

East Parish United Methodist Church

Established 1834

East Parish is a Church open to all, which nurtures and enables people to experience God's transforming love and serve others in Jesus' name.



Second Sunday of Advent

**December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent
Twenty third Sunday after Pentecost**

*The Book of Remembrance is opened to the Glory of
God, in loving memory of Jane Perkins' Aunt
Muriel.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

* OPENING HYMN

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

#221

CALL TO WORSHIP (Ministry Matters)

L: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of God!"

P: **Make God's paths straight.**

L: Every valley will be filled, and every mountain will be leveled.

P: **The crooked will be made straight.**

L: The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed.

P: **All will see the salvation of God.**

L: See the light from on high. The dawn is breaking.

P: **The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!**

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Blessed is our God, and blessed are God's people to whom is sent a savior, the messiah, who is Christ the Savior. Blessed is our God, and blessed are God's gifts, that grace us with forgiveness and every good gift. God, you have come to dwell within us. Build your temple within our hearts. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: Today we light two candles- the first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.

Reader 2: The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives.

Reader 1: We seek God's peace in this time of stress.

Reader 2: Come, all is ready. Let the light of these candles, called HOPE and PEACE, bring brightness to your spirits.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Phillipians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

SERMON

"Prepare the Path"

Rev. Nancy Wichmann

* HYMN

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky"

#173

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to share your prayers of thanksgiving or petition. You may also send them to Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net; indicate whether or not they should be shared.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

O God, darkness surrounds us like a cold stone tomb, until your light bursts into our lives like a clear, bright dawn. We cover our eyes, we're so unprepared for your coming. Your light blazes forth like a white-hot fire, consuming all that it touches. How can we stand before you, O God? The road that we thought was straight and wide is now exposed as a twisted, crooked path, blocked by a mountain of sin. Where can we turn? Who will guide us back to the way of peace — the way that leads to you?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Look around. This place is filled with those who thank God every time they think of you. By the God's grace and compassion, this place is filled with those who hold you in their hearts, those whose prayers for you are filled with joy. Share the peace of Christ Jesus with one another, saying "the peace of Christ be with you, always."

P: And also with you.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*** DOXOLOGY**

No. 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

God be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right...

... we lift our voice to join their eternal song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

... As we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ, you died, are risen, and will come again. We await your kin-dom come on earth, when your peace and justice will reign.

... And now, as children of God, we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kin-dom 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; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power and the glory now and forever.

*** HYMN**

**"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(vs. 1, 4, 5)"**

#211

* **BENEDICTION**

* **BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*

#431

*Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, The peace that was meant to be.*

POSTLUDE

Fantasy on “Battle Hymn of the Republic”

Alice Jordan

**Indicates that we rise in body or in spirit.*

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. (New Revised Standard Version)

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of our God, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” (New Revised Standard Version, adapted)

Prayer List

Church of Christ and ministries of East Parish
 United Methodist Church
 All who struggle with their faith
 Family and friends of Ashley Fowler (Craig's brother)
 Family and friends of Deb McAdams
 Family and friends of Vicki Hall
 Family and friends of John Kelly
 Family and friends of Becky Barstock
 Sue Mitchells' family and friends
 Salisbury and Newburyport Assisted Living and Memory Care Residents
 Mike and Alana Gilbert
 Alana's Sister in Law
 Buddy Merrick's Wife
 Steve Smith
 Julie Allred
 Steven Lombardo (Courtney's BIL)
 Colleen Sanford
 Corey Amlin (BIL of Martha Murray)
 Chris, Gary, Percy, Sheryl, Peter (friends of Jan

Pretty)
 The Arrison family
 Kate (Jan's friend)
 Harry (Jodie's husband)
 William Seal
 Gail and Jemma
 Edith (broken foot)
 Robert Short (Candace's son)
 People of Danvers High
 Children, especially orphans
 Victims of natural disasters
 Victims of sexual abuse and assault
 Division in The United Methodist Church
 For those whose voices are so often ignored
 For the slain everywhere and all victims of violence
 Deplorable treatment of refugees and asylum-seekers on the southern border of the US
 All who have suffered with, because of, or died from COVID-19 or addiction.
 For our country, desperately in need of unity and humanity

United Methodist Church Staff and Worship Leaders

Pastor.....Pastor Nancy Wichmann (781)697-6344 (C)
 Church Administrator.....Joanne Sheehan eastparishumc@verizon.net
 Leadership CommitteeSharon Gill (978) 270-1045
 Building Monitor.....Craig Fowler
 Lay Leader.....Jan Juntunen 978- 518-7881
 Organist.....Linda Ingram
 Sexton.....Steve Choate (978)462-4578
 Coffee Hour Coordinator.....Debbie Choate dcpertl@verizon.net (978)462-4578
 Worship Committee.....Debbie Choate dcpertl@verizon.net (978)462-4578

Ministers.....The Congregation

8 Lafayette Rd, Salisbury MA 01952 (978) 465-8940

Website: www.eastparishumc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eastparishumcSalisbury>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish to become a member of our church family, or to be baptized, contact Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net.



