



MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
DECEMBER 12, 2021 • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
“How Much is enough? (Joy)”

WELCOME

Ed Rozmiarek

PRELUDE

Ji Hye Jung

WE OPEN THE DOOR

Joy Waits for Us at Advent

Amanda Udis-Kessler

Sing:

**Joy waits for us at Advent
Joy waits for us to sing.
Joy waits for our amazement
at the grace of everything.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
where wonder is restored.
Joy is born in us once more!**

Leader: We envision John the Baptist, as he baptized new converts, he invited them to live with “changed hearts,” much like Paul changed on the road to Damascus. The spirit dwelled within, and moved hearts, people were changed, never to be the same. John calls for all to have the basic necessities of life, even the simplest of rights, of not being harassed or to live in fear – for all to share a deep measure of joy. The prophet Isaiah describes joy as an ever-flowing spring, a birthright of all children of God. May we never be the same once touched by the spirit, rejoicing as we share this message of joy with all.

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Dick & Linda Donovan

When God Is a Child

Brian Wren & Joan C. Fogg

1. Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the world that the Savior is born.

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.

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.

**Please stand as you are able*

***HYMN**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Red Hymnal pg. 110

CHILDREN'S TIME

Kristen McLlarky

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 joy 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 joy 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 joy 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: Many imaginative tales have been spun about "The Inn" and the people who may have been involved in the story. As we've already said, we know very little about the circumstances from the Bible. Another theory is that it wasn't an inn at all but the down stairs of a house where the family animals were kept, under the top floor where the family lived. This scenario suggests that each and every home can be a birthing place for more goodness in this world. It suggests that this House of God, this church, might contain a surprising nook or cranny that could house a holy endeavor for bringing more joy to someone's life.

*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!**

SCRIPTURE READING — Philippians 4:4-7

Linda Donovan
Pew Bible pg. 1022

ANTHEM

Run with the Shepherds
The Chancel Choir

Arr. Joel Raney

SERMON

"REJOICE"

Rev. Nancy Haynes

*CLOSING HYMN

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Arr. Rollo Dilworth

CHORUS:

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild.
New life, new hope, to all he brings.
Listen to the angels

1. He was herald by the angels
Yes, born in a lowly manger.
God chose the virgin Mary as his mother,
And Joseph as his earthly father.
Three wise men trav'lin' from afar,
They were guided by the shinin' star
To see King Jesus where he lay in a manger full of hay.
"Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King!" **CHORUS**

2. Some traveled north, some traveled south
To see this wonderful child.
Some traveled east, some traveled west
To see this wonderful child. **CHORUS**

FINAL CHORUS:

Celebrate Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild.
New life, new hope, to all he brings.
Listen to the angels sing:
“Glory, glory, glory to the new born King!”
Jesus!

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

*The altar flowers are in loving memory of
Donald Wheeler
Given by his wife Arlene Wheeler and Family*

*The chancel flowers are in loving memory of
my husband Lorne Hersey
Given by Jean Hersey and family*

Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC
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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



COME CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

at **MAPLE STREET
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**
90 MAPLE STREET, DANVERS, MA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 10AM



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT WITH
GUEST SPEAKER REV. NANCY HAYNES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 6PM

BLUE CHRISTMAS PRAYER & TABLE ON ZOOM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 10AM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY

& THE GREENING OF THE SANCTUARY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

3PM CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

5PM CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

11PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

*LIMIT OF 70 ATTENDEES PER SERVICE

Please email or call the church office
to reserve your service selection

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

RECORDED WORSHIP SERVICE



Christmas Eve Worship



In the spirit of Advent, I am pleased to share with you an update pertaining to our Christmas Eve Worship schedule.

This year at Maple Street Church we will be having an additional Family and Children Worship on Christmas Eve.

We will have Family and Children Services at 3:00pm and 5:00pm. Our Traditional Candle-light Service will remain at 11:00pm.

Our hopes are to accommodate as many who would like to attend in person and avoid the risk of turning people away. There will be a limit of 70 people per service due to precautions, so it is important to call ahead or email your selection for whichever service is your preference and reserve a spot.

The 5pm service will be broadcast on all platforms and on Danvers Accesses Community Television. The 11pm service will be broadcast on all platforms. You can call the church office or email your selections.

Also, plan to dress warmly, or even bring a throw or blanket if you like, the windows will remain open for the duration of the worship service being ever-mindful of safety.