

**The Offering**

**Invitation to Give**

**Offertory** *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*      Melissa Blanton

**\*Doxology**

*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**

Generous God, our gifts and offerings are expressions of our hope in Christ. May they nourish those who hunger and spread your love and justice. Bless our giving, inspire us to share with compassion, and help us trust in your abundance. Amen.

**Service of Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

*(The Communion Elements are gluten-free and alcohol-free.)*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*Closing Hymn #102:**      *"O How Shall I Receive You"*

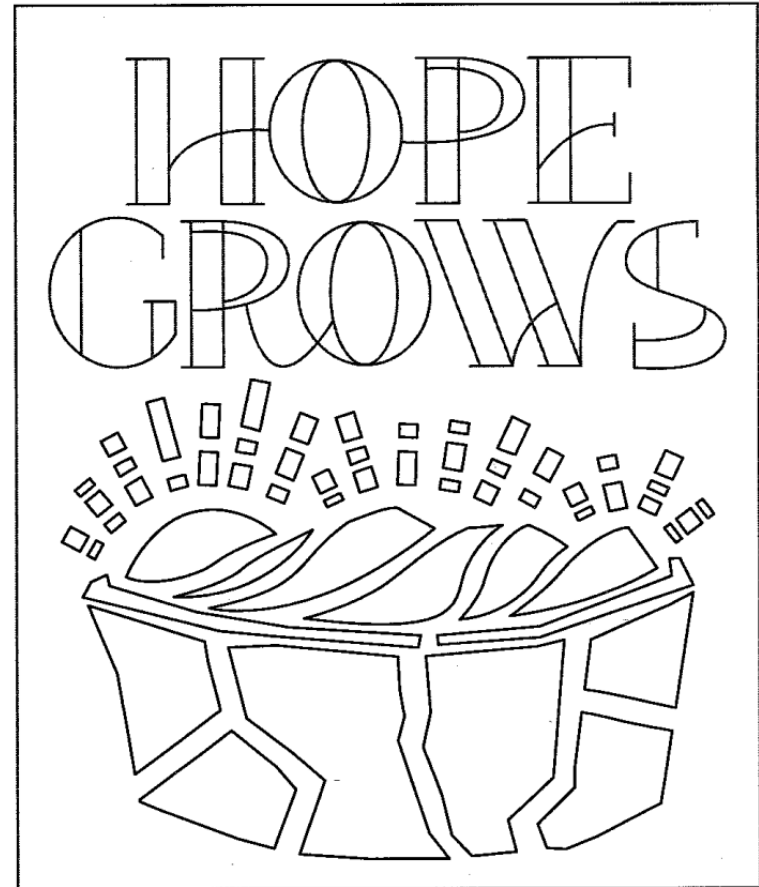
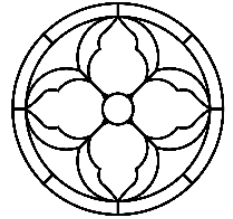
**\*Benediction**

**Postlude:**      *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*      Larry Dalton  
*(You are invited to sit and enjoy the postlude.)*

**Central Square Congregational Church, UCC**

71 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02324

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



**December 1, 2024**

Please Note: This service is subject to change by the guidance of the Holy Spirit

\* Denotes please rise in body and/or spirit.

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**Prelude**            *“Comfort, Comfort, Now My People”*            L. Shackley

### **Welcome, Announcements, & Invitation to Fellowship**

*(If you are new or visiting, please include your address, phone number, and e-mail address when you sign the fellowship pad at the end of the pew so that we may properly welcome you to our community.)*

**Introit**            *“O Loving Founder of the Stars”*

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: Today we begin the journey to Bethlehem, to the city called “House of Bread”.

**All: We take one step toward Christmas, the first step of many. Let this journey transform us from beginning to end.**

One: Whether your belly is full or empty, whether your heart is broken or whole, look toward the manger, toward the stars over the city of David, and find Hope.

**All: We look with Hope because Christ is coming to fill hearts and satisfy bellies with goodness and peace.**

One: Come, let us worship as we journey to the House of Bread, where our Brother and Friend will be born.

