



*The First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ,
Stockbridge, Massachusetts*
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
November 30, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Children start in worship with an optional activity after Childrens' Time.
Nursery care is available during worship.

Prayer requests can be shared verbally during worship. Or you may give a prayer slip to a Deacon or place it in the offering plate.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Sean Lewis

WELCOME/FRAMING WORDS

Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

INTROIT

Come Be The Light (Mark Patterson)

Sean Lewis

*CALL TO WORSHIP

written by Thom Shuman

Elizabeth Young

One: God comes! So don't let go of all the reasons to rejoice.

All: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who fills our lives with joy.

One: God comes! So don't stop lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.

All: We will sing a song of Advent,

to the One who hears our words and silence.

One: God comes! So don't stop giving your hearts to God.

**All: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who graces us with a peace
we cannot begin to understand.**

*HYMN

Sing a Different Song, vs. 1

See copy in pew

*CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Isaiah 9:2-6 Week 1 – Based on Verses 2-3

One: The people who had been living in darkness have seen a great light.

All: The light of life has shined on those who dwelt in the shadowy darkness of death.

One: And You, God, will make it happen. You bolstered the nation, making it great again. You have saturated it with joy.

All: Everyone in it is full of delight in Your presence, like the joy they experience at the harvest, like the thrill of dividing up the spoils of war.

One: The light shines in the darkness.

All: We will follow in its way.

*SUNG RESPONSE *Shine A Candle (To Servant Song)*

Shine a candle in the darkness – breathe new hope into our lives.

Wind your blessed peace around us – ‘til the day when Christ arrives.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

CONTEMPORARY READING *Prayer III*, Teddy Macker

Susan Moor

dear lord in this time of darkness

help us see the darkness

dear lord help us to not pretend

no more pretending

dear lord may our gaze be defenseless

and unshardable

teach us the piety of the open eye

dear lord in this time of darkness

may we be unafraid to mourn and together and hugely

may dignity lose its scaffolding

faces crumble like bricks

dear lord let grief come to grief

and then o lord help us to see the bees yet in the lavender

the spokes of sunlight down through the oaks

and the sleep-opened face of the beloved
and the afternoon all around her
and her small freckled hands

CHILDRENS TIME

Lord's Prayer

Our God, 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.

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 2:1-5

Patty Strauch

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

SERMON

Walking in the Light

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

Keep Awake, Be Always Ready

See pages 6-7

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach, arr. Smith & Hustad)

Sean Lewis, organ; Tracy Wilson, piano

*DOXOLOGY

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low; Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

UNISON PRAYER

**Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,
the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.
Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

by Rev. Andy James, First Presbyterian Church of Whitestone, New York

PRAYER RESPONSE

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent

*RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vss. 1 & 2

See copy in pew

POSTLUDE

Postlude on a Christmas Carol (arr. Peery)

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons David Anderegg, Drea Pecor, and Helen McCormick; readers Susan Moor, Patty Strauch, and Elizabeth Young; ushers Joanne Conroy and Anne Roy; greeter Carl Bradford; fellowship Frank and Linda Russell; storytellers Cathy Clark and Elisabeth Bellows. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream. Mari Brennan and Dana Sanchez are in the nursery. Michael Deegan provided transportation for Kimball Farms residents.



The Giving Tree

The Christmas tree is up in the JE Room, decorated with special tags. Each tag has a specific gift request for a Berkshire County child or parent or shelter resident. Your holiday season is guaranteed to be more joyous when you bring joy to others! Here's how to do it:

1. Select a tag (or two or more)
2. Sign the list on the clipboard with your name and phone number
3. Shop for the specific item requested
4. Wrap the gift and attach the tag to the outside of the package
5. Return it under the tree by Sunday, December 14

Ho Ho Ho — Merry Christmas

Advent Sermon Series

Jeremy Ridenour and Rick Floyd are offering a three-week Advent series on Thursdays from 6-7:15 pm on December 4, 11, and 18. Each week we will read a sermon by a preacher or theologian. On Dec 4, John Azer, a Coptic Christian, will present a sermon by an Orthodox theologian and discuss how Orthodox theology thinks about incarnation and Christmas. On Dec 11, the group will reflect on a sermon by Martin Luther who wrote about the humanity and humility of Jesus in the incarnation. For the final meeting, we will discuss an Advent sermon by Fleming Rutledge, a contemporary Episcopal theologian. Please let Jeremy know if you plan to attend: jeremy.ridenour@gmail.com. Readings will be emailed to the group. There will be no book. In-person only.

