

Wellesley Village Church

Family Christmas Eve Service



Luke 2:10-11

4:00 PM

December 24, 2023

Welcome to Worship on This Holy and Exciting Night!

Prepare to Worship the newborn King!

To help us tell the story, 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 no childcare attendant.

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. It's a reminder that God desires to be
at home among us.

Wellesley Village Church's vision is to make God's transforming love real in
this beautiful and broken world. Thank you for being part of the unfolding of
that holy story!

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 tail.

~ 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

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter and Jade Hargrave

One: Come all faithful people, to hear the sacred story of a night when heaven and earth rejoice, and the birth of a baby changes the world.

All: O come, let us celebrate with joy and wonder!

One: Advent begins with a glimmer of hope in God's promise;

All: Praise God, whose light shines in the darkness!

One: We wait for the One who comes to guide us in the way of peace;

All: And now the Prince of Peace is born!

One: We kindle in our hearts a spark of joy, and prepare to receive good news;

All: The angels proclaim news of joy and everlasting light!

One: We long for the birth of a new and wondrous love;

All: The Son of God, love's pure light, is here!

One: Our waiting is over; Jesus is 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

"Will We Know Him?"

Don Besig

Youth Choirs

Dr. Kevin McDonald, Director of Music

"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.**

SCENE 3 – The Wise Men Matthew 2:1-12

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

*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 church Accountant,
at: 781-235-1988, ext. 18, for assistance.*



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: We celebrate the birth of Emmanuel and praise God for gifts that
sustain us: hope, peace, joy, and love.

All: May the blessing of Christmas make us a blessing to others;

One: May the light and hope of the Christ child be born anew within you;

All: May we go out with joy and be led forth in peace;

One: May the love of Christ be with you, now and forever.

***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 & 10pm.

Dec. 31st 10am worship

January 7th, we're back to our regular worship schedule, 9am Chapel, 10am Sanctuary with Family Life Children's programming.

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

Pageant Cast:

Mary	Abigail Fox	Donkey	Brooklyn Ellmer
Joseph	Jax Sirivallop	Dove	Hope Gilbert
Gabriel	Priya Butler	Manger Shepherd	Grace Tolley
Angel	Madelyn VanDahm	Manger Shepherd	Jack House
Angel	Zadie Choi-Undheim	Shepherd	Parker MacFarlane
Angel	Isabella Conway		Spencer Blauwet
Angels	Louisa Marett	Baby Sheep	Daniel Hall
	Emmie Marett	King 1	Thomas Marett
	Stella Blauwet	King 2	Nate Garrison
	Ella MacFarlane	King 3	Dimitri Richardi
	Josie Leeds	Princess	Eliana Lazarakis
Sheep	Drew Forker		
Cow	Kate Forker	Astrologer	Will Garrison

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

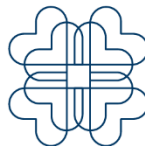
The Rev. Martha Schick
Megan Strouse

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



WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

Congregational • United Church of Christ

Choose Love. Make it Real.

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