The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA

FIRST 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."

November 29, 2026 **10:30am**

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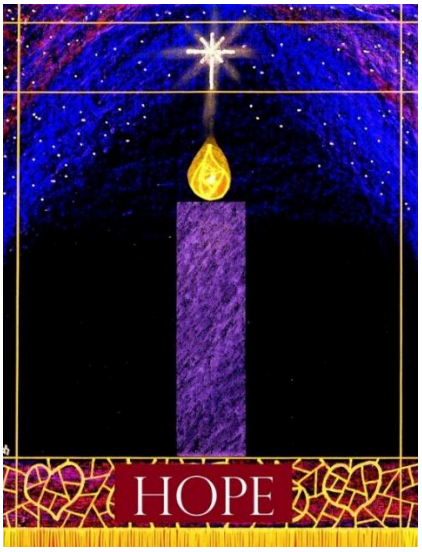


Image by John Stuart

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!*

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

Gathering....

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

***Morning Psalm** - adapted from Psalm 80

One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel!
All: Stir up your might, and come to save us!
One: Restore us, O God;
All: let your face shine, that we may be saved.
One: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
All: You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink.
One: Restore us, O God;
All: let your face shine, that we may be saved.
One: We will never turn back from you;
All: give us life, and we will call on your name.
One: Restore us, O God;
All: let your face shine, that we may be saved.

***Opening Hymn** Watcher, Tell Us of the Night NCH #103

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

Advent is a time of waiting, of expectation, of silence. Waiting for our Lord to be born. During this season, we light candles each Sunday to remember the Advent promises of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Today is the Sunday of Hope. In this Advent season, we find hope in the promise of a child. We find hope in things that will be revealed, like treasures tucked into an advent calendar, stowed away like gifts under the tree, hidden in plain sight like a star or a manger.

We gather together as people with the wild, reckless hope that Christ is coming to heal the broken world, to mend the broken hearts, and to sow the seeds of love that will feed a hungry people and blossom into flowers of peace instead of thorns.

This is the candle of Hope.
We let the light of Hope into our lives.

Hymn Light the Advent Candle Choir

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***Devotional Hymn** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 1)
#21 in Advent Hymn Book

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings
Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Mark 13:24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Our Sermon That Mourns in Lonely Exile Here Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem The Promise of Advent by Don Besig Choir

Praying…

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Offering…

Invitation of 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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sending…

***Closing Hymn** Come, O Long-Expected Jesus NCH #122

***Benediction**

Postlude

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CHURCH VISION STATEMNT
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.

Rev. Andrew Harris, Pastor
Sarah Del Dotto, Director of Music Ministries
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant
Uccburlington.org / 781-272-4547

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Christa and Elliott Brown
Barbara Moran
Jan McSheffrey
Deb Raymond's friend Keith
Deb Glancy's cousin Henry
Tricia Cahoon
Anna Karwan's brother Steve
Shirley Garside and daughter Lynn
Dan Shea
Skip Glancy
Donna DeSiome's sister Brenda, brother-in-law Rick
Tonia Egan, her mom and dad
Joe Stoddard's family member Jada
Sally Willard's sister Vicky
Rev. Cheryl Kerr's son Gabe
Woody Knowles
Joyce Carpenter
Bill Livezey
Kay Shute
Roberta Low
Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor and Bob
Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby
David Knowles
Ted Brierley
Andrew's friend Lorenzo
Bill Hitchcock
Shirley Fong's Mom Mary
Julie Lewis' cousin Alicia
Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce
Kelly Sievert
Ginger Mungillo, daughter Cindy, son Jim
Barbara Garland

Middle East
Our Country
The World
Mother Earth

Today - November 29
First Sunday of Advent
Carol Sing at 10:20

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader:	Jan Costa
Head Usher:	Dave McNeil
Usher:	
Greeter:	Marcia Rich
Cornucopia:	Deacons
Collector	Marcia Rich
Nursery:	Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond Carol Downing
Coffee Host:	Chris Stahlinski
Bakers:	Chris Stahlinski

Worship Participation-December 6
Second Sunday of Advent Carol Sing at 10:20

Communion Prep: Chris Stahlinski
Marge Zamanian

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader:	Marcia Rich
Head Usher:	Dave McNeil
Usher:	Deb Glancy
Greeter:	Tonia Egan
Flowers:	Jan Josta
Collector	Dick Butler
Nursery:	Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:	Deb Glancy
Bakers:	

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

On December 13 the Sunday School kids will provide an Advent presentation, light the Advent candles, be collectors and pass out the friendship pads. Also the Youth Choir will sing "The Friendly Beasts".



CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER

Our tree sale hours are 4–7 PM on weekday evenings and 12–6 PM on weekends. We need volunteers to set up and staff the lot. Thank you for sharing your time and spirit! Along with beautiful trees, we'll sell fresh wreaths and handmade ornaments throughout the sale.

We need volunteers to help sell trees. Weekends noon-6pm. Weekdays 4-7pm. Link to sign up:

https://evite.me/F6DPwG69Jm

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 20TH AT 4PM



In lieu of our yearly Blue Christmas Service,
we will share a 'Longest Night Service" on December 20th at 4pm. This is a quiet, peaceful service for those who may feel overwhelmed and sad this time of year. Our brothers and sisters from the Presbyterian Church will join us.

POINSETTIAS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES



If you would like to purchase a plant for our Christmas Services, please see the form attached or pick one up at coffee hour. Plants are $12 each. You can happily take your plant after Christmas or have a Deaon deliver it to someone who has been on our prayer list.
Deadline is December 13th.

BIBLE STUDY
EVERY WEDNESDAY 2-3PM
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AND ZOOM

Join us in person or through Zoom on December 2, 9, 16, 23 as we journey through Advent.

Zoom link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89076641525

GREEN TEAM EVENT
DECEMBER 13

Please join the Green Team for our annual environmentally friendly Christmas ornament making event on December 13th during coffee hour. We will have tables set up near the stage with all the items needed to create your own special ornaments. This is an intergenerational event. Hope to see you there

MOVIE NIGHT

December 5 at 5pm
Join us at the Hancock Church in Clark Hall for a movie and snack.

"The Muppets Christmas Carol".
Fun for everyone!

COMMUNITY DINNER
DECEMBER 2 at 5:30 PM

Please note the change of date from the last Wednesday of the month.
Join us at the Presbyterian Church, 335 Cambridge Street, Burlington on Wednesday, December 2nd at 5:30pm.
Dinner will return the end of January 2027.

Come celebrate the holidays together!