

Order of Worship

Gathering Music

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome

Rev. Judy Arnold

A Time of Silence

Prelude

Little Partita for Christmas (vs. 3)

James Woodman (b. 1957)

Call to Worship

Ben Pulaski

One: As we gather to worship, hear the words of the poet Jan Richardson: "I cannot tell you how the light comes. What I know is that it is more ancient than imagining. That it travels across an astounding expanse to reach us. That it loves searching out what is hidden, what is lost, what is forgotten or in peril or in pain. That it has a fondness for the body, for finding its way toward flesh, for tracing the edges of form, for shining forth through the eye, the hand, the heart. I cannot tell you how the light comes, but that it does. That it will. That it works its way into the deepest dark that enfolds you, though it may seem long ages in coming or arrive in a shape you did not foresee. And so may we on this day turn ourselves toward it. May we lift our faces to let it find us. May we bend our bodies to follow the arc it makes. May we open and open more and open still to the blessed light that comes."

All: **We open ourselves this morning to the light that has come!
Let us worship together.**

*Opening Hymn

Angels From the Realms of Glory

PH #117

Gathering Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (From Maren Tirabassi)

Emmanuel, God promised and God with us: give us peace as we need peace; give us courage to live in times without peace. Awaken us to the hope of your reign, but restrain us from the vain hopes in the dominions around us. Free us to claim our own welling-up joy, and sustain us when joy seems far. Lead us to service in your world; strengthen our feeble attempts to serve. Spirit of holiness and good tidings, we come through Advent and into Christmastide again and again we learn the meaning of the incarnation. Form and receive our words of praise, prayer, and prophecy, for we magnify your name and rejoice in your salvation in the Christmas moment and the journey of our years and lives. In Jesus' name we pray...

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

*An Act of Praise

Gloria Patri

PH #513

Glory be to the Creator and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; World without end, amen, amen.

A Time for the Young

Ben Pulaski

*Hymn

Away in a Manger

PH #137

Scripture

Psalm 23

Sung Response: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

(please see insert)

Luke 2:8-15

NT pg. 58, LP NT pg. 50

Sermon

"The Bush, The Manger, The Tomb"

Rev. Will Burhans

A Quiet Time for Reflection

Prayers of the People

Rev. Judy Arnold

Offertory

Silent Night

arr. Dave Brubeck (1920-2012)

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above you heavenly host, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

NCH #780

*Closing Hymn

All Beautiful the March of Days

NCH #434

Benediction

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Postlude

Little Partita for Christmas (vs. 4)

Woodman

Today's Worship Service

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Stephen Leahy and Timothy Beckett Jr., by the McCall-Taylors.

Meet Our Church

First Congregational Church in Winchester, UCC, An Open and Affirming Congregation

21 Church Street, Winchester, MA 01890

781-729-9180

www.fcc-winchester.org

facebook.com/fccwucc

Text FCCW to 22828 to join our email list

We are a Christ-centered, nurturing community: growing in faith, serving in love, welcoming all with joy.

The Congregation, Ministers To The World

Rev. William Burhans, Lead Pastor

Rev. Ms. Judith B. Arnold, Associate Pastor

Ms. Kathleen Zagata, RN, MS, CS, Minister of Congregational Health & Wellness

Ms. Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Mr. Ben Pulaski, Minister of Faith Formation: Children & Youth

Ms. Sarah Marino, Office Manager

Mr. Tyler Campbell, Sexton

Mr. Jeffrey Mead, Organist

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Orth, Pastoral Counselor (Affiliate)

December 31, 2017

First Sunday after Christmas

10:00 Worship Service

Welcome!

We are happy you have joined us today for worship.

We hope that in the coming hour of quiet, song, prayer, sacred scripture, and communal gathering, you will awaken more fully to God's presence in your life and the world around us.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located down the stairs as you first enter the front doors of the church.

