

The United Church of Christ, Congregational  
Burlington, MA

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*"We gather for worship, study, planning and mission to celebrate the life, teachings, death and living presence of Jesus Christ which frees us to love boldly and to serve gladly as God would want us to do."*

**December 7, 2025**

**10:30am**

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*By John Stuart*

***We believe God calls us to love unconditionally, following the example of Jesus Christ.***

***Recognizing that all people are equal in the sight of God, we seek to be an inclusive and respectful community for persons of every color, age, sexual orientation, gender, ability and economic means.***

***In our calling to express the love and welcome of Christ, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person, and declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation.***

***We strive to respond to the needs of our town and world with practical deeds of love.***

***We welcome individuals and families of every configuration into the full life and ministry of this church, and invite you to join us on our faith journey!***

***Coming...***

**Carol Sing led by Aline Beck and Debbie Claar**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

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**\*Please rise in body or spirit.**

## **\*Morning Psalm - adapted from Psalm 122**

One: I was glad when they said to me,

**All: "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"**

One: My spirit soared when a voice spoke to me,

**All: "Come, come to the heart of love."**

One: I lay down my burdens as you whisper to me,

**All: "Peace, peace to all who enter here."**

One: Our voices rise together in harmony,

**All: "Here we are, gathered in the house of the LORD!"**

## **Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace-Board of Missions**

Today we light the Candle of Peace.

There is a hush in our hearts as we wait  
to feel the peace of God envelop us.

We imagine it as delicate as a lily's petals opening,  
as a blanket pulled snug beneath our chin,  
as a breeze shaking the oak's branches on a sunny morning.

We expect peace to come gently,  
but when has anything worthwhile come without pain?  
A baby cries in birth as the mother sweats and shakes.  
Imperfect compromises leave both sides vulnerable.  
A voice that rallies us to change is often silenced too soon.

Striving for peace is no different.  
It is fierce, and loud, and it requires tenacity.  
Peace is complicated. Peace is a sip of water  
after the longest night. Peace is the flame within  
that we must keep lit for the sake of all.

Peace is the hush, and it is the clatter.  
Peace is God's love, acted out loud.

May the flame of Peace burn within us.

## **Passing the Peace**

**\*Opening Hymn**

With Joy Draws Water

NCH #109

## Reflecting & Praying...

### Scripture Readings

#### Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,  
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

**Anthem**

I Wonder as I Wander

Aline Beck

**Committing...**

**Offering**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

Lyrics adapted by William Abernethy; tune *NCH #780*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator,  
Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

**Blessing**

## Communion

### Invitation to the Table

One: In him was life, and life was the light of all.

**All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

One: We remember that this is his table, and so we say, come from the north and come from the south, come from the east and come from the west. Come regardless of age or race or sex or creed or orientation or identity.

**All: We come not because we must, but because we may. We come seeking mercy, forgiveness, healing, and peace.**

One: Come one and all. The table of Christ is prepared for you.

### \*Communion Hymn

Here, O My Lord, I See Your Face to Face

NCH #336 verses 1-3

### Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

One: Gentle God, it has been too long since your people have known peace. We confess that we turn away from the ugliness hidden behind closed doors, from the ravages of war, from the famine and genocide that stalk our siblings around the world. We confess that we've lost hope, lost our faith in the possibility of a small act's power to change. We talk and talk, all the while forgetting that we are not just your mouthpiece, but your hands and feet.

**All: Remind us, Redeemer, how to show up for justice. Teach us how to transform this ragged hope into peace for all.**

One: Holy One, remind us that Advent Peace is not a placid, sleepy peace but a radical peace that wakes us up; the incarnation; the Word made flesh, in the form of a baby, born into a poor family, to a young woman outdoors in a manger, after being turned away from the inn, in an obscure, rural backwater in Judea. This new Prince heralds a new peace; one which returns what is broken to a state of wholeness, a peace that rights wrongs, feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, comforts the afflicted, and afflicts the comfortable.

