



Sudbury United Methodist Church

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 15, 2017

Before worship, please feel free to greet those around you. Concerns or celebrations to be included in today's prayers may be recorded on cards in the pew pockets and passed to the ushers during the second hymn. During the prelude, let us prepare silently to worship God.

**indicates worshipers may stand, as they are able*

Welcome

Prelude

***Call to Worship:** (*Psalm 40:8-9, alt., NRSV*)

Liturgist: I delight to do your will, O God.

People: Your Law is within my heart.

Liturgist: I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation.

People: As you know, O LORD, I have not restrained my lips.

***Opening Hymn:** UMH # 454 – “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

***Opening Prayer:** (*Consultation on Common Texts, USA, 21st cent. alt.*)

**Steadfast God, you have enriched and enlightened us
by the revelation of your eternal Christ.**

**Comfort us in our mortality
and strengthen us to walk the path of your desire,
so that by word and deed
we may manifest the gracious news
of your faithfulness and love. Amen.**

A Reading from the Scriptures: Jeremiah 1:4-9

This reading is found on page 698 in the Old Testament.

Children's Time: “Cookie Cutter”

Special Music: “Steal Away”

African-American Spiritual

***A Reading from the Gospels:** Matthew 14:22-33

This reading is found on page 16 in the New Testament.

Sermon: “Focused on God”

Karl LaClair

***Hymn of Response:** FWS # 2128 – “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

A Time of Fellowship

**Greeting Our Guests
Concerns and Celebrations
The Pastoral Prayer**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Stewardship Moment: Generosity 2017

Offertory: “We Shall Overcome”

African-American Spiritual

***Doxology:** UMH # 94 - “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Holy Communion

***The Great Thanksgiving:** UMH pages 17-18

***The Lord’s Prayer**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 Giving of the Bread and Cup

(“Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another” [UMH page 12]. At the ushers’ invitation, worshipers may join the line to receive a morsel of the gluten and lactose free bread in their hands, dip the bread in the cup of grape juice, and partake of both at the same time. After communing, worshipers return to their seats by the side aisles.)

Prayer after Communion

***Hymn of Commitment:** UMH # 519 – “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude

Reconciling & Welcoming Statement: The United Methodist Church is a community of believers and seekers, with differences in age, class, nationality, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, abilities, and limitations. We at SUMC recognize that there are attitudes, concerning these diverse characteristics, which violate the integrity of individuals and deny the richness of God's creation. Therefore we affirm our welcome to all people into our community of faith. We are committed to be a fellowship in which all persons feel a part of our family, enabling them to grow in their faith, to be fed by our fellowship, and to contribute their talents to the life of the church in its worship, programs, and outreach. We call the church and society to be sensitive to all persons and to advocate programs which attempt to ensure justice for all.

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We are a Stephen Ministry
Congregation



We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation

Sudbury United Methodist Church

January 15, 2017

Welcome, Guests!

Are visiting today? Please accept our sincere welcome. After worship, please linger in the narthex during the postlude to meet the pastor and some church leaders as well as to receive a small gift. We also invite you to join us, as time permits, for informal fellowship and coffee in Hawes Hall after this morning's service. We hope you enjoy your visit and invite you to join us again soon!

Today's Guest Preacher Majors in Campus Ministry

Today we welcome Karl LaClair who ministers with undergraduate and graduate students at MIT, Harvard, Lesley and other universities through the Wesley Foundation - A Boston/Cambridge Ministry of Higher Education. Mr. LaClair hails from upstate New York and moved to Boston to pursue a Master's degree in Theology from Boston College. After graduate school, he taught high school theology in Cambridge and then served as a Youth Minister for a local church in Concord. His focus is spirituality as applied to everyday life and Star Wars!

Fun & Done! Generosity 2017

Ring in the New Year with a party. We'll enjoy food, fun, and a snapshot of SUMC's generosity!

- Today, following worship, in Hawes Hall with nursery and toddler care, activities for kids, and pizza for all through grade five.
- Wednesday, January 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Ernie and Sherry Stonebraker – 181 Randall Road, Stow.

Making your pledge for 2017 is easy: there are pledge cards in the pews to fill out and place in the offering. And you can pledge online at sudbury-umc.org/give. Why not give e-pledging a try?

