Henri Kounakowitch

adapted from Isaiah 40:1-5

One: 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.

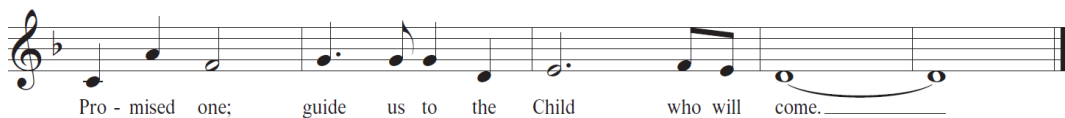
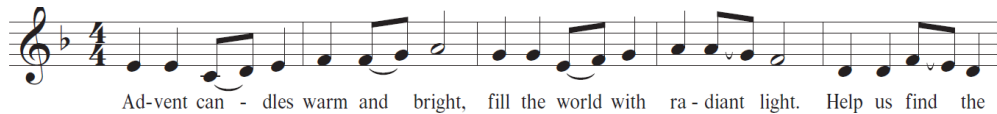
All: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

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

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

RESPONSE SONG

"Candles of Advent"



*SHARING THE HOPE OF CHRIST

One: The hope of Emmanuel be with you. **All: and also with you.**

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

SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36

pew Bible p. 857

SERMON

"Hard-Won Hope"

Rev. Alex Shea Will

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 179 "We Yearn, O Christ, For Wholeness"

OUR COMMON LIFE

INSTALLATION OF PASTORAL RESIDENTS

BOB FEENY & MEGAN BERKOWITZ

Presentation

Covenant of Installation

Congregational Affirmation

One: Wellesley Village Church, will you affirm your covenant with these your pastors and teachers?

All: We receive Bob Feeny and Megan Berkowitz as our Pastoral Residents. We promise to labor with them in the mutual ministry of the gospel and to give them due honor and support. With gratitude for the ministries we share, we pray for their growth and our own as life-long disciples called to bring Christ's hope, peace, joy and love to one another and the world.

Prayer and Declaration

HYMN RESPONSE NO. 539 "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?", vv. 1 & 3

CALL TO OFFERING AND TIME OF OFFERING

Offertory

"The Promise of Advent"

Don Besig & Nancy Price

Throughout a troubled world, we wait to see a sign,
to give us hope and courage, to calm our hearts and minds.

Throughout a troubled world, a light will soon appear,
to guide us through the shadows, and cast away all doubt and fear.

According to the Word, our God will send a son,
to bring us all salvation, to join us all as one.

According to the Word, the child that heaven sends,
will live and reign forever, and make us whole once again.

Isiah once foretold it, God's promise of a king.
Soon, we will all behold Him, and know the peace He brings.

This child of humble birth will change the world forever,
sharing God's love with all on earth.

***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.**

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. 122 "Come O Long-Expected Jesus"**

WELCOME TO VISITORS AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" *Jacobus Kloppers*

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

Pastor: Our worship has ended; **People:** **Let our service begin!**

Pastor: Go in peace.

†††

We are glad you're here today!

*ALL ARE INVITED
to share in coffee and conversation
in Village Common.*

*Our Reopening Task Force advises that we require vaccinations
if folks want to eat/drink during coffee hour.
Unvaccinated folks will need to remain masked.*

*If you are watching our livestreamed service,
please join us for Coffee Hour following virtual worship at approximately 11 am.
The link is found here or from the website home page and the weekly enews Village News.*

*Thank you to our Visiting Preacher today,
Rev. Alex Shea Will,
Area Conference Minister of the
Northeast Region (Metropolitan Boston and Northeast Associations) of the
United Church of Christ*

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 will help the church with unmet needs and enable us to end the year with financial strength. Checks may be placed in the offering or 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!

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.