**All: God of Peace, remind us that there is more forgiveness in you than there is sin in us.**

One: Jesus says to us, "My peace I give you." At this table, in the bread and the cup, the body and the blood, we know true Peace, that surpasses all understanding, through our Savior, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. In the light of Christ, and in communion with one another, we surrender to your mercy and give thanks for your word of forgiveness. Amen.

### Words of Institution

**All: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, as you gather us all in this place. May the broken bread become our inward wholeness and the cup of grace our fullness that we might empty ourselves to become a blessing to those who long for peace and reconciliation in their lives.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit Come, be with us in all of our eating and drinking together. Amen

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

## Going...

**\*Closing Hymn**

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

NCH #117

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

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### **CHURCH VISION STATEMENT**

**Adopted February 2017:**

At the UCC Burlington, we cultivate a thriving environment, which empowers us to embody the beloved, diverse community that Jesus modeled for us, proclaiming that ***all are welcome, all are loved.*** We celebrate our colonial roots as we change, adapt and grow into who God is calling us to be. We respect the sanctity of each person's spiritual journey and we are blessed by the gifts that each person brings to the life of the church. We join together in faithful service and advocacy with the ongoing hope that we can make the world a better, more just, and peaceful place for everyone.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**



**4PM FAMILY WORSHIP WITH CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT**

**10PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

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Rev. Andrew Harris, Pastor  
Aline Beck, Organist  
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education  
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant  
Uccburlington.org  
781-272-4547

## **PRAYERS AND CONCERNS**

David McNeil  
Woody Knowles  
Lucy Damiani  
Carol Downing and Jan McSheffrey's  
brother Charlie, cousin Mary/Husband  
Donna DeSome's sister Brenda and  
brother-in-law Rick  
Deana Tredeau's great niece Katie Wise  
Ryan Clark's co-workers  
Rob Sears  
Conrad Fong  
Tom Killilea  
Tonia Egan's Mom and Dad  
Bill Livezey  
Kay Shute  
Roberta Low  
Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel, and  
friend Mary  
Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor  
and Bob  
Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby  
David Knowles  
Elaine Glancy  
Ted Brierley  
Andrew's friend Lorenzo  
Bill Hitchcock  
Anna Karwan's mom Irene and gratitude  
for her sister as caretaker  
Skip Glancy and sister Dorothy  
Karen Butler's brother-in-law Lenny  
Barbara Naddaff's friend Mary  
Shirley Fong's Mom Mary  
Julie Lewis' cousin Alicia  
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn  
Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce  
Kelly Sievert  
Ginger Mungillo, daughter Cindy, son Jim  
Barbara Garland

Our many church volunteers

Families in need of food and assistance

*Bobbie Killilea donated today's altar flowers in appreciation of Burlington Florist who always does a beautiful job with our Sunday flowers.*

## **Second Sunday in Advent**

### **December 7 Communion 10:20a**

Advent Lighters:	Board of Missions
Communion Prep:	Chris Stahlinski
Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Aline Beck
Lay Leader:	Marcia Rich
Head Usher:	
Usher:	Carol Downing
Greeter:	Jan McSheffrey
Flowers:	Bobbie Killilea
Collector:	Dick Butler
Nursery:	Kritika Agarwala
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:	Deana Tredeau Deb Glancy
Baker/Snack:	Lucy Damiani Donna Flecchia

### **Bible Study**

Every Wednesday 2-3pm In-person and on Zoom. All are welcome to join us for our weekly Bible Study as we explore scripture and listen for God's word of good news in our lives.

Join us December 3, 10, 17

Zoom link:

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84363847241>**

### **CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE**

We will be gathering for creativity and conversation on Thursdays 1 to 3 in the conference room. You can join us via Zoom using the following information.

