

WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL † UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Christmas Eve 2023

Candlelight Service

10:00 pm

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,

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.

Tonight, wherever you are on the journey of life and faith, may you experience the marvel and mystery of God-with-us, Emmanuel.

Lowly shepherds, merchant innkeepers, and a young girl and her betrothed first experienced that extraordinary gift, and you are invited to receive it tonight.

We are so glad to be together on this holy night to enter into the unfolding story of God's love made real in this beautiful and broken world.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah".

*~ Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter, Sr. Pastor,
on behalf of the members and staff of Wellesley Village Church*

CONFESSION, ASSURANCE AND CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING

Rev. Martha Schick and Pam, Taylor and Tom Stazesky

Confession *(Please read bolded parts.)*

With the Advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love burning tonight, we prepare our hearts to light the Christ candle. Let us pray.

Holy God, we confess our need for your gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love to be made real in our lives. We confess our yearning for this world to be as you would have it be.

We long for healing, wholeness, and peace to come to all the broken places of the earth.

Come to us, God. Come again this night, and every night. Come and illuminate our lives with your presence.

(Please use this time for silent prayer.)

In the name of the Coming One, **Amen.**

Assurance

Tonight we light the Christ candle as we welcome the birth of God anew into our world.

(Christ candle is lit.)

Hear the prophet Isaiah's words of assurance: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and authority shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

ANTHEM

"Will We Know Him?"
Youth and Alumni Choirs
Dr. Kevin McDonald, Conductor

Don Besig

FIRST LESSON

Luke 1:26-33

Megan Strouse

The angel Gabriel tells Mary she will bear a son.

ANTHEM

“Lo, How a Rose/The Rose”

Craig Hella Johnson

Youth and Alumni Choirs

Emily Prus, Alto

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

John Hargrave

The birth of the babe in Bethlehem.

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

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Rev. Sarah S. Butter

ANTHEM

“The Nativity Carol”

Francis Patrick O'Brien

Youth and Alumni Choirs

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

Tom Hodge

An angel tells the shepherds of the birth.

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

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

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

Kate Burton

The shepherds travel to the manger.

***CAROL NO. 120**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Martha Schick

*We are grateful for your offerings to God in support of
the ministries of Wellesley Village Church.
Checks made payable to Wellesley Village Church may be placed in
the offering plate at the front or rear of the church.
You may donate online by scanning this QR code.
Thank you for your generosity.*



ANTHEM

“O Holy Night”
Youth and Alumni Choirs

Adolph Adam

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, 12, 14, 18

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.**

“Away in a Manger”

**Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.**

“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. *(raise candles)*
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

Please extinguish your candles when instructed.

***RECESSIONAL CAROL NO. 130** “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

***BENEDICTION**

MUSIC OFFERING “Come, Emmanuel” *arr. Dr. Kevin J. McDonald*
Youth and Alumni Choirs

POSTLUDE “In Dulci Jubilo” *J.S. Bach*
Kristjon Imperio, Organ

†††

We wish you and yours a blessed Christmas!

*The flowers this evening are given in loving memory of
Christopher Jeffrey Grogan and George Seymour Bissell
by Kennie, Ali and Katie Grogan.*

*Thank you to all our readers and singers and to our instrumentalists:
Julie Verret – Oboe, and Katie Scholl – flute, and Russell Hornung – trumpet.*

Christmas and Year-End Giving

As we anticipate the joyous birth of the Christ child, this Advent season marks not only a spiritual journey but also the end of our church's fiscal year. Ending the year on a strong note is the perfect conclusion to our 225th anniversary year. Financial gifts of every size are needed, welcomed, and appreciated.

PLEDGERS: Please ensure you've fulfilled your pledge by 12/31.
Questions-- Contact church accountant Marina@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

ALL: WVC relies on the generosity of members and friends. If you are able, kindly consider a Christmas or Year-End gift to help us sustain our worship, children's, youth and service ministries and to make God's transforming Love real in this beautiful and broken world.

Ways to contribute:

- place a check in the offering plate at the front or rear of the church
- visit our website 'give' page: wellesleyvillagechurch.org/give
- via PayPal or credit/debit card: **Wellesley Congregational Church**
- mail a check to: Wellesley Congregational Church, 2 Central St. Wellesley, MA 02482
- donate appreciated stock/securities; please notify church accountant,
Marina Berga, marina@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

A heartfelt thank you to all for your generous gifts that sustain our church as together we make God's transforming love real in this beautiful and broken world!

UPCOMING

Holiday Church and Office Hours

The church will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25th and 26th and Monday, January 1st, in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day.

