

**The Church of the Pilgrimage  
United Church of Christ**

Sunday, December 9, 2018

10:00am

Second Sunday of Advent



*Arlington Street Church in Boston—Louis Comfort Tiffany*

**Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo, PASTOR**  
**Rev. Dr. Rosemary MacKay, WORSHIP LEADER**  
**Kelley DePasqua, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
**Michael Eaton, ORGANIST**  
**Jenny Healy, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ED**

# Order of Worship

*Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

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## Prelude

Voluntary on 'On Jordan's Bank'  
-Alec Rowley 1892-1958

## Welcome and Announcements

## Choral Introit

### Call to Worship (*responsively*)

Raise your voices, lift up your hearts.

An ancient promise is fulfilled:

**On people who live in a dark night, under the shadow of death,  
the dawn from heaven breaks to free us from all fear  
and guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Praise God!

**Praise God! Amen!**

\***Hymn** No. 127      Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

\***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**      Val Bauman & Paula Caramello

The Gospel of Luke speaks about God's messenger:

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius...

The world of God came to John son of Zechariah...

He went into all the region around the Jordan,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance  
for the forgiveness of sins.

God comes to us through particular people,  
in particular places and times  
in the past, and here and now.

Our second candle reminds us  
to look for the light of God  
in God's messengers today.

*(the second candle is lit)*

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you  
and hope to follow you.

**We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.**

**\*The Lord's Prayer** *(unison)*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

**\*Gloria Patri** No. 36 *(unison)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.

**Anthem**            Gaudete  
                          by Stephen Hatfield; Soloist- Allie Abate

Refrain:

Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus

Ex Maria virginæ: Gaudete!

(Translation - Rejoice! Christ is born of the virgin Mary. Rejoice!)

When the chill is on the sea and the icy river

All the world is crying: "Lord, Lord our soul deliver. (Refrain)

There are voices in the air as the snow is falling.

Ev'ry bird and ev'ry beast knows the King is calling. (Refrain)

See the branches bowing low when the wind is drumming. Ev'ry rock  
and ev'ry tree know the King is coming. (Refrain)

Ev'ry morning sends a prayer as the year is fading.

Ev'ry angel crying: "Lord! Lord the world is waiting!" (Refrain)

-----*Children Depart for Sunday School*-----

**Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response**

**Scripture Lesson**      Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

**Sermon**                      The Path of Peace                      Rev. Helen Nablo

\***Hymn** No. 510                      O Christian, Love

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem**                      In the Bleak Midwinter  
By Christina Rossetti and Harold Darke  
Soloist- Bob Taylor

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed

The Lord God Almighty –  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom Cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom Angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

Angels and Archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But only His Mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am? –  
If I were a Shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part, –  
Yet what I can I give Him, –  
Give my heart.

**\*Doxology No. 44**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here  
below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy  
Ghost. Amen

**Prayer of Dedication**

**The Sacrament of Communion**

*All are welcome at Jesus table. Our practice is to take the bread as it comes to us, but hold on to the cup, that we might partake together. Our cup is grape juice. There is gluten free bread in the plastic cups.*

## **Invitation to the Table**

### **Prayer**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God most high.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise....**

## **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

### **Prayer after Communion** (*responsively*)

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west, from north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ.

We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food we have received here.

**By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will.**

**Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure, that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.**

\* Hymn No. 512            Let There Be Peace On Earth

## **Benediction and Choral Response**

### **Postlude**

Noël Étranger

-Louis-Claude D'Aquin 1694-1772

During the postlude you may remain seated  
or rise to greet the pastor and proceed to coffee hour.

### *For Today's Service*

*Our Deacon in Charge is Susan Cotta.*

*The flowers are in loving memory of Gayle Lane Clements. Given by her husband, Clay Clements.*

## NOTES

**Welcome to worship at The Church of the Pilgrimage.** If you are a visitor, please sign your name on one of the pew cards and we will send you a copy of the church newsletter. And join us for coffee hour if you are able!

**Please silence your cell phones** so we can be fully present to the spirit and to one another.

**This morning we have nursery/crib room care** with Kristin Moses, our childcare worker. Kristen is with us every Sunday.

**Hearing devices and copies of the morning sermon** are available on the marble table in the upper vestibule.

**A word on sharing prayer concerns:** If there is a concern you would like to have read out loud during the prayer time, please find a prayer slip at the back of the church and place it in the box located there.

**Nametags:** It is helpful to everyone if we make an effort to wear our nametags. Thank you!

**The Good Samaritan Fund**, which assists with such expenses as rent, utility, food and health bills, is received on the second Sunday of the month. If you wish to contribute, there are specially marked envelopes located in the pews for that purpose.

**Memorial Poinsettias:** Sign up in the lower vestibule following the service today and the next Sunday to purchase a memorial poinsettia. An insert listing the donors and those memorialized or honored will be included in the December 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday bulletin. The suggested donation for a poinsettia is \$15, although a donation of any amount is welcome.

**Pageant Practice** takes place today after worship. Pizza will be served before heading to caroling at Sunrise (formerly Brookdale) at 97 Warren Avenue, which will begin at 1:30 pm. The pageant is part of morning worship on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Alternative Christmas Fair:** In the spirit of giving to those whose needs are great, the Missions Committee invites you to our Alternative gift Fair – an opportunity to buy products made by non-profit groups around the world, with a focus on handmade crafts and fair trade foods. Today is our last day – so don't wait!

**Music for a Summer Evening:** The choir CD is for sale during coffee hour. It makes a great Christmas gift for family and friends.

**Have you had your picture taken yet!** Our updated member directory is taking shape and we want to include your photo. Please come to Allerton Hall during coffee hour in December and have your picture taken by Bill Converse.

**Our annual Service of Comfort and Peace** will be held this Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the sanctuary. This is a special service for those who may find the holidays challenging due to bereavement, illness, or other life circumstances. A gentle and reassuring service – think about coming and inviting a neighbor or friend.

**Caregiver Support Group** meets next Sunday following worship.

**Participate in a Miracle:** We are putting together an adult mission team to travel to Port Arthur, TX for a week in the late spring (date to be determined by the team) to assist in a hurricane relief project sponsored by the UCC. We already have over 15 people interested in becoming the dawn for those in need. Please join us! For information contact Richard Rinker 774-404-7539 or [rminker@comcast.net](mailto:rminker@comcast.net).

### **This Week**

**Dec. 10** Monday Meals, 11am, Allerton Hall.

**Dec 11** Council meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.

**Dec 12** Bible Study at Amy Simpson's 10:30am. Service of Comfort and Peace, 7 pm. Choir practice 7:45 pm Sanctuary. *Please note adjusted choir start time.*

**Dec 13** Trustees meeting, 7 pm, Marks Room.

**Dec 16** Third Sunday of Advent; Pastor Helen preaching. Pageant practice following worship.



*As an Open and Affirming Congregation we invite all into our faith, to fully share in all church life, including our work, worship, rites, and sacraments, with the assurance that we are all created in God's image, reconciled by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.*

8 TOWN SQUARE  
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS 02360  
PHONE: 508-746-3026  
FAX: 508-746-4362  
WEBSITE: [WWW.8TOWNSQUARE.ORG](http://WWW.8TOWNSQUARE.ORG)  
EMAIL: [OFFICE@8TOWNSQUARE.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@8TOWNSQUARE.ORG)  
SHELLIE SOUZA, OFFICE MANAGER  
BRIAN GILDEA, SEXTON