

# ADVENT <sup>2<sup>ND</sup></sup> SUNDAY

*Come, Lord Jesus*



*Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help us to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birth.*

## THE FISH

*is one of the oldest Christian symbols.  
The letters, from the Greek word for fish (ichthus),  
stand for Jesus (I), Christ (X), God*

*“The year ends here, but we begin, in the air’s dance  
of bright adorations.”*

— ARNOLD KENSETH

Rainstick & Welcome

Gathering Music - *Our Worship of God begins with the playing of the Prelude.  
We invite you to use this time in silent prayer and preparation.*

### **WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

Call to Worship

God of Advent promise, you watched over your ancient people in exile,  
***You called them to the long journey home.***

You watch over us when we are home or away,  
***You watch over us when home seems like a strange land.***

You watch over a world in turmoil.  
***Your heart turns toward the homeless, the displaced, the refugee.***

Open our hearts to give mercy to those in need,  
and to receive mercy from others in our need.

***Open our eyes to see the light that is coming into the world.***

Walk with us, O God, as we wait and watch for your promise and your peace.

***Walk with us to the manger in Bethlehem. Let us begin today.***

Opening Hymn\*

*Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

**CH#129**

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

Kerrick & Mary Ann Johnson

Sung Response\*

*Glory to God*

**CH#34**

***Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia.***

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest,***

***Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia.***

Anthem

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Chancel Choir

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

Young Disciples Times

Scripture

*Luke 3:1-6*

*Book of Mercy 41 (Leonard Cohen)*

*Return, Spirit, to this lowly place. Come down. There is no path where you project yourself. Come down; from here you can look at the sky. From here you can begin to climb. Draw back your song from the middle air where you cannot follow it. Close down these shaking towers you have built toward your vertigo. You do not know how to bind your heart to the skylark, or your eyes to the hardened blue hills. Return to the sorrow in which you have hidden your truth. Kneel here, search here, with both hands, the cat's cradle of your tiny distress. Listen to the one who has not been wounded, the one who says, 'It is not good that man should be alone.' Recall your longing to the loneliness where it was born, so that when she appears, she will stand before you, not against you. Refine your longing here, in the small silver music of her preparations, under the low-built shelter of repentance.*

Meditation on the Word

Rev. Bert Marshall

Hymn\*

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

**CH#200**

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Offering of our Gifts

Special Music

*Hallelujah*

Emily Coletti &  
Maggie Sample

Sung Response\*

*Doxology*

*(sung to the tune: What Star Is This with Beams so Bright)*

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above you heavenly hosts, Praise Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.***

Prayer of Dedication\*

The Church at Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*A literal translation from the Aramaic*)

***Our Father who is throughout the universe, let your name be set apart. Come your kingdom. Let your desire be, as in the universe, also on the earth. Give us bread for our necessities this day. And free us from our offenses, as also we have freed our offenders. And do not let us enter into temptation, but set us free from error. For belongs to you the kingdom, power, and song, From ages to ages, sealed in faithfulness.*** Rocco A. Errico, translator

### **WE DEPART TO SERVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

Closing Hymn\*                      *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming*                      **CH#136**

Benediction\*

Benediction Response\*      *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 2)*                      **CH#119**

***O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's deep shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

Postlude

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## *Welcome to the Barre Congregational Church, UCC!*

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Rev. Bert Marshall, *Interim Pastor*  
Nancy Fowler, *Assistant to the Pastor*  
Eric Tuper-Giles, *Music Director & Organist*  
Hollie Friot, *Church School Director*  
Mary Ann Johnson, *Parish Nurse*  
Kathy Adams, *Bookkeeper*  
Neil Upham, *Custodian*

*We are an Open & Affirming and a Just Peace Church*