

MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

Fourth Sunday of Advent · Sacred People · December 18, 2022

When we look through the lens of the sacred, we prepare our senses to recognize the holy in all people.



“You must come to know [the Word becoming flesh] in the very cells of your body—and see it in the cells of all bodies, which each carry the same divine DNA of their Creator.”

90 Maple Street, Danvers, MA 01923

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WELCOME

Rev. Pam Cochrane

PRELUDE

Robert Humphreville, organist

REFLECTING THE SACRED

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Living God, upon this moment, upon this people, upon this place, the holy comes.
And sacred knowing, brings sacred being for sacred doing of God's plan.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE (responsive)

Grace Phinney & George Jones

One: We pray for Love this day.

All: We pray for Love this day.

One: We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

All: We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

One: We open to see each person

All: We open to see each person

One: as a gift of holy presence

All: as a gift of holy presence

One: This is the gift of the Christ Mystery

All: This is the gift of the Christ Mystery, lighting the way to love.

One: Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Love, we give you thanks for this holy gathering of Beloveds. As we take in the love you offer, may we be a reflection of your light, expanding the sacred presence you have promised into the sacred presence we can offer.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

When God Is a Child

Brian Wren & Joan C. Fogg

Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

Jesus has come and will never depart.

CHORUS: When God is a child, there joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,

And none shall be afraid.

***HYMN**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Red No. 110

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Pam Cochrane

Children & youth are invited to the social hall for Advent activities.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Douglas Vooy

***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. 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.

OFFERING *Thank you for all the ways you give to the ministry of Maple Street Church. Your gifts, whether offered weekly, monthly, by pledge or online, make a difference in the life of the church. Collection boxes are located at both sanctuary entrances, on the church office door, and the church mailbox outside the Chapel.*

OFFERTORY *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* Tune: ERMUNTRE DICH
Jon Gaines, trumpet; Robert Humphreville, organ

MEDITATION “*Christmas, a juxtaposition of harsh and holy*” Kathy Gross

ANTHEM *Let the Stable Still Astonish* Leslie L. Fields & Dan Forrest
Chancel Choir; Amy Brierley, solo

READING: Luke 2: 8-16 Michael & Judy Polagye
Excerpt from *Seasons of Hope*, by David Butler Lew Hathaway

ANTHEM *Can You See the Light in Bethlehem?* Joseph Graham & David Angerman
Chancel Choir; Jonathan Prescott, solo; Clair Ward, soprano descant

READING: *Once More*, by Robert Raines Faith Bertrand

ANTHEM *Silent Night* arr. Rhonda Polay
Chancel Choir; Judy Drouin, solo

READING: from *A Time of Wonder*, by Charles N. Gross Deborah Sauer

***HYMN** *Once in Royal David’s City* Tune: IRBY; Words: C.F. Alexander

1. Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
2. Christ came down to earth from heaven, love incarnate for us all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood’s pattern, day by day like us he grew grew,
He was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child who seemed so helpless lives and reigns in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

BENEDICTION *Christmas Prayer*, by Maren Tirabassi Ed Rozmiarek

POSTLUDE Robert Humphreville, organist

**Please stand as you are able*



Welcome! If you are here for the first time, please fill out a connection card and place it in the offering boxes. We share God's love, hope, and healing and serve our neighbors. No matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here!

We extend special thanks to Robert Humphreville, who is our guest organist for this Special Music Sunday.

*The altar flowers this Sunday are given in honor of
Cole Johnson's 24th Birthday
Given by Jonell Glass and Art, Payton, & Shelby Johnson*

*The steeple is lit this week in loving memory of
my parents Rev. Lawrence Milford Stone & Helen Louise Culver Stone,
my grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Hiram B. Stone and Mr. & Mrs. Grove H. Culver,
my brother Benjamin Thomas Stone, and my friend Faye Gardner
Given by John Howard Stone*

Sunday's Servants:

Ushers: Donna Eovacious, Donna Mandriota,
Sharron Rowland, & Jerri Mitchener

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