**<https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?pwd=TVJ3L2xDODFxeUVSM0dWRnFhelI3dz09>**

Meeting ID: 935 6718 8274  
Passcode: 01803



## POINSETTIAS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

If you would like to purchase a plant for our Christmas Services, plants are \$12. Forms are in your December Hilltop and at coffee hour.

If you would like to take your plant (after Christmas) or donate one to be delivered by our Deacons to those who have been on our prayer list, please indicate that on the form. You can make payment out to UCC and add Poinsettia on the memo line. Return to the church office please.

**Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 14th.**

### WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you can volunteer to be *Lay Leader, Head Usher, Usher, Greeter, Nursery, Coffee Host or Bakers.*

Here is the link:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/567269842043/false?popup=true#/invitation>



## CHRISTMAS TREES

Sales have been going very well!

This year, the lot will be open on weekday evenings from 4-7 PM and weekends from 12-6 PM. We could use a few more volunteers to help staff the lot - thank you in advance for lending your time and spirit! In addition to beautiful trees, we'll be offering fresh wreaths and handmade ornaments throughout the sale.

Here is the link to volunteer at the Tree sales and Mistletoe Market:

<https://evite.me/mHBhq5ndUA>

## CHRISTMAS POTLUCK LUNCHEON DECEMBER 11, THURSDAY, 11:30-2:30P

All are welcome to join us on Thursday, December 11th in Sewall Hall. We would just like to gather and have a Christmas Celebration with our friends from UCC. There will be a signup sheet at coffee hour for food ideas and headcount.

Again, all are welcome!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

12/14/25 Advent Sunday of Joy! Sunday School will stay in worship. The Sunday School will lead the entire congregation in making a craft during the service. They will give directions and demonstrate how to make the craft.

### YOUTH GROUP-Grades 7-12

On Sunday December 14th we will meet from 5-6:30 at The Hancock Church. This will be a challenge between UCC and Hancock to make the most amazing gingerbread house.

Come to this celebration and show your creative talents. Please let Deb know if you will attend C:857-373-9157

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> AFTER WORSHIP



Come all! This is a beloved event where we feel warmth and love we pass along to people in Burlington.

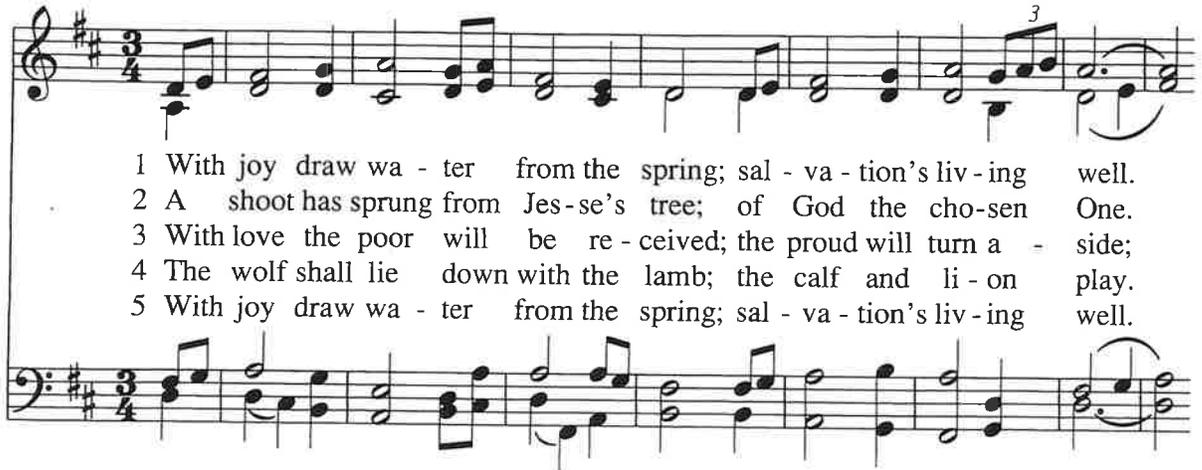
There will be a lunch of pizza provided by the CE Committee right after worship. We then head out at 12:15pm to carol around town. We will be joined by our friends from The Presbyterian Church. We are out caroling 1 - 1 1/2 hours. All voices are welcome.