Sunday, December 31 - One worship service at 10am, Sanctuary

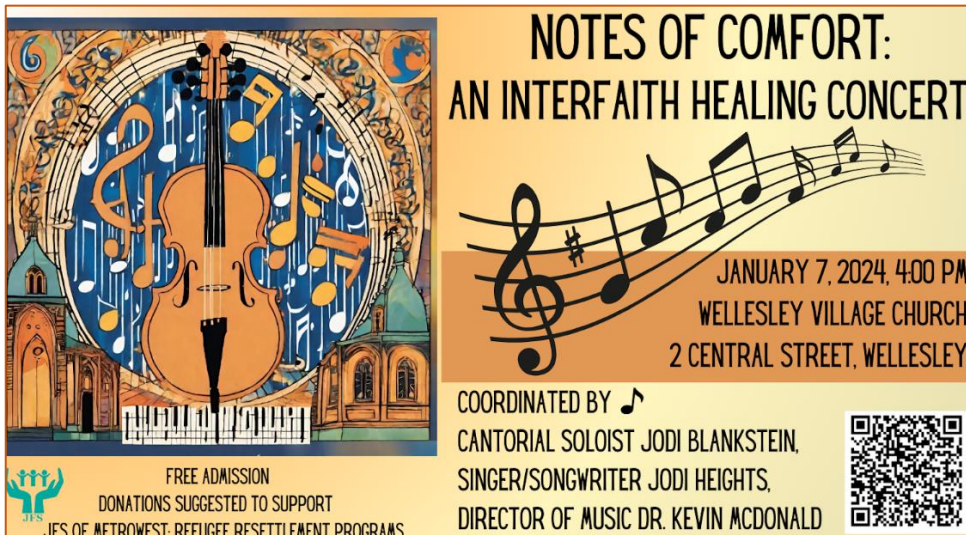
Sunday, January 7, 2024

9am and 10am Worship, Family Life Programs Resume

4:00pm - Interfaith Healing Concert hosted by Wellesley Village Church


Featuring

Cantorial Soloist Jodi Blankstein,
Singer/Songwriter Jodi Heights (Hitzhusen),
Wellesley Village Church Sanctuary Choir,
Dr. Kevin McDonald, Director




**NOTES OF COMFORT:
AN INTERFAITH HEALING CONCERT**

JANUARY 7, 2024, 4:00 PM
WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH
2 CENTRAL STREET, WELLESLEY

COORDINATED BY 
CANTORIAL SOLOIST JODI BLANKSTEIN,
SINGER/SONGWRITER JODI HEIGHTS,
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC DR. KEVIN McDONALD

FREE ADMISSION
DONATIONS SUGGESTED TO SUPPORT
IES OF METROWEST REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS



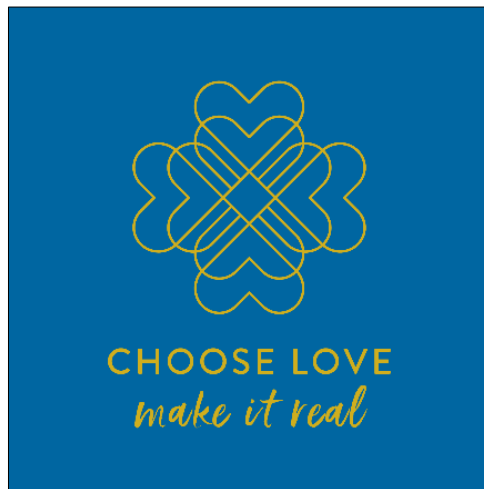
Sunday, January 14, 2024

Martin Luther King, Jr. "Share the Dream" Joint Worship

One worship service at 10am with The Charles St. African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church at Wellesley Village Church

**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. Martha Schick at: martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.



FOR UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES VISIT OUR WEBSITE
wellesleyvillagechurch.org

Kathy Schleyer, Moderator
Joe Morray, Vice Moderator
John Snyder, 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. Martha Schick
Megan Strouse

Ministry Directors

Michaela McDonald – Children’s Ministry
Dr. Kevin McDonald – Music Director, Dir. of Youth Music
Kristjon Imperio, Organist & Asst. Music Dir.
Virginia Bailey, Chapel Worship Musician
Meg Sweeting – Church Administrator
Jade Hargrave – Youth Ministry Support

Support Staff

Christine Toppin – Communication & Worship Support
Sharon Kuhn – Administrative Assistant
Marina Berga – Church Accountant
Gerardo Ortiz - Sexton
Gladys Murillo - Sexton

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WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

Congregational † United Church of Christ



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