



**MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
**NOVEMBER 28, 2021 • FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*“Making Room (Hope)”*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Douglas Vooyoys

**PRELUDE**

**WE OPEN THE DOOR**

*Hope Waits for Us at Advent*

Amanda Udis-Kessler

Leader: As we enter the advent season, how can our church become a house where the holy will be born anew? As we’ve seen around us, the pandemic has laid bare and widened economic disparity, the world shows signs of injustice and racial divide. How can we be a place of respite in the storm by providing sustenance and care, opening our doors wider to those who seek shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” those lonely and frightened spaces within and between us are filled with the increasing light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

*Sing:*

**Hope waits for us at Advent  
Hope waits for us to trust.  
Hope waits for our commitment  
to a land that’s kind and just.  
In this time of preparation  
for the work of co-creation,  
for the birthing of a world  
that heals the ones in pain.  
Hope is born in us again!**

*Reader(s):* Today we offer the Light of Hope to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Hope awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There *IS* room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

*When God Is a Child*

The Brennan Family  
Words: Brian Wren;  
music: Joan C. Fogg

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
Leading us on till the morning is bright.

CHORUS: When God is a child, there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first, and the weak shall be strong,  
And none shall be afraid.

*Sing:*

*Hope Waits for Us at Advent* (lyrics above)

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

As we rise in body or spirit for our opening hymn, I invite you to pass a “wave” of peace to the people around you, also wave to those worshipping virtually at home as you share the Peace of Christ.

### \*HYMN

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Red Hymnal No. 103

## CHILDREN’S TIME

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Make of My Heart a Stable*

*Amanda Udis-Kessler*

*Sing:*

**Make of my heart a stable,  
a house for the holy,  
a warm and sturdy place  
for hope to live and grow.**

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God about what we’ve done and left undone that created less peace in a hurting world. Let us release regret. And welcome in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God.

*Sing:*

**Make of my life a stable,  
a house for the holy,  
a warm and sturdy place  
for hope to live and grow.**

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit, inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine. Let us release our fear and call upon the Spirit of God, and rely upon the Peace of Christ.

*Sing:*

**Make of our church a stable,  
a house for the holy,  
a warm and sturdy place  
for hope to live and grow.**

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of this church, filling it with the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling.

We remember and pray for...

... those who are suffering economic hardship, and insecurity in basic needs; may abundance be shared.

... those who are suffering mentally, finding it difficult to cope; may paths open and hope return.

... those who are suffering illness or injury; may healing abound.

... those who are suffering loneliness and isolation; may companionship and solace arrive.

... those who are suffering discrimination, fear and violence; may they know respect, respite, and safety.

May the Advent of Compassion be born in us, reside within us, move outward from us, to meet the needs of the world, making a house for the Holy that is each and every child of God. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

**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.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## A STORY OF INNKEEPING: OFFERING

Leader: The Bible doesn't actually mention an Innkeeper in the story of Jesus' birth. But this popular notion is alive in our imaginations. Sometimes the Innkeeper gets a bad rap, as if providing substandard accommodations for a family about to go through the birthing process. But what if we saw the innkeeper as someone who, with a full house, thought literally "outside the box" to solve a problem? What if we endeavored to do the same to provide ministry, to "house the Holy" in ways we have not yet imagined? This Advent season we will offer some stories to stir our imagination and stoke the possibilities for our own hospitality.

## \*DOXOLOGY

Lyrics: Thomas Ken, Tune: Red No. 64

**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 pow'r uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## FIRST READING— Jeremiah 33:14-16

Casey Brennan  
Pew Bible pg. 683

## ANTHEM

*Lo, How a Rose/The Rose*  
Chancel Choir  
Ji Hye Jung, piano

arr. Craig Hella Johnson

## SECOND READING (UNISON) — Psalm 25:4-5

Pew Bible pg. 476

***Make your ways known to me, Lord;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—  
because you are the God who saves me.  
I put my hope in you all day long.***

## SERMON

Rev. Douglas Vooy's

## \*CLOSING CAROL

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Red Hymnal No. 134

## **BENEDICTION**

### **BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**Come, God of love, your promise bring  
To raise our hope, a world waiting.  
Create a stillness in our hearts  
To know the joy your love imparts.**

## **POSTLUDE**

Ji Hye Jung

*Our Worship together concludes with the Benediction Response.  
The Postlude is transitional music which inspires us as we go forth as  
disciples to serve God and one another. Worship has ended.  
Our Service Begins. . .*

*The flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of  
Peter & Anna Amerena  
Given by Marie Cooper*

*The steeple is lit this week in loving memory of  
Kim Hersey  
Given by Dana Hersey*

## **Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC**

90 Maple Street, Danvers, MA 01923

978-774-4510 · [info@maplestreetchurch.org](mailto:info@maplestreetchurch.org) · [www.maplestreetchurch.org](http://www.maplestreetchurch.org)

**Morning Worship Service** — Sundays at 10am

**Zoom Prayer & Table Worship** — Tuesdays at 6pm

**Zoom Bible Study** — Thursdays at 12noon

**Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 10 am – 1 pm**