



Sudbury United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 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: "Maria Zart, von Elder Art"

Schlick

***Advent Wreath Call to Worship:**

Liturgist: We wait for the coming of Christ, the light of the world.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

(The first candle is lit.)

**Sung Response: O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
Deliver us from earthly strife.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.**

(Islamic depictions of Maryam and Isa are displayed and interpreted.)

Liturgist: The true light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Liturgist: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

People: Lord Jesus Christ, shine in your church today.

***Hymn of Praise:** UMH # 203 – "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

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

**Creator of the world, you are the potter, we are the clay,
and you form us in your image.**

**Shape our spirits by Christ's transforming power,
that as one people we may live out your compassion and justice,
whole and sound in the realm of your peace. Amen.**

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

(This reading is found on pages 803-804 in the Old Testament.)

Children's Time: "Happy New Year!"

Zack Moser

Special Music: "Sweeter as the Days Go By"/"Jesus, Oh! What a Wonderful Child"

A Reading from the Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
(This reading is found on page 166 in the New Testament.)

Sermon: “Conspiracy Theories”

Zack Moser

***Hymn of Response:** UMH # 216 – “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

A Time of Fellowship

Greeting Our Guests
Concerns and Celebrations
Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Stewardship Moment

Offertory: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

C. Wesley and A. Koepke

***Doxology:** *(Lyrics: Roger Lynn; Tune: UMH #218 - Carol)*

**Praise God whose light fills all the earth,
Whose love we see in Jesus’ birth,
Whose Spirit forms one family,
Whose grace brings peace and harmony.**

Holy Communion

***Great Thanksgiving:** UMH pages 20 -22, “Musical Setting C”

***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 unfermented 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 # 206 – “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

***Dismissal with Blessing**

***Postlude:** “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”

J. S. Bach

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.

Sudbury United Methodist Church

Phones: (978) 443-4351 or (978) 443-6785

Church Office: sumc@sudbury-umc.org

Church Staff

Lead Pastor: *The Rev. Joel Guillemette*

Business Manager: *Michael Greb*

Christian Education Director: *Eric Magnuson*

Director of Youth Ministries: *Zachary Moser*

Music Director/Organist: *Kevin Murphy, AAGO*

Sanctuary Choir Director: *Rob Hammerton*

Office Administrator: *Shetal Kaye*

Sextons: *Joe Picorelli and Phil Lenentine*

251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

Fax: (978) 443-3052

Website: <http://www.sudbury-umc.org>

pastorjoel@sudbury-umc.org

michael@sudbury-umc.org

eric@sudbury-umc.org

zack@sudbury-umc.org

kevin@sudbury-umc.org

rob@sudbury-umc.org

sumc@sudbury-umc.org

joe@sudbury-umc.org



We are a Stephen Ministry
Congregation



We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation

Sudbury United Methodist Church

December 3, 2017

Welcome, Guests!

Are you visiting Sudbury UMC today? Welcome! If you have time after worship, please pause in the narthex to meet our pastor and a few of our church's leaders. If a longer visit is possible, enjoy coffee and conversation in Hawes Hall, just past The Columns, on the south end of our facility. We hope you enjoy your visit and invite you to come back soon!

Seeing Stars?

Advent is here and our church is decorated for watching and waiting. Familiar symbols are like old friends: the Advent Wreath, purple paraments, the Chrismon Tree. But wait! Why are there stars shining from our chandeliers? How many do you see? Do you recognize the names? Each star represents a child in our church and our baptismal promises to "surround them with a community of love and forgiveness...that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life." It's almost time to write a financial pledge for 2018. Remember our children and pledge fearlessly to support our church's ministries for children and teens.

The Peanut Butter Giving Tree Is Seeking Participants

More than twenty tags remain on this year's Peanut Butter Tree. Please visit our virtual tree at <http://signup.com/go/augdOLn> or contact Karen Monteiro at karmon23@yahoo.com if you wish to be matched with a child or teen. Many of the youth we support have no family contact, making the holidays difficult time for them. Please support this local outreach program or consider adding another tag so that all youth are matched with a Secret Santa.

