



Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

71 Central Square, Bridgewater MA 02324 – (508) 697-6016 – cscucc.org

*“We are a Christian community of people who are reaching out to our neighbors,
at home and abroad, sharing our faith and our resources.”*

*We are delighted to
have you in Worship today!*

*In our church, no matter who you are or where you
are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

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CSCC Staff

Ministers:

All the People!

Pastor:

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Ellen Atherton – office@cscucc.com

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Treasurer:

David Sheibley – treasurer@cscucc.com

Sexton:

Rich Sullivan

Epiphany Sunday

January 10, 2021 – 10:00AM

With Special Guest: Wolcott Humphrey, clarinet

Prelude: *“Brightest and Best”* by Christine Sullivan Robbins

Welcome & Announcements

Introit: *“We Three Kings”* arr. by John H. Hopkins

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 60:1-2)

Arise, shine, your light has come!
The glory of the Lord has risen upon you!
Darkness has covered the earth,
But the Lord has risen upon us.
A new day, a new year, a new moment is here.
Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn king!

Prayer of Invocation

Gracious and all loving God,
you call to us across deep waters and dark places.
Yours is the light which guides us and the voice which we follow.
We pray that you would reveal yourself to us as we worship you.
May those without hope be encouraged;
those who are sad, cheered;
those who are seeking, find you;
and may all things be according to your will.
In the name of your beloved Son and our teacher Jesus we pray,
Amen.

Opening Hymn: "God's Eye Is On the Sparrow"

COMFORT AND ASSURANCE

475

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

Matt. 10:26-30; Luke 12:4-7

Civilla D. Martin, c. 1905; alt.

Stanzas, in unison

1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the shad-ows come,
 2 "Let not your heart be trou-bled," Christ's ten-der word I hear,
 3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,

Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and
 And rest-ing on God's good-ness, I lose my doubts and
 When song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me

home, When God is ev-er my por-tion? My
 fears; Though by the path . . . God leads me but
 dies, I then draw close to my Sav-ior, from

con-stant friend will be: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 one step I may see: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 care I am set free: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

Civilla Martin, a native of Nova Scotia, assisted her husband in his evangelistic campaigns. Charles Gabriel was editor for Rodeheaver Publishing Company, Chicago, and one of the most popular gospel songwriters of the early 1900s.

Tune: SPARROW Irr.
 Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

COMFORT AND ASSURANCE

know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

Refrain, in harmony

know God watch-es me.
know God watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm
know God watch-es me.

hap-py, I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free, God's
I'm hap-py, I'm free,

eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-23

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet

Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

O God, we confess that it is hard to be hopeful when there is so much fear and pain and sorrow in the world. We confess, O God, that we keep our heads down and fail to envision where You are at work in our world. We fail to perceive You, even as You are revealed to the world. Be revealed to us, O God, in new and uplifting ways. May hope and joy be revealed to us. May Your justice, mercy, and love be revealed to us when we so desperately need it. Be revealed in our hearts, O God, so that we might break open Your light into the world. In Jesus’ name, we pray that all things will be revealed. Amen.

Assurance of God’s Grace

As the magi revealed Christ to the world, God’s love is revealed in us by others who love us. Let yourself be loved. Let yourself be cared for. Let yourself break down and cry when you need to. Let others lift you up. Know God’s love is in the words of assurance from friends, the listening ear, the shoulder to cry on. Know God’s love is with you when you love one another and care for them as well. Go and share God’s love. Amen.

Musical Meditation: “*Interlude from Sonata*” for Clarinet and Piano
by Amanda Harberg

Epiphany Message from the Board of Christian Education

Musical Meditation: *“Ad Anah?”* by James Lee III

Prayer for All People

God of the Ages, we have faced difficult times in this past year. Remind us of how You cared for Your people when they were oppressed in Egypt. Remind us of how You cared for Your people when they were lost in the wilderness. Remind us of how Your love was made known to the exiles in Babylon, and how You made their joy complete as they returned home. As we prepare to return from an exile, remind us that it took years for our ancestors in the faith, and it may take longer than we expect to return from this exile. Prepare our hearts, O God, to love one another more deeply than we did before. Prepare our minds, O God, to pursue justice more heartily than we did before. Prepare our bodies, O God, to embrace and care for each other in ways that honor boundaries and protect each other, but also offer the nurturing touch that many of us need. Prepare us, O God, to love and care for each other as You have loved and cared for us in this time of exile. We look to our future with hope in this coming year, knowing You are with us, every moment, as we wait. And in your name we pray the prayer you taught us saying...

The Lord’s Prayer

(Please use the wording that is most meaningful for you.)

*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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Benediction

Postlude: *“Brightest and Best”* by James P. Harding

*Do you need a meal, a call, spiritual care, or even just a prayer?
Contact the Office, a Deacon, or a member of our Care Team.*

To contact Rev. Beth, call the church office at 508-697-6016 or email her at cscepastor@hotmail.com.

CSCC Deacons

Deb Sorgman –
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Lynn Pietras –lsypie@aol.com



CSCC Care Team

centralsquarecareteam@gmail.com

Carol Chaffee
Phoebe Hogg
Bev Mitchell
John Scott
Rev. Beth Stotts

End-of-Year Giving

During this time, we encourage you to continue your support of CSCC, to the degree you are able. We know this may be a trying time for you financially as well as emotionally, so please know that we understand if you are not able to meet your usual giving goals. But for those who can, remember the church has ongoing expenses that need to be attended to.

Offerings can be made in any of the following ways: * Checks can be mailed to the church (71 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324) * Bill-pay through your bank can be set up for one-time or recurring payments * Payments can be made via the Paypal link at the top of our website home page (www.cscucc.org).

If you have any questions, you can email the Treasurer directly and confidentially at treasurer@cscucc.com or call the church office at 508-697-6016.