If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia for the church altar, please see Debbie Choate. Additionally, if you would like to make a contribution of or for altar flowers, please see a member of the Worship Committee: Debbie Choate, Alana Gilbert, Karlene Johnson, Jan Juntunen, or Sandy Roughton.

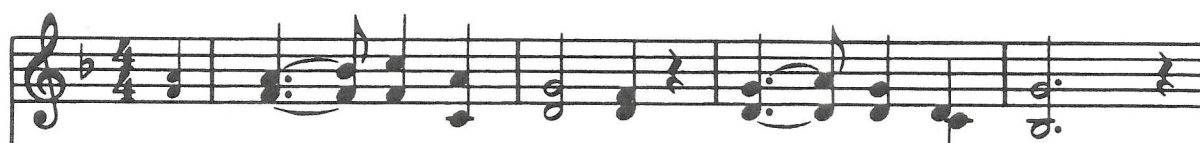
COMMUNITY COAT DRIVE – Winter can be a difficult time, especially if one lacks the resources with which to purchase needed items. We are collecting coats for a community coat drive over the next few weeks. If you have a gently used coat that could be repurposed, we kindly ask that you consider donating it to this worthy effort.

COMMUNION OFFERING – The Communion offering for November is cereal and soap. Items will be collected throughout October and delivered the first week of December. Thank you for your ongoing support of Pettengill House.



AFGHAN EVACUEES – St. Paul's Episcopal Church will soon be hosting evacuee families from Afghanistan. They are taking monetary donations and donations of household goods. If you have items that might be of interest, please contact St. Paul's directly at 978-465-5351.

EMERGENCY CLOTHING – East Parish has partnered with the Salisbury Elementary School nurse and will be collecting emergency clothing for children. Items such as children's sized socks and elastic-waist pants (including sweatpants), sizes 5-18 and adult small, are in great demand.

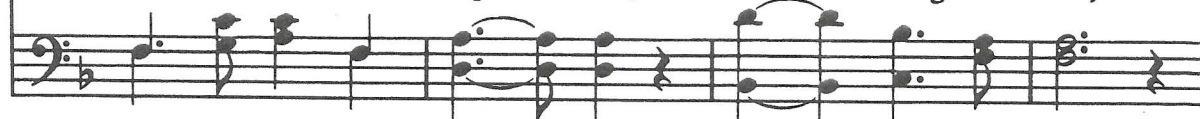

FELLOWSHIP – We hope you will join us as we reconvene today, following worship, downstairs in the Rose Room for a light lunch, time of conversation, and connecting.



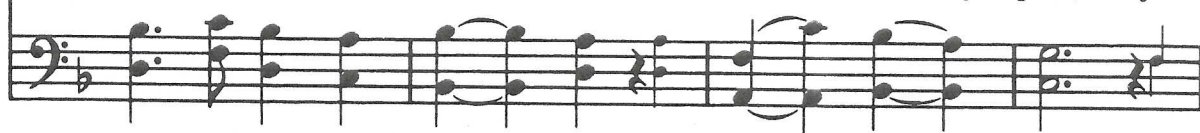

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2. Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4. What can I give him, poor as I am?


earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign.
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

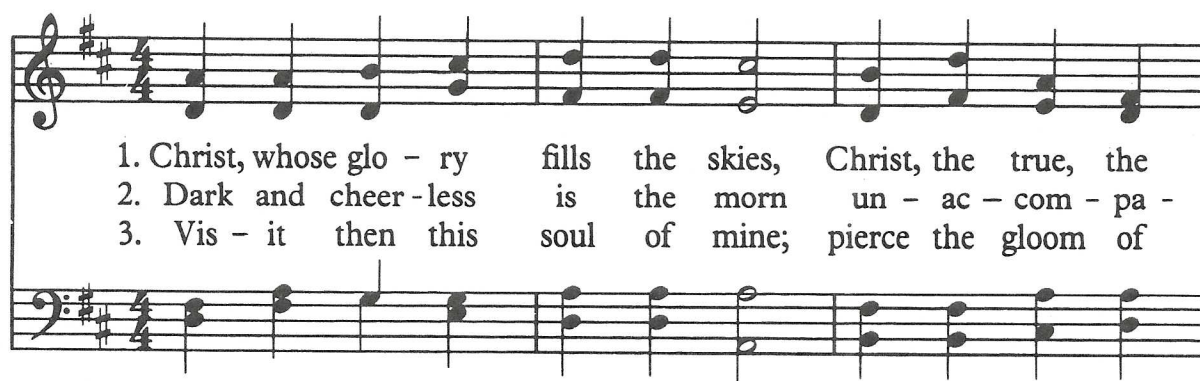
snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet

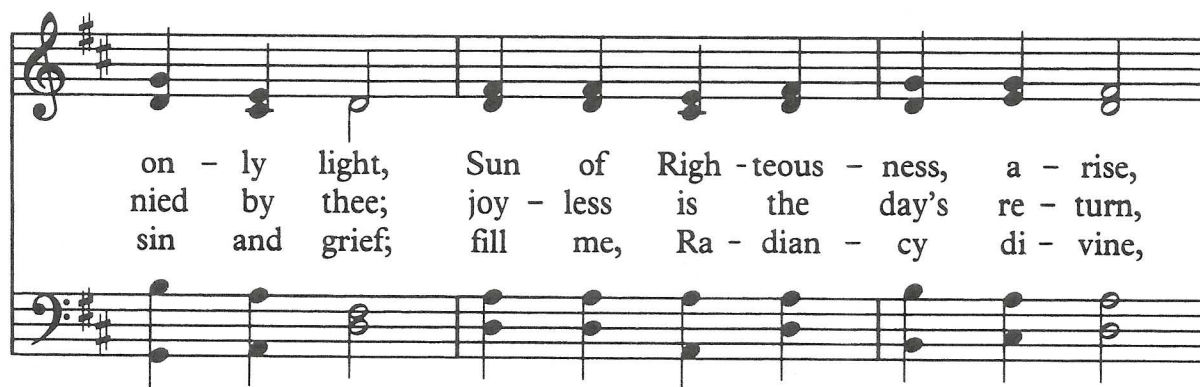
in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 Lord God Al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 what I can I give him: give my heart.



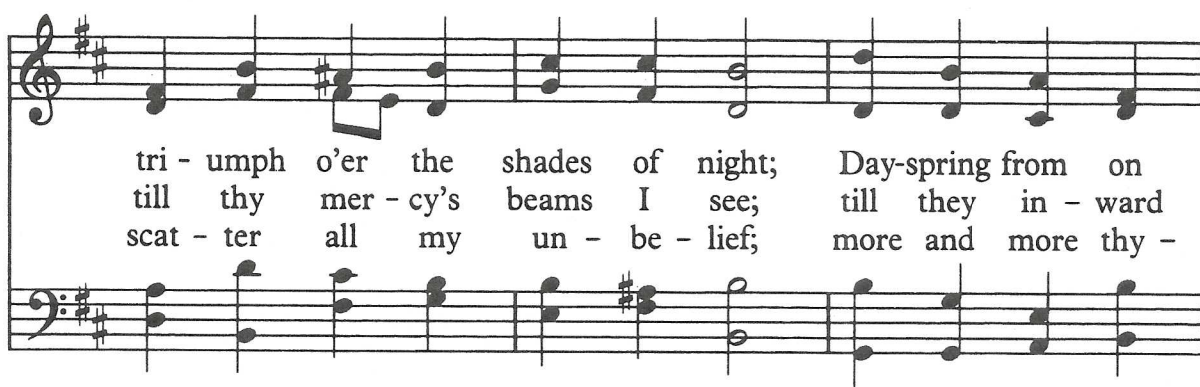
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 173



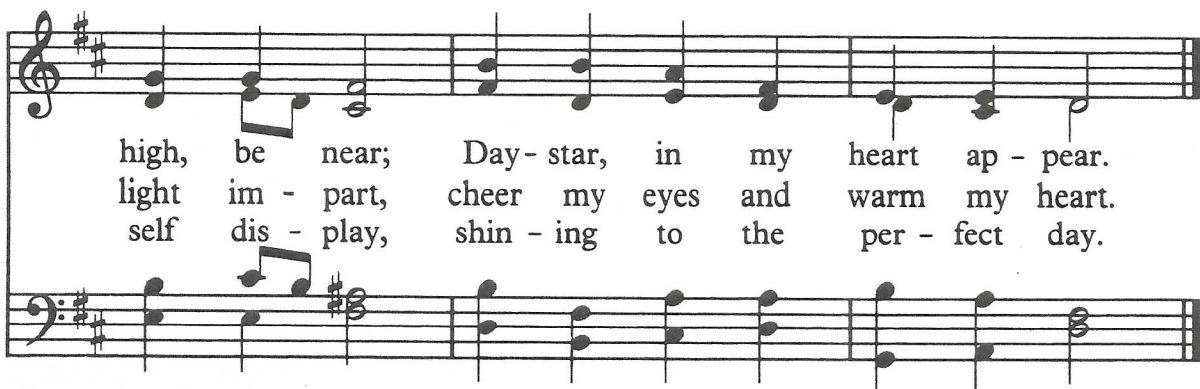
1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the
 2. Dark and cheer - less is the morn un - ac - com - pa -
 3. Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of



on - ly light, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, a - rise,
 nied by thee; joy - less is the day's re - turn,
 sin and grief; fill me, Ra - dian - cy di - vine,



tri - umph o'er the shades of night; Day-spring from on
 till thy mer - cy's beams I see; till they in - ward
 scat - ter all my un - be - lief; more and more thy -



high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
 light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
 self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
 2. O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, and or - der all things
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
 4. O come, thou Root of Jes - se's tree, an en-sign of thy

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show
 Si - nai's height in an-cient times once gave the law
 peo - ple be; be - fore thee ru - lers si - lent fall;

Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-
 in cloud and maj-es - ty and awe.
 all peo-ples on thy mer - cy call.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5. O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free,
and conquer death's deep misery.

Refrain

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7. O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.

Refrain