Card Decorators Needed During Coffee Hour

After worship today, the Christian Education Commission needs your help. During coffee hour in Hawes Hall, children, families, teens, and adults are invited to write and decorate holiday cards for residents of Sudbury's Musketaquid Village. Look for an empty chair at the table and give it your best shot! Are you planning to join the caroling trip to Sudbury Pines? Why not make a card to bring with you?

Advent Soup Suppers – Sign-Up Continues After Worship

The Membership and Community Life Commission invites you to volunteer for one or more of this year's Advent Soup Suppers: December 6, 13, and 20. Homemade soup, bread, fruit, vegetables, juice, coffee and tea are needed. Setup and clean-up, too. Sign-up after worship in Hawes Hall. Questions? Contact Oscar Harrell at 978-443-3821 or owhtwo@msn.com.

"Not So Silent Auction" Tomorrow Night

At 7:00 p.m. on December 4, Sudbury UMC's women will meet at the Hosmer House for an auction to raise funds for high school counseling. Bring *one* wrapped gift for the auction.

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 kids age two and younger. Stairs in the northwest corner of the narthex lead up to a cozy room furnished with sofas, toys, and children's books.

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. There is another rest room just past the side door of the sanctuary closest to the pulpit and three steps up.

Do You Need Hearing Assistance?

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

If Our Shopping Cart Could Talk

Food donations made to the shopping cart outside the O'Reilly Room are delivered to Open Table, our partner in Maynard. If our shopping cart could talk, it would politely say, "Thank You!" to all who visit. Or, it might drop hints like, "Don't be a stranger!" and "I always need solid white tuna in cans, spaghetti sauce in jars, mixed vegetables in cans, pineapple in cans, raisins, dried beans in bags, bread crumbs, condensed milk, rice pilaf, and instant coffee."

What Your Name Tag Says About You

In addition to your name, your nametag also says you enjoy sharing yourself with others and making new friends. It tells our church's newest staff members that you understand the challenge of learning the names of a whole congregation in a short time. And it tells Sunday morning guests in worship that you are happy to try to answer their questions or introduce them to others who can. Thank you for wearing your nametag!

Sudbury UMC Is a Nut Free Zone!

Several Sunny Hill preschoolers and staff members have dangerous allergies to nut products and coconut oil. Do not bring food products or soaps containing tree nuts into the church and remember that coconut oil in kitchen cleaners and lotions can be lethal. Thank you!

Please Recycle This Bulletin

The Worship and Music Commission has placed blue recycle bins near the church's three entrances. Materials not needed at home, along with other clean papers, may be recycled in these bins. Please dispose of paper soiled by food or anything else in wastebaskets.

Quiet Time for Spiritual Growth

Want to make spiritual growth an Advent goal? Quiet time with *The Upper Room* can lead to a growth spurt! Monthly booklets are available at no cost in the narthex. Or visit *The Upper Room* online at <http://devotional.upperroom.org/>.

Training for Teachers and Creative Learning for Kids!



Eric Magnuson will lead training for Sunday School teachers for ages 3 through Grade 8 on Saturdays starting at 9:15 a.m.

Dec. 2: The Who?

Dec. 9: The What?

Dec. 16: The How?

December Sunday School classes will feature immersion in a live Nativity during worship.

Dec. 3: A Visit from Mary and Joseph; making Nativity-shaped cookies

Dec. 10: A Visit from the Angel and Shepherds; making an angel ornament

Dec. 17: A Visit from the Three Wise Men; making a star ornament

Grand-Friends and Prayer Pals – Keep Saying Your Prayers!

The key word for Week 13, Dec. 3 to 9, is *Grace*. “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Want to Be in the Christmas Pageant?

Sudbury UMC's children are invited to participate in the 2017 Nativity Pageant during the 10:30 a.m. Christmas service on Sunday morning, December 24! This year, weekly pageant rehearsals are scheduled on Saturdays through December 23. There is a role for every child – speaking and non-speaking. Rehearsals take place between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. with an 8:00 a.m. practice for Dancing Angels. To register your child, please see Kristin Murphy or Eric Magnuson for a registration form.



