

Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

71 Central Square, Bridgewater MA 02324 – (508) 697-6016 – www.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."*

**Sunday, December 12, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

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!**

Follow us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma](https://www.facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma)

Check our website: www.cscucc.org



CSCC Staff

Ministers:

All the People!

Pastor:

Rev. Elizabeth Stotts – csccpastor@hotmail.com

Congregational Administrator:

Deborah Lancaster – office@cscucc.com

Minister of Music:

Julia Scott Carey – juliascottcarey@gmail.com

Treasurer:


David Sheibley – treasurer@cscucc.com

Sexton:

Rich Sullivan



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY

 **PRELUDE:** *“Sing We Now of Christmas”* John Leavitt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

 **INTROIT:** *“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”* Larry Shackley



***CALL TO WORSHIP FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT** (inspired by Isaiah 12)

One: Give thanks to God, and call upon God’s name!

All: For God is great, and God is here among us!

One: Spread the news of what God has done throughout the world.

All: For God is great, and God is here among us!

One: Sing praise, and shout for joy:

All: For God is great, and God is here among us!

One: Let’s worship God together!



***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Almighty God, you are our safety and our comfort.

In you alone can we trust and not be afraid.

Through our worship today, we offer you our joy and our praise.

We confess that you are our strength and our song.

Without you we could do nothing.

Without you our souls would be empty and in despair.

Grant your Spirit to come this morning

and remind us of the joy of our relationship with you.

Turn us in faith to thanksgiving


And help us sing for joy for you have promised us

that you will be in our midst

as we have gathered here this morning to hear from you.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

 **OPENING HYMN #101:** *“Comfort, Comfort O My People”*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: The Candle of Joy

Candle Lighting Song (Verse 3 attached)

**Please stand if you are able.*

This Order of Worship is subject to change under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.”



PRAYER FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY

O come Emmanuel, and ransom our weary world held captive by fear.
 When we are calm in the midst of chaos
 it is because your eternal joy is with us.
 We dare to be joyful because the tiny babe of Bethlehem
 has shown us victory over all the things that frighten us.
 No matter what, we know that you, almighty God,
 can transform our suffering into joyful praise.
 You have taught us that
 no matter how long our mourning in darkness may last,
 joy will come with the dawning of a fresh new day
 filled with hope, peace, and love.
 And so today we offer you our songs of praise
 for the one who is Joy to the World. Amen

HYMN #134: *“Joy to the World”*

A MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES: *“Don’t Freak Out”*

HYMN #144: *“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”*



HEBREW BIBLE READING: Isaiah 12



EPISTLE READING: Philippians 4:4-13



HOMILY



MUSICAL MEDITATION: *“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”* (choir only)



PRAYERS

Moment for Meditation and Reflection

Prayer for All People

The Lord’s Prayer

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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**Please stand if you are able.*

This Order of Worship is subject to change under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.”