**All: Glory to God, there is Hope today. Let us worship!**

### **\*Opening Prayer**

Loving God, we hear this beloved story, year after year, because, in this world where people are hungry and creation is suffering, this story gives us hope – that all people will be fed and creation will be restored! We gather to worship in this season of hopeful expectation, knowing you are faithful to meet us here in song, prayer, and scripture. Nourish our hearts as we worship, and prepare us to serve the hungry around us. Amen.

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle of HOPE**

One: A long time ago, a baby was born in a town called “House of Bread”. His name was Jesus. Mary, his mother, laid him in a feeding trough to rest. Soon, he would grow up to be called the Bread of Life. He would fill hungry bellies; then, he would feed hearts with love and truth.

**All: Today, we light the candle of HOPE. Hope is believing things can get better with compassion and imagination.**

One: As we light this candle we are reminded that, from the manger, hope is growing...growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus, the Bread of Life.

**\*Opening Hymn**            *“From the Manger v.1”*            *(green insert)*

### **Moment for All Ages**

**Gospel Reading:**            Luke 2:7

**Gospel Reading:**            Matthew 14:13-21

**Anthem:**            *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*    Marshall McDonald

**Sermon**                            *“Hope Grows”*

**\*Hymn #101:**                    *“Comfort, Comfort, O My People”*

### **Prayers**

#### **Celebrations and Concerns**

*(At this time, you are invited to share your prayer requests with the congregation. When you have finished, you may say, “This is my prayer”. The congregation will reply, “This is our prayer”.)*

#### **Moment for Meditation and Reflection**

**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 have sinned 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

## We are delighted to Worship with you today!

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

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ.

### Do you need a visit? A meal? Someone to pray with?

Contact Rev. Beth, a Deacon, or a member of the Care Team.

Rev. Beth Stotts – [csccpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com)

Deb Sorgman – [debsorgman@gmail.com](mailto:debsorgman@gmail.com)

Anne Malmquist – [amalmquist@comcast.net](mailto:amalmquist@comcast.net)

Carol Chaffee – [galchaffee@gmail.com](mailto:galchaffee@gmail.com)

Bev Mitchell – [bev1944@comcast.net](mailto:bev1944@comcast.net)

Nina Gabel-Jorgensen – [ngjvns@gmail.com](mailto:ngjvns@gmail.com)

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**venmo**

## What's Happening at CSCC This Week

Sunday, Dec. 1

**Sr. Choir Rehearsal 8:30am**

*(Sanctuary)*

**Worship w/ Communion 10am**

*(Sanctuary and Online)*

**Kids Church 10:15am**

*(Kids Church Meeting Room)*

**Central Closet Thrift Shop 12-4pm**

*(Fellowship Hall)*

**Christmas on the Common 10-4pm**

*(Central Square)*

Monday, Dec. 2

**Food Pantry 6-7:30pm**

*(Church Street)*

Wednesday, Dec. 4

**Central Closet Thrift Shop 10am-1pm**

*(Fellowship Hall)*

**Women's Guild & Fellowship 6:30pm**

*(Fellowship Hall)*

Thursday, Dec. 5

**Food Pantry 10am-1pm**

*(Church Street)*

Saturday, Dec. 6

**Central Closet Thrift Shop 10am-1pm**

*(Fellowship Hall)*

Sunday, Dec. 7

**Sr. Choir Rehearsal 8:30am**

*(Sanctuary)*

**Jr. Choir Rehearsal 9:20am**

*(Sanctuary)*

**Worship 10am**

*(Sanctuary and Online)*

**Kids Church 10:15am**

*(Kids Church Meeting Room)*

# Mustard Seeds

## Prayer List of the People For the week of Dec. 1, 2024

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*Please note: Prayer requests should be submitted by calling the Church Office at: (508) 697-6016 or by e-mail to: [office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com).*