TODAY

- 9:00am** **Worship, Chapel**, Rev. Alex Shea Will, Preacher; Rev. Bob Feeny;
Rev. Diane Seaborn
- 10:00am** **Worship, Sanctuary and Livestream**, Rev. Alex Shea Will, Preacher;
Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter; Rev. Diane Seaborn;
Rev. Megan Berkowitz; Rev. Bob Feeny
Childcare, Family Worship Room
Children's Church, Courtyard or Upper Room, Michaela McDonald
Middle School Youth Group, Cloister Garden or Chapel, Rev. Pam Emslie
- 11:15am** **Coffee & Fellowship, Village Common**
Zoom Fellowship, immediately after live-streamed worship
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 5:00pm** **Worship, Congregational Church of Weston** (masked)
- 7:00pm** **No High School Youth Group Tonight**, Rev. Pam Emslie

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Please see Enews for details.

Village Church Parents Group

Sun., Dec. 5, 7:30-8:30pm, via Zoom

Seniors Connect

Tues., Dec. 7, 2pm – 3:15pm, via Zoom

Knitting and Sewing Group

Wednesdays, 10-11:30, via Zoom

Wednesday Bible Study

Wed., Dec. 1, 10am-11:45am, via Zoom

Village Churchmen

Thurs., Dec. 16, via Zoom

Village Churchwomen's Annual Tea

Tues., Dec. 14, 1pm – 4pm, via Zoom

Village Church Dads Group

Please watch Enews for details.

EMBODYING GOD'S LOVE IN A BEAUTIFUL AND BROKEN WORLD

Let's join together to support and care for our neighbors during Advent.

Donations for Wellesley Food Pantry

Non-perishable food items for Wellesley Food Pantry may be dropped off in the box in Village Common Lobby. This is sponsored by Service Ministry.

Virtual Alternative Christmas Gift Fair -- *Thanksgiving through Christmas*

In your gift giving this year please consider gifts that improve lives. The Alternative Gift Fair offers Village Church families and friends an easy way to make Christmas gift donations to those in need through 9 organizations with strong Village Church connections.

This year the Fair is virtual! For links and info., see your weekly Enews, or visit our website at: wellesleyvillagechurch.org. Or, if you're viewing this bulletin electronically, [follow this link](#) for all the details and links.

Giving Tree for Hoops and Homework

Today through Dec. 10

Express your care for needy children this Christmas! Starting today you may select a child from the online Giving Tree, *which you will find in this link* or in the Enews. The gift preferences are noted alongside the child's initials. Each child will receive a toy, an article of clothing (ideally a sweatshirt or a hoodie) and a \$50 gift card. (A Visa or Walmart or Target gift card would be welcome.) You may sign up to purchase the toy and clothing or the gift card or both.

Please bring these items to the church parlor before Friday, Dec. 10 (9am - 5pm): your UNWRAPPED gift (no wrapping paper needed) and/or \$50 gift card, along with a greeting card and identification as to which child they are for.

This project is sponsored by the Service Ministry in conjunction with Hoops & Homework. Hoops and Homework is an impressive after-school program in Framingham that benefits a vulnerable population of elementary school children. See Enews for more details.

**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 Pastoral Resident Megan Berkowitz at megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH WEBSITE



For information about Wellesley Village Church, please visit our website, which may be accessed using your smartphone.

VISITORS INFORMATION
WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH!

Please visit our Welcome Table outside and/or come to coffee hour in Village Common, located through the doors near the pulpit. We would love to meet you!

WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH
Congregational + United Church of Christ

WELCOME IS OUR FAVORITE WORD
@ Wellesley Village Church

Connect with us!

Scan this QR Code or visit:
wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Lay Leadership

Cynthia Sibold ~ Moderator

John Snyder ~ Vice Moderator

Leif Hille ~ Immediate Past Moderator

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

sarah@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Associate Pastors

The Rev. Pam Emslie

pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

The Rev. Diane P. Seaborn

diane@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Pastoral Residents

The Rev. Bob Feeny 3rd Year

bob@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

The Rev. Megan Berkowitz, 1st Year

megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Ministry Directors

Michaela McDonald – Children’s Ministry

michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Dr. Kevin McDonald – Youth Music,

Interim Director of Music,
Director of Sanctuary Choir

kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Ed Broms – Associate Music Director

ed@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Kristjon Imperio – Organist &
Handbell Choir Director

kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Meg Sweeting – Church Administrator

meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Chris Toppin Riordan – Communications

christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org

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www.wellesleyvillagechurch.org