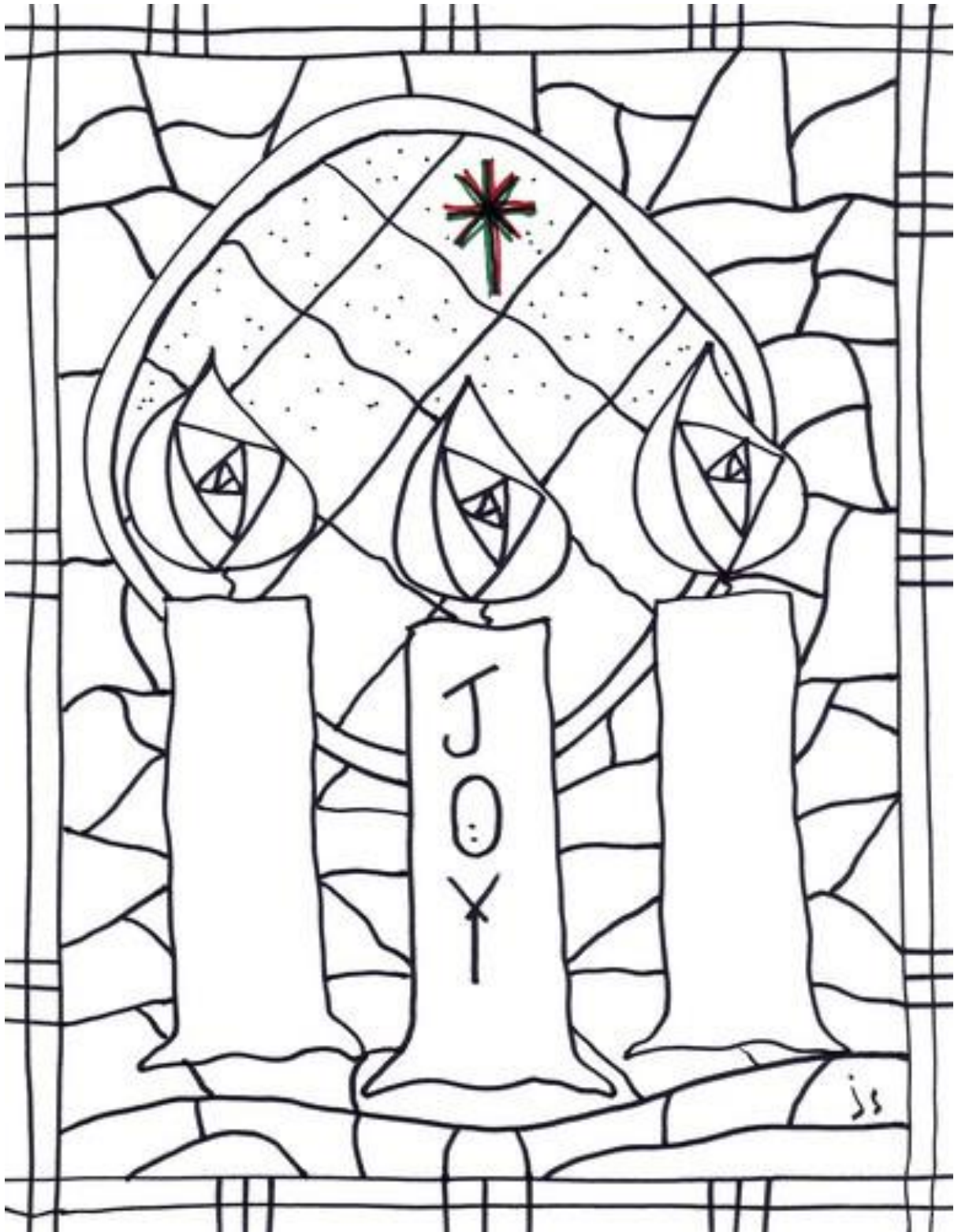
CLOSING HYMN #104: *“We Hail You God’s Anointed”*



BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE: *“The Holly and the Ivy”* David Lanz



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sign up

for

Weekly E-mail Blasts and our monthly newsletter, "Steeple Sounds

You'll see some little slips of paper at the end of each pew – if you are new or just visiting, or even if you've been here a while – we invite you to give us your mailing address and/or e-mail address so that we can be sure you're in the loop for upcoming events and important news of the church. Just fill out the short form and drop it in the collection plate at the back of the Sanctuary on your way out today!



Wednesday, December 15th - Cabinet Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 19th - Christmas Fund Offering, "The Lady of the Inn" Christmas Opera in One Act during the worship service

Friday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Service - Story and Song service at 5:00 p.m. and the Traditional Candlelight Service at 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 26th - Hymn Sing Sunday



Homemade Christmas Cookies Needed!

We are once again providing personal bags of homemade holiday cookies to those less fortunate.

If you are able, please cook a dozen or two of your favorite cookies and bring them to the church on Sunday, December 19th. Because all the cookies will be mixed up and packaged in groups of 3-4, please avoid the use of nuts. Also, please no cookies that are too sticky or creamy on top!!

The cookies will be delivered to Father Bill's and/or MainSpring House that week.

Dropoff: Sunday, Dec. 19, 3-3:30p.m. (or bring them to worship that morning and leave them in the Fellowship Hall.

BRIDGEWATER SENIOR CENTER

Remembering Those We Lost

A non-denominational vigil at the senior center for all ages.

Led by
Reverend Beth Stotts

DECEMBER 15, 2021
10:30AM

PLEASE RSVP
508-697-0929

SENIORCENTER@BRIDGEWATERMA.ORG



A reminder that the Central Square Church Office will be closed beginning on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th through New Year's Eve on Friday, December 31st. The Church Office will re-open on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. and remain open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Today in Worship

today's date _____

Write or draw your responses during the service,
then tell someone about it later!

Today's Bible lesson is from: _____
(book) (chapter:verses)

This is about (or made me think about)...

Something I heard
or learned
about God today is...

My favorite song from today was:

because...



Words or ideas that
I didn't understand are...

During the service I wondered about...



One thing I'll remember
from today's service is...





To contact Rev. Beth,
please call the Church Office at
508-697-6016
or e-mail her at:
csccpastor@hotmail.com.

*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 by emailing:
office@cscucc.com

CSCC Deacon

Deb Sorgman – debsorgman@gmail.com

CSCC Care Team

Carol Chaffee

Phoebe Hogg

Bev Mitchell

John Scott

Rev. Beth Stotts

Contributions Welcomed!

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 at: www.cscucc.org.

If you have any questions, you can e-mail the Treasurer directly and in confidence at: treasurer@cscucc.com or call the Church Office at 508-697-6016.