# With Joy Draw Water

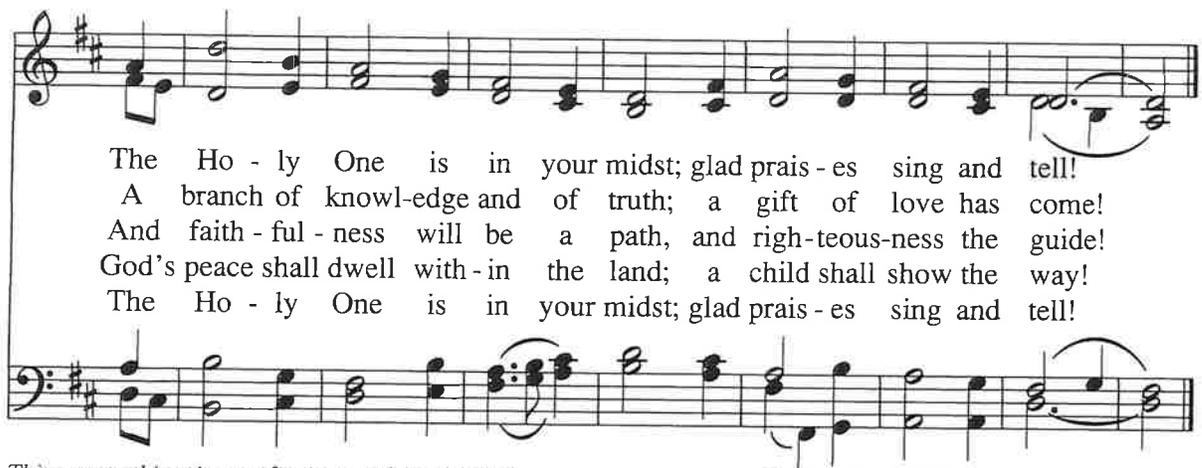
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Anne McKinstry, 1986, 1993

*Isa. 11:1-10; 12:2-6*



1 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.  
2 A shoot has sprung from Jes - se's tree; of God the cho - sen One.  
3 With love the poor will be re - ceived; the proud will turn a - side;  
4 The wolf shall lie down with the lamb; the calf and li - on play.  
5 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.



The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!  
A branch of knowl - edge and of truth; a gift of love has come!  
And faith - ful - ness will be a path, and righ - teous - ness the guide!  
God's peace shall dwell with - in the land; a child shall show the way!  
The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!

*This text combines images from two Advent readings from the book of Isaiah, including the passage anticipating the reign of peace. The author, Anne McKinstry, has served as a writer-in-residence at Otis United Church of Christ in Massachusetts.*

Tune: ST. COLUMBA altered to 8.6.8.6.  
*Irish traditional melody*  
Harm. Charles V. Stanford, 1906

# Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

*Horatius Bonar, 1855; alt.*

1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;  
 2 Here would I feed up - on the bread of God,  
 3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;  
 4 Too soon we rise; the sym - bols dis - ap - pear;  
 5 We have no help but yours, nor do we need

here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;  
 here share the cup, the gra - cious gift of heaven;  
 this is the heaven - ly ta - ble spread a - new;  
 the meal, but not your love, is past and gone.  
 an - oth - er strength than yours to lean up - on.

Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,  
 Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,  
 Here let me feast, and, feast - ing, still pro - long  
 This joy - ful feast con - firms that you are here,  
 It is e - nough, O Lord, e - nough in - deed;

And all my wea - ri - ness up - on you lean.  
 here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - given.  
 the brief, bright hour to - geth - er here with you.  
 now and for - ev - er, as our shield and sun.  
 our faith is in your might, your might a - lone.