- Prayers for the Glass' neighbor, Stacey, who lost her husband tragically over a year ago. (11/24)
- Prayers for John Schuller that his eye condition is resolved and he will be able to be driving again soon. He had a procedure recently that caused an issue that may require surgery. (11/24)
- Prayers for Barbara, as she has ongoing tests at Beth Israel. (11/24)
- Prayers for Alex Sikora who will be undergoing knee surgery this week. (11/24)
- Prayers for Terry Reynolds' friend Kristen and her grandma. (11/21)
- Prayers for a long-time dear friend of Erik Muurisepp, Tanya, who is in a coma, and her husband and family. (11/19)
- Prayers for a middle-aged woman who has come out and is struggling with her faith and family. (11/10)
- Prayers of healing for the Glass' niece, Jennifer, who has prolonged severe anxiety and is currently hospitalized again. (11/10)
- Krissy Cannizzo asks for prayers for Joe H., a dear friend, who is struggling with a liver transplant rejection. (11/10)
- Stephanie Holmgren asks for prayers for her friend's husband, Andy, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. (10/20)
- Please keep Terry Reynolds' neighbor Walter Nardi in your prayers. He recently had a heart attack. (10/13)
- Prayers for Dominic's friend, for a speedy recovery from heart surgery. (10/6)
- Prayers for Sheri Turner's friend, Michael Liben, and his family who live in Jerusalem and have been in their bomb shelter due to missile strikes. Prayers also for his son-in-law who is deployed in Lebanon. (10/2)
- Prayers of healing for Beth, sister of Gail Wright and Lynn Pietras. (9/15)
- Prayers for Anita Mills, to learn how to live with severe chronic pain. (9/15)
- Prayers for Natalie and Erik Muurisepp and their family. Hudson and Oliver (11) have a neurology appointment on 9/17. May the doctor have the eyes to see and the ears to hear the full picture of them. (9/15)
- Prayers for healing for Bob Kelso following his recent open-heart surgery. (9/10)
- Savannah Wells asks for prayers for her boyfriend, Declan Cronin, whose dog is sick and doesn't know how long he has left on earth. (9/8)
- Prayers for a friend who is in long term care due to MS. (9/8)
- Prayers for Rich Sullivan's brother, Barry, who is recovering from brain surgery. (8/28)

- Continued prayers for Roger and Helen Hanson as they have both persevered through many health challenges and still face some uncertainties regarding their health and recovery. (8/19)
- Prayers for Todd Sorgman, who has prostate cancer. (6/9)
- Prayers for Norma Sorgman, who has a heart condition. (6/9)
- Prayers for 9-year-old Vivian, who has leukemia, and her mother, Jen. (5/19)
- Renewed prayers for the grandson of Doug Anderson. James has a recurrence of CA in his spine and liver. (5/5)
- Prayers for Rachel Lawson's nephew Leo, who has type 1 diabetes and is experiencing intestinal dysfunction. (4/14)
- Prayers for a dear friend of Mary Barnsley, Linda, who is having heart issues. (4/7)
- Prayers for Cheryl Cardillo, who is healing from surgery and a new cancer diagnosis. (4/7)
- Prayers of peace and comfort from cancer for Brian Q. (4/7)
- Brianna and Liam O'Connell ask for prayers for Eddie and his family and friends, as Eddie passes from this life. He has been a steadfast coworker and friend of Brianna's husband Bob. (1/28)
- Prayers for Denise Molinari's aunt, Ruth Copeland, for health issues. (1/21)
- Prayers for Eric Thompson, Sue Corcoran's nephew, who is struggling with mental health problems. (1/21)
- Continued prayers for Ashley Earp's dad, who has dementia. (12/22)
- Prayers for friends of John Schuller, The Herbert Family, whose granddaughter is struggling with mental health issues. (11/26)
- Prayers for Kathleen Mosher's amazing friend who is struggling. (11/12)
- Prayers for Jamie Wells' friend Jessica, who is recovering from yet another surgery last week (but doing well) and is facing one more in the coming months. (11/12)
- Asking God for love and prayers for both the Israeli people and for the people of Palestine. Both need our prayers, for all of the innocent people on both sides.

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### ***Continued prayers for all veterans and those serving on active duty in the military both in the United States and abroad.***

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**Please note:** We, the church, are in constant prayer for our church family, our community, our nation, and our world. We are in need of prayer, all of us. It is what brings us together! If you have requested an addition to the prayer list, it is helpful for you to provide updates to the church office, whenever possible, or request that the prayer concern be removed as it is no longer a concern or the issue has passed. If we have removed a prayer concern and you would like it added back to the list because there is a great need to keep the prayer in the forefront of our hearts and minds, please go ahead and make this known to the church office. Thank you!