Accessibility

We now have an inductive hearing loop for those whose hearing aids have Telecoil (ask your audiologist). Listening devices are also available in the back. For our coffee hour in Chidley Hall, an elevator is located out the doors to the right of the front chancel area and down the hall. Please ask a greeter if you need assistance.

Childcare

Children are always welcome in the sanctuary! We appreciate the sounds of little ones among us. If you'd prefer, there are trained caregivers in our a nursery on the floor beneath the sanctuary. Ask a greeter if you need help finding it.

Family Room

There is also a comfortable room with water, sofas, chairs, carpet and a video link to the service for when you need more room to attend to your family. It is located just outside the doors to the right of the front chancel area.

Children (Stepping Stones) and Youth Church School

Classes for children and youth in pre-k through 12th grade are taught during worship. Families begin the worship service together in the sanctuary. Children are then invited to join us at the front (if they are comfortable) for the Time for the Young. Afterwards, the children and youth are led to their classrooms by their teachers.

Get connected!

Please tell us about yourself and/or request a prayer by filling out a Welcome/Prayer Request Card found in each pew and place it in the offering plate when it passes. We look forward to getting to know you at Coffee Hour, held downstairs immediately following the service.

People for Whom We Are Praying ...

Gino, Laura, and Alyson Mauriello (friends of Jodie Mullane)	In their grief for the loss of their mother, Rose
The family of David Mortensen	In their grief
The family of Joyce Mills	In their grief
Brooke (Heather Carbone's sister)	Health and healing
Lucy Sanders	Continued healing & direction for Arthur & my future
Martha George	For courage and healing
Dory Cole Ogden, niece of Stephen W. Cole	For healing
Jessica Brand	For healing

Please let the Deacons or Ministry Team know if you have someone to add or remove from this list.

News & Upcoming Events



New Assisted Listening Services

A hearing loop has been installed in the sanctuary so hearing aids can be switched to t-coil. Also new portable receivers with headsets are available for loan in the back of the sanctuary. We hope you will find the FAQ sheet on hearing loops helpful. Copies can be found near the portable headsets.

Stewardship Update

The Financial Resources Ministry is pleased to report that we are at 94% of our 2018 Stewardship goal of \$550,000. We are extremely grateful to the 115 members who have responded - including 12 new and returning pledgers. As we move through Christmastide, we're appealing to all who have not yet responded to please either send us an email - first.congregational@verizon.net - or fill out a pledge card which are located in your pew. Further, if the Christmas spirit has moved you such that you decide to pledge for the first time or up your existing pledge, our beloved treasurer - Bruce Lauterwasser - can always find room in his heart to take you in. Most of all, we are deeply grateful for the generosity and continued support of our members. Have a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2018!!!

Pledge Envelopes are Ready

Please pick up your Pledge Envelopes if you requested them. They are on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.



**SAVE THE DATE - Saturday January 6.
JOIN THE WISE MEN IN SEARCHING FOR THE BABY JESUS**

That's Epiphany and we're celebrating it with a meal, an adventure, a couple of hymns and a chance to help children in Massachusetts find a place at the Inn - with the Bed for Every Child project. Details are in the all church email and our website.

COMFORT, DEATH, AND GLORY

320 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need Psalm 23

RESIGNATION

1. My Shep-herd will sup-ply my need, Je-ho-vah is His Name;
 2. When I walk thro' the shades of death, Thy pres-ence is my stay;
 3. The sure pro-vi-sions of my God at-tend me all my days;

in pas-tures fresh He makes me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.
 a word of Thy sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.
 O may Thy house be mine a-bode, and all my work be praise!

He brings my wand-'ring spir-it back when I for-sake His ways;
 Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my ta-ble spread,
 There would I find a set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come;

and leads me, for His mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows, Thine oil a-noints my head.
 no more a stran-ger or a guest, but like a child at home.

WORDS: Psalm 23; Isaac Watts, 1719
 MUSIC: Southern Harmony, 1835

CMD