Connexions Concert II This Afternoon

Today at 3:00 p.m., musicians who share a *connexion* with Sudbury UMC will present the second concert in the current Connexions Series. While most of today's contributors are familiar faces at Sudbury UMC some are friends of our church's members. The program will feature works from a wide assortment of styles including classical, pop, music theater and cabaret. Admission is free and open to all. Freewill donations to our church's Organ Fund will be gratefully accepted.

Celebrate Martin Luther King Day

The Social Justice Commission encourages you to remember the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We invite you to consider attending one of two celebratory breakfasts, tomorrow, January 16: At the Boston Convention Center, the city's 47th annual observance will take place at 8:00 a.m. **Purchase** tickets online for \$50 each at <http://www.bostonmlkbreakfast.org/>. In Natick, the Verve Crowne Plaza Hotel will host a Metrowest observance with tickets for adults at \$30, teens 13-18 at \$10), and children 5-12 at \$5. Admission is available at the door or online at https://www.gfccnet.org/store/index.php?manufacturers_id=11&page=1&sort=3d. You may also sign up after worship today at the Social Justice Commission's table in Hawes Hall.

Is There Child Care During Worship?

Infants and toddlers are welcome in worship. Parents with young children may also visit our Family Room with visual and aural access to the sanctuary. Each Sunday, a pair of CORI-ed volunteers cares for children two years old and younger. Look for the stairs in the northwest corner of the narthex leading up to a cozy room furnished with sofas and toys and books.

Hearing Assistance Available

Individual hearing assistance units are available. An usher will help you to borrow one.

Large Print Worship Books

Do you prefer large print materials? Special copies of *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing* are available in the narthex. Please speak to an usher for assistance.

Where Is the Rest Room?

A unisex rest room is located in the southeast corner of the narthex, behind the back row of pews on the pulpit side of the sanctuary. Another rest room can be found just past the side door of the sanctuary closest to the pulpit and three steps up.

Help Refill the Food Cart

The contents of the shopping cart near the O'Reilly Room entrance are delivered to food banks in Sudbury, Stow, Marlborough, Maynard, Wayland, and Hudson. The Outreach Commission is grateful for your donations. Canned vegetables and soups, canned tuna and meat, crackers, jams, jellies, canned pastas and tomato sauces, noodles, rice, cereals, and baby foods are always needed. Donations past the expiration date stamped on the package must be discarded.

Please Recycle This Bulletin

The Worship and Music Commission has placed blue recycle bins near the sanctuary's entrances. Please recycle the materials distributed on Sundays either here at the church or at home.

Someone to Talk To

Stephen Ministers can provide a listening, supportive and confidential presence. Each Sunday after worship a Stephen Minister is available to listen and to pray with you. If you would like to have a Stephen Minister "walk" with you on a regular basis, please contact Pastor Joel. Today's Stephen Minister is Melody Karian. You can find her in the O'Reilly Room, after Worship. Remember, no concern is too small to share with a Stephen Minister.

Read for Spiritual Growth

Want to read for spiritual growth? Ten minutes each day with *The Upper Room* can lead to a growth spurt! Free booklets are available in the narthex. Please help yourself! Or check out <http://devotional.upperroom.org> to visit *The Upper Room* each day online.

Boston Women's March for America

Join us on Saturday, January 21, on the Boston Common for a peaceful and non-partisanship march for equality, decency, and justice for all. We call all women – young and old – to come together with men who support these rights and stand for justice. Gather on the Boston Common between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Speakers and performers begin at 12:30. The march begins at 2:30. There will be a Call to Action and Final Presenters on Boston Common. Check the Internet for updates. If you are interested in carpooling to the MTA station, please contact Jean Lind at 978-443-9130.

Are You Looking for a Mid-Week Bible Study?

Please join Sudbury UMC's Thursday Bible study group. Each week's focus text is next Sunday's preaching passage. Thursday meetings take place at 10:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, 21 Andrew Avenue in Wayland's Town Center. Bring your Bible and a few bucks for something warm to sip.