Musical Duo Coming to Magic Years Next Week

Join Sudbury UMC's retirees on Thursday, December 14, from noon until 2:00 p.m. in Davison Chapel for our next Magic Years event! Our special guests will be Meredith DeBow and Janice Lunn with a musical presentation called, “Christmas Carols, Our History and Heritage.” For next Thursday's gathering, please bring a tray of cookies to share and an idea for a 2018 New Year's Resolution. Contact Eric Magnuson at 978-443-4351 (ext. 207), or eric@sudbury-umc.org, to sign-up for the catered luncheon and also to let him know if you are able to assist with either set up or clean-up for this event.

Tis the Season when Friends and Neighbors May Need Care

Even the holidays can trigger loneliness, sadness, or anxiety. Do you know a family member, a friend, or a neighbor who could benefit from a caring relationship? Ten of Sudbury UMC's 13 active Stephen Ministers are available to offer support. To ask about beginning a relationship, speak to Pastor Joel, Richard Smith, or Lori Granger. Or consider talking and praying with a Stephen Minister after worship in the O'Reilly Room. Lori Granger is today's volunteer.

This Year's Advent Focus: "Mother and Child"

Christmas is the tender story of a Mother and her Child. Did you know that some non-Christian faiths have their own version of Jesus' birth story and others offer close parallels? On Sundays in Advent, images from Islamic, Buddhist, Jewish, and Hindu art will introduce us to these stories. But classes and worship on Wednesdays will provide detail, opportunities to discuss similarities and differences, and neighborly dialog. The Membership and Community Life Commission is helping us to prepare for three soup suppers at 6:00 p.m. on December 6, 13, and 20 (see insert page 1).

Later, at 6:30 p.m., we will scatter to classes or worship:

- "Mother and Child" – led by Pastor Joel in the Choir Room, this class will introduce parallels to the Christmas story in Islam (Dec. 6), Buddhism (Dec. 13), and Judaism (Dec. 20). Why are birth stories similar from faith to faith? What do the parallels and differences teach us about Christianity and other world religions?
- "Salutation to Mary" – Heather Josselyn-Cranson and musicians Kevin Murphy and Rob Hammerton will lead worship in Davison Chapel featuring Advent and Christmas hymns focused on Mary and her Son, scripture readings, and prayer. Our chapel is a special place during candlelit Advent services! Looking for "peace on earth"? Try it!
- "My Neighbor's Faith" – teens and their friends will join youth leader Zack Moser in the Youth Room for an Advent workshop introducing the beliefs of the religions our neighbors practice. How does Christian faith overlap or differ with other faiths?
- "Christmas Celebrations around the World" – for kids in grades 5 and under, Director of Christian Education Eric Magnuson will introduce holiday customs in the Netherlands (St. Nicolas Day – Dec. 6), Sweden (St. Lucia Day – Dec. 13), and the countries represented by the children in this year's Advent class (Dec. 20).

Health Ministries Commission Book Discussion Today

The Health Ministries Commission launches a new book discussion series today in Davison Chapel with a conversation about *Being Mortal*, by Harvard professor Atul Gawande. Do you agree with Dr. Gawande that modern medicine's hardest challenge is facing the end of life?

Here We Come a Caroling – Today!

Spread some Christmas cheer at Sudbury Pines Nursing Home, 642 Boston Post Road, today at 12:30 p.m. If you can carry a tune, come and make a joyful noise. If you can't carry a tune in a bucket, turn the bucket over and drum it with joy! It's all about offering your presence!

Share Some Christmas Fun with the Families at Homesuites on December 9

The Outreach Commission invites you to help throw a Christmas party for the families living at The Homesuites Inn, a residence for neighbors between homes at 455 Totten Pond Road in Waltham. Help the kids make cards, decorate cookies, apply tattoos, and more. It's fun that comes with a guarantee! The party is all set for Saturday, December 9, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Questions? Call Jeannette D'Alessandro at 617-462-4343.