From the Service League

Holly Fair, Sat., Dec 6, 10am – 1pm

A call for volunteers, elves, and donors

The Children's Room

We need gently used toys, books, and games. Please bring to the church the week of December 1 – 5, leaving in the Nursery.

Baked Goods

Wrapped home-baked goodies, with NO NUTS. Please bring Friday December 5 or Saturday before 10:00am and leave in the kitchen.

Centerpieces

Come to the church on Wed. Dec 3 from 10:00am – 1:00pm to make centerpieces to sell at the Holly Fair. Bring lunch, garden clippers, and creativity.

Call Anne Hutchinson with questions, (413) 854-7798

*Isa. 2:1-5; 60:1-3; 64:1-9; Matt. 24:36-44;
Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Cor. 1:3-9; 1 Thess. 3:9-13*

Arthur G. Clyde, 1993

1 Keep a-wake, be al - ways rea - dy, God's time ap - proach-es
2 Rise and shine for One is com - ing whose love will quench all

sure and stea - dy, God's strength will keep your heart from blame.
na - ture's thirst - ing to be made whole for - ev - er more.

Clouds, the Spir - it's light con - ceal - ing, dis - perse, God's pur - est
On that day to end all weep - ing, death's swords trans - formed to

light re - veal - ing; cre - a - tion will its Sov-ereign name. Dry
tools of reap - ing, the God of might will mer - cy pour. In -

branch - es burst forth green, God's ad - vent signs are seen: Hal - le - lu - jah!
 car - nate, God ap - pears em - brac - ing all our tears: Hal - le - lu - jah!

Christ's judg - ment won, God's will be done; God's new do - min - ion thus be - gun.
 God's maj - es - ty e - ter - nal - ly re - vealed to set the cos - mos free.

This new text, written to reflect the readings for the first Sunday in Advent, is set to a traditional tune of the season by sixteenth-century Lutheran pastor Philipp Nicolai.

Tune: WACHET AUF 8.9.8.8.9.8.6.6.4.8.8.
 Philipp Nicolai, 1599
 Harm. J. S. Bach, 1731

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

Advent Potluck 2025

Please sign up for this year's Advent Potluck, which will take place on December 7 right after church. **THREE WAYS** to sign up: Sign up online (see your weekly email), call Will at the church office (413) 298-3137 ext.1., or use the paper sign-up sheet in the JE Room. Suggested dish assignments are on the form. There will be crafts activities after lunch.

Youth Group News

The next **youth group event** is Sunday, December 7. Youth will join the adults in celebrating the Advent Fair. Come for the potluck lunch and to make a variety of crafts after lunch. Bring a friend and bring some good cheer!

POINSETTIAS

We invite you to help us transform the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. You may donate one or more poinsettias to the church in honor or memory of someone who is in your heart this Christmas. You can take your plant home or allow us to bring it to someone who could use some joy.

Fill out this form, find the link in your weekly email, or call Will in the church office. The gifts will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Paper forms may be put in the box attached to the large closet doors in the JE Room. Deadline for listing is December 15.

How you want the *in honor of/in memory of* to read:

Your name(s) as you want to be listed in the bulletin:

Example: *In loving memory of John and Jane Doe, from Sam Smith*

Cost: \$20/each

Mailing address: Flowers at FCC, PO Box 825, Stockbridge MA 01262

Welcome! We are Open and Affirming, which means that we invite persons of every sexual orientation, gender identification and expression, racial and cultural identity, age, physical ability, economic circumstance, faith background and family structure to share fully in the ministry, leadership and fellowship of this congregation's life in Christ.

As followers of Christ and committed to Isaiah's charge to "maintain justice and do what is right," we acknowledge with gratitude and humility that we are learning, speaking, gathering, and worshipping on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

(413) 298-3137 | office@stockbridgeucc.org | stockbridgeucc.org

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