*Horatius Bonar, a founder of the Free Church of Scotland and author of 600 hymns, wrote this hymn at his brother's request. It was first printed in a leaflet for the author's church, St. Andrew's Free Church in Greenock, Scotland.*

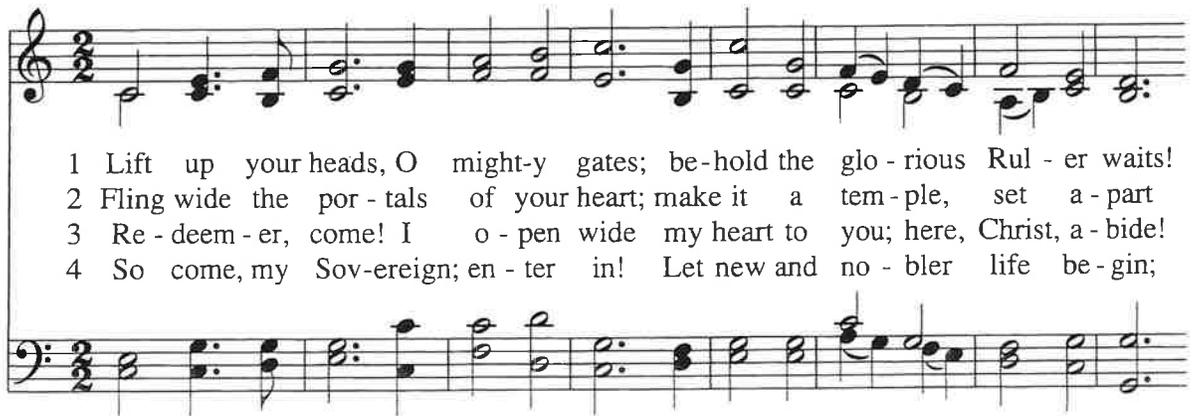
Tune: MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10.  
 Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870  
 Alternate tune: LANGRAN

# Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

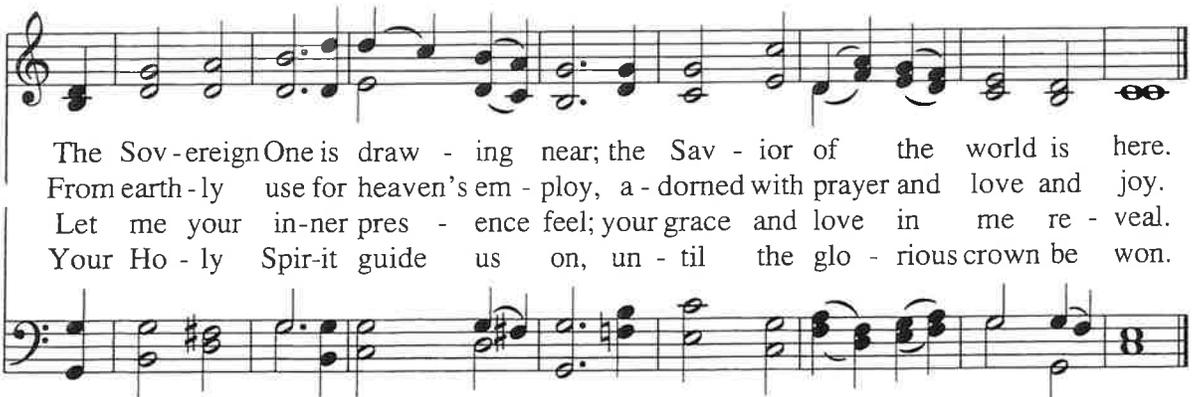
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*Georg Weissel, 1641*  
*Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865; alt.*

*Ps. 24:7-10*



1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!  
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part  
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bide!  
4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;



The Sov - ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.  
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

*Georg Weissel, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year. This hymn was written for Advent.*

Tune: TRURO L.M.  
*Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789*