

Woodbury United Methodist Church



(Oil painting donated by Dawn Brownell)

Blessings to all for a wonderful Holiday Season!



*Woodbury United Methodist Church
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798
(203) 263-4775
www.woodburyumc.net*



Sunday, December 20, 2020
4th Sunday of Advent

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*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Divinum Mysterium* arr. Held
Christopher Shay, organist

GREETING Rev. John Thomason

*CALL TO WORSHIP for the 4th Sunday of Advent
based on Luke 1
from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*

God looks kindly on us when we are at our lowest.

Rejoice in God our Savior.

God has done great things for us in times past.

Rejoice in God our Savior.

God will do great things for us in days to come.

Rejoice in God our Savior.

Christ's mercy is upon us, offering hope in times of despair.

Rejoice in God our Savior.

Christ's love has made us whole.

Rejoice in God our Savior.

The Spirit's power disarms our pride and prejudice.

Rejoice in God our Savior.

The Spirit's power strengthens our compassion and mercy.

Rejoice in God our Savior.

Even as we are filled this day, may we go forth to nourish a world in need.

Rejoice in God our Savior.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (Thursday, December 24): 6:00 PM

The Prayer Corner:

Please remember persons in our church family who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are recovering at home: *Travis and Abby Cloud; Toby, Ed, and Liam McGrath; Grace Bower Richardson.*

Please remember our Confirmands: *Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, Matthew Shupenis*; their adult leaders: *Catherine Mason, Meg Temple, John Thomason*; and their mentors: *Mike Boisseau, Mollie Cole, Rev. Paul Hibbard, Carolyn Shay.*

Outpatient tests: *Bob Asman, Dave Brencher*

Upcoming chemotherapy and surgery: *Mary Wilkins, sister of Barb Hunt (Rochester, NY)*

Recovering at home: *Gary McClendon; Ally Roche; Steve Thomas; Carol Hennessey; Paige LeBlanc, mother of Jessie Lynch (Manchester, CT); Dominic Vaiuso, father of Karen Williams (Newtown); Robert Ayers, father of Tacy Nettleton (Woodstock, GA); Carl Hinkle, father of Toby McGrath (Greensburg, PA); Donna Louise Burke, friend of Kathy Craig; Peter Gallagher, father of Jen Carnes (Brookfield, CT); Lou Calabrese (husband of Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese); Jane King, mother of Stephen King and mother-in-law of Joann King (Sarasota, FL); Antonio Stillitano, grandson of Paul Hatch*

Outpatient treatments: *Jackie and John Fleming; Dave Davison, father-in-law of Gary McClendon; Stephanie Galaburri, friend of Sandy Carbonaro; Will Styblo, nephew of Jim Styblo and Catherine Mason (Franklin, TN)*

Homebound members: *Florence Brown, Linda Bailey*

Please continue to remember: relatives of *Rev. Betty Lines* who are seriously ill: niece *Sharon Parish* (hospice care in Idaho); and brother-in-law *Stephen Lines* (recovering from a stroke in Florida); *Jean Lilly*, mother of *Meg Temple* (Cincinnati, OH), *Manny Gesh, Jane True, Blair Feller, Marilyn Bender, Ryan DeRidder and family, Laura & Stuart Brush, Janet Grant* (sister of *Betty Lines*).



Woodbury United Methodist Church

4 Church St., Woodbury, CT, 06798 Church phone: 203-263-4775

Web Site: www.woodburyumc.net

Church e-mail: wumc@woodburyumc.net

Church office hours: Tuesday- Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM

Rev. John Thomason, Pastor

Parsonage phone: 203-263-7575; cell phone: 845-707-5152

Pastor's e-mail: johnthomason1948@yahoo.com

Chris Shay, Director of Music

Kathy Craig, Office Administrator

Carolyn Shay, Lay Leader

Mission Statement

We are a welcoming Christian fellowship who celebrate and share God's love with everyone. We seek a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Inspired by His example, we strive to be God's hands in this world. Empowered by God's word, we proclaim the Gospel and serve through worship, study, mission, and community support.

Week of December 20, 2020

Visitors are warmly welcomed! We invite you to sign the worship register as it is passed during the announcements, or fill out a visitor's card provided by a greeter. If you wish to learn more about WUMC's ministries, please take a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, which is available in the narthex. Immediately following today's worship service, please join us for Fellowship Hour downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to become a member of the Woodbury United Methodist Church, please speak to the pastor. Inquirers are asked to attend a two-session Membership Orientation class before joining the church.

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the season that begins the new Christian Year. Advent consists of four weeks including four Sundays, ending on Christmas Eve. The season proclaims the comings of the Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. The liturgical color is blue, symbolizing hope.

Please note: WUMC's worship services are streamed live on Facebook. To watch recordings of previous services, go to www.woodburyumc.net and click on the Facebook icon.

Altar flowers are given this week by various individuals listed in your bulletin.

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Rod Carnes*; Liturgist; *Zachary Cordova*, Advent Candle Lighter; *Matt Bodwell*, *Rod Carnes*, and *Kate Keeler*, Musicians; *Morgan Phillippe*, *Grace Walkup*, and *Anna Walkup*, Children's Time.

OPENING SONG

Make Room

Casting Crowns

Musicians: Matt Bodwell, Rod Carnes, Kate Keeler

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

led by Rod Carnes, Liturgist

based on Luke 1

from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*

Mighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here. As we follow in Mary's footsteps, open our hearts, that we might be filled with your goodness and your love. Live in us, that we might bear the Christ light for all to see. Overshadow us with your presence, that we mighty truly be blessed and offer our blessings of love to the world. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: *LOVE*

Zachary Cordova, Confirmand

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Love. May we experience this season as an affirmation of God's great love for us, fully revealed in the Child of Bethlehem.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

Come to the Manger: Love for Advent

by Andrew Kooman, SkitGuys

Recorded by Morgan Phillippe, Grace Walkup, and Anna Walkup

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Thomason

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rod Carnes

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

*SCRIPTURE READINGS

read by Rod Carnes

Gospel Lessons for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

from *The Revised Common Lectionary*

Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)
The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:46-55
Mary's Song of Praise

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

*SONG OF PREPARATION *Breath of Heaven* Amy Grant

SERMON

Born of the Prophet Mary

Rev. Thomason

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Joseph's Lullaby

Mercy Me

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

BENEDICTION

Rev. Thomason

*POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

arr. Held