More Study Opportunities with the Social Justice Book Group

This winter, the Social Justice Commission will be reading and discussing fiction and non-fiction literature dealing with critical social justice issues. We'll be reading and discussing *America's Original Sin* by Jim Wallis January 23 and *The Underground Railroad* by Colin Whitehead on February 20. Walk-ins are welcome! We are also looking for future book recommendations.

A Note from the Stewardship and Finance Committee

When making a gift of stock, please notify the church office in advance, listing your name, the name of the stock donated, the approximate number of shares, the dollar amount, and where to direct your donation. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. This allows us to ensure that all contributions are used as donors intend and that all donors receive correct year-end statements.

Cancer and Caregiver Support Group Meets Monthly

Sudbury UMC's Cancer and Caregiver Support Prayer Group meets monthly from 6:00 till 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday. This month, cancer patients, cancer survivors, and caregivers will gather at Sudbury UMC in the O'Reilly Room on January 18 to pray for and support each other. All are invited to come and share their experiences and feelings in a caring, confidential, non-hospital environment. The Cancer and Caregiver Support Prayer Group is an initiative of Sudbury UMC's Health Ministries Commission. Questions? Email SUMC.MA.Cancer.Care.Group@gmail.com.

Confirmation Journey Begins January 29

After worship concludes on Sunday, January 29, Pastor Joel will meet with 10th grade teens, their parents, and mentors who have accepted an invitation to be part of the 2017 Confirmation journey. For several years, confirmands and their adult mentors have focused on forming a spiritual practice of attending Sunday services of worship and reflecting on what is said and done during each week's hymns, prayers, and proclamation. To this core goal, Pastor Joel adds three classes on United Methodist history, theology, and polity. Teens also spend at least one day together in service to the wider community and may also attend worship at a synagogue, a mosque, or both. Questions? Please contact pastorjoel@sudbury-umc.org.

Training for Liturgists Next Sunday

Pastor Joel and Liturgist coordinator Leslie Bell will offer a training session for lay worship leaders and scripture readers at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 22. Would you like to serve on the chancel one or two Sundays each year? Are you interested in learning how every Scripture reading can become an interpretation of God's Word? Join us for this class next week.

Faith Formation for High Schoolers

We're back! Next week's Church School classes include a faith formation class for teens in grades 9 to 12. Kerry Healy and Jackie Roder will facilitate in the O'Reilly Room after the children's time. This monthly discussion group offers high school students the opportunity to uncover their own beliefs while also listening from time to time to the spiritual journeys of congregation members.

What's Happening Today in Church School?

There are regular Sunday School groupings today. After the children's moment, the 3-5-year-old class will meet in their classroom: preschool room 4 in the Sunny Hill wing. 1st-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, and 6th-8th grade will meet in their classrooms below the sanctuary. Sunday School teachers and volunteers will be bringing children and youth back into the sanctuary to celebrate Holy Communion and the last portion of worship with their families.

Lenten Booklet Sign-up

Are you willing to contribute a devotion to the 2017 Lenten Booklet? Sign up today after worship. You will find both a sign-up display and instruction sheet in the narthex and at a table in Hawes Hall. Ann Hamilton will be in Hawes Hall to answer questions. After last Sunday's sign-up, we still need 17 more devotions. The deadline for submission is February 15th. Please prayerfully consider adding your devotion to this year's booklet.

Coming Soon: Winter Book Study with Pastor Joel

Pastor Joel will dig into author Rob Bell's *Love Wins* to ask, "Does everyone go to heaven? Is there a hell? Does love win?" Something new: We will be going "live" on Facebook with this class, which will allow you to participate at church, or from home, or to catch up later. Meetings will take place January 30, February 13 and 27. Books may be ordered from www.cokesbury.com or amazon.com.

The Sudbury Savoyards Present

The New England Gilbert and Sullivan Society is pleased to announce "An All Star Tribute to Gilbert and Sullivan" with musical accompaniment provided by the incomparable Barry Singer. The concert will take place on January 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Sudbury UMC. Selections from all thirteen of the extant Gilbert and Sullivan operettas will be featured, sung by some of our finest local voices. The program will range from the dramatic to the comic, and will conclude with a group sing along for the finale. All proceeds from this concert will support the mission of The Sudbury Savoyards: propagating the wonderful works of W.S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan. Suggested \$15 donation collected at the door. This will be a one night only concert. Be sure not to miss it!