

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

The Offering

Invitation to Give

Offertory *"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"*
(Performed by Bob Richards)

*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

Loving God, our gifts and offerings are a reflection of our commitment to Christ's peace. May they provide sustenance to those in need and extend your love and justice throughout the world. Bless the generosity of this community, prompting us to compassionately share in building a world where the hungry are filled. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #126:** *"Angels From the Realm of Glory"*

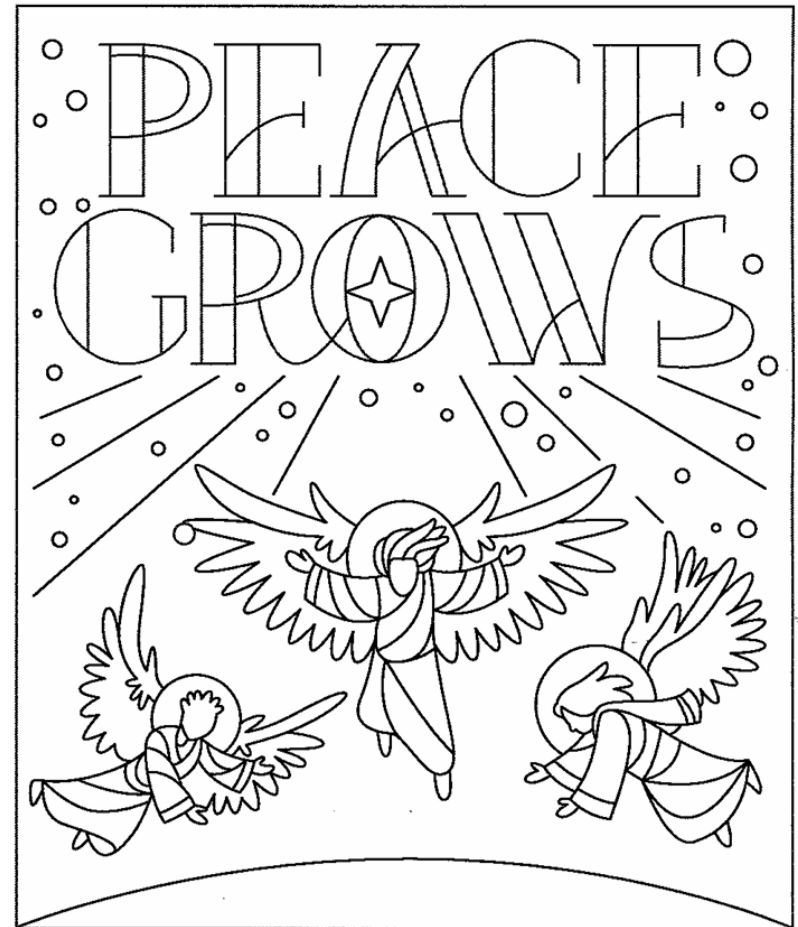
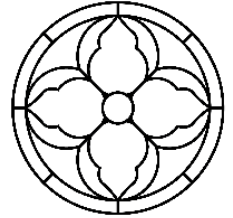
*Benediction

Postlude: *"Grown-Up Christmas List"* David Foster
(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 8, 2024

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

* Denotes please rise in body and/or spirit.

Prelude *"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"* J.S. Bach

Lighting of the Advent Candle of PEACE

One: A long time ago, a baby was born in a town called "House of Bread". His name was Jesus. Before his birth, his mother, Mary, sang of God's goodness: "God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things.

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

One: Today, we light the candle of PEACE. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly. As we light this candle we are reminded that, from the manger, peace is growing...growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus, the Bread of Life.

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 *"Emmanuel"* Steve Angrisano

*Call to Worship

One: As we begin this second week of Advent, focused on peace, may we remember what the angel said,

All: Be not afraid, Glory to God in the highest!"

One: Born to bring peace, the Spirit of Christ says, "Peace to this house."

All: Born to bring peace, the Spirit of Christ says, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

One: In this season of long nights and expectant hearts, how do we find this peace?

All: Peace happens when we treat each other, ourselves, and the world kindly.

One: Peace emerges when the work of justice is done, when all are free to be who God made us to be.

All: Let us worship in a spirit of peace, proclaiming the coming of the Prince of Peace!

*Opening Prayer

God of starry skies,

Into your peaceful presence we bring our whole selves: our anxieties, concerns, distractions, projects, dreams, and disorders. We know that in this unjust and chaotic world, peace is difficult to find and maintain, but we hunger for peace today.

Reveal the ways we have blocked or prevented your peace within us and our communities. Expand our capacity for peace as we remember the manger, where peace first began to grow. Help us reimagine systems that would make space for more peace. May the peace of Christ sustain us in worship today. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

*Greeting our Neighbors

***Opening Hymn** *"From the Manger v.1&2"* (green insert)

Kids Church Dismissal

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:14

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:1-6

Anthem: *"I Saw Three Ships"* R.M. Gray

Sermon *"Peace Grows"*

***Hymn:** *"Let There Be Peace on Earth"* (white insert)

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

Deb Sorgman – debsorgman@gmail.com

Anne Malmquist – amalmquist@comcast.net

Carol Chaffee – galchaffee@gmail.com

Bev Mitchell – bev1944@comcast.net

Nina Gabel-Jorgensen – ngjvns@gmail.com

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Please donate to our ministries!



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What's Happening at CSCC This Week

Sunday, Dec. 8

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)

Advanced Care Planning w/Rev. Beth

(Bridgewater Senior Center)

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Central Closet Thrift Shop 10am-1pm

(Fellowship Hall)

Property & Finance Team 7pm

(Upper Meeting Room)

Thursday, Dec. 12

Food Pantry 10am-1pm

(Church Street)

Friday, Dec. 13

Holiday Open Mic 6pm

(Sanctuary)

Saturday, Dec. 14

Advent Book Study 9am

(Fireplace Room)

Central Closet Thrift Shop 10am-1pm

(Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, Dec. 15

Steeple Sounds Submissions Due

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)

Handbell Rehearsal 11am

(Sanctuary)

Potluck Lunch 11am

(Fellowship Hall)

Mustard Seeds

Prayer List of the People For the week of Dec. 8, 2024

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

- Prayers for Bill Govoni as he faces health issues and his wife Terry DeArruda as she navigates the system to support him. (12/5)
- Prayers for Joann Kelly and her 4 kids, Christine, Phillip, Emma, & Jack. Joann lost her life partner, Sean, to cancer last week. (12/1)
- Update on our prayers for 9-year-old Vivian, who has leukemia, and her mother, Jen. Vivian's treatment plan is going according to plan and should be done in June 2026. (12/1)
- Prayers for the Glass' neighbor, Stacey, who lost her husband tragically over a year ago. (11/24)
- Prayers for John Schuller and his eye condition. (11/24)
- Prayers for Barbara, as she has ongoing tests at Beth Israel. (11/24)
- Prayers for Alex Sikora who is recovering from knee surgery. (11/24)
- Prayers for Terry Reynolds' friend Kristen and her grandma. (11/21)
- Prayers for the family of a long-time dear friend of Erik Muurisepp, Tanya who died. (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 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)
- Renewed prayers for the grandson of Doug Anderson. James has a recurrence of cancer 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)
- 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)
- 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.

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

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.