



Our Lady of China

Detail from a painting (circa 1900) recovered from the Church of Tong Lu in China.

Mary's garments replicate imperial robes worn by the Dowager Empress Tzi-Hsi.

But the painting's mother and child also recall Queen Maya, birth mother of Gautama Buddha.

In Buddhist iconography, descending doves symbolize femininity and maternity, while the lotus blossoms they bear represent purity of body, mind, and speech.

Sudbury United Methodist Church

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 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: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Georg Böhm

***Advent Wreath Call to Worship:**

Liturgist: We long for peace in our world.

People: Come, Prince of Peace.

(The first and second candles are 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.**

(Buddhist depictions of the Madonna and Child are displayed and interpreted.)

Liturgist: The voice of the prophet cries in the desert, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

People: Come, Prince of Peace.

Liturgist: The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him

and the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord.

People: Lord Jesus, shine on the earth today.

***Hymn of Praise:** UMH # 210 – "All Earth Is Waiting"

***Opening Prayer:** *(Grace Noll Crowell, USA, 20th cent., alt.)*

Let us be wise, O God, as the old wise men were wise;

Let us be seekers – coming from very far.

Out of the dusk, surely at last our eyes

Shall see the silver wonder of Christ's star.

Let us be guided by that light

Till by its glory transfigured we are. Amen.

***A Reading from the Gospels:** Mark 1:1-8

(This reading is found on page 34 in the New Testament.)

Children's Time: "Level"

God's Word through Music: "Five Poems of Grace Noll Crowell" (1877-1969)

1. Beneath the Winter Stars
2. The Light on the Farthest Hills
3. The Stable
4. Let Us Keep Christmas

***Hymn of Response:** FWS # 2095 – "Star-Child"

A Time of Fellowship

Greeting Our Guests

Concerns and Celebrations

Pastoral Prayer

***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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Stewardship Moment

Offertory: "Five Poems of Grace Noll Crowell" (1877-1969)

5. "The Innkeeper's Lament"

Grace Noll Crowell

***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.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Hymn of Commitment:** UMH # 202 – "People, Look East"

***Dismissal with Blessing**

***Postlude:** "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Johann Pachelbel

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

251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

Fax: (978) 443-3052

Website: <http://www.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*

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 10, 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!

The Poems Are 50 Years Old but the Tunes Are Brand New!

Grace Noll Crowell wrote the lyrics of today's cantata about fifty years ago. But the music they've been set to was composed this year by Sudbury UMC's musical leaders, organist Kevin Murphy and choir director Rob Hammerton. Grace Noll Crowell was born in 1877 and died 91 years later in 1969. Along the way, she wrote 36 books of inspirational verse and 5,000 poems while also earning scores of medals and citations – including Poet Laureate of Texas, her adopted home state. Sickly and homebound from a young age, Mrs. Crowell had both the time and motivation to write. "I would like to write poetry," she said to a friend, "that will help others who are suffering as I am." Rob and Kevin have led music programming at Sudbury UMC for fifteen years. Along the way, they have given our musicians and choir members opportunities to sing the poetry of George Herbert, Madeleine L'Engle, and others by setting their verses to original compositions. What biblical stories or passages come to mind as you listen to Mrs. Crowell's lyrics? How do their new tunes shape their meaning?

Led by a Star to Give to a Child

The Wise Men were led by a blazing star to give their gifts to the Christ Child. That's why the chandeliers over our heads are decorated with dangling stars! How many do you see? Why is each one named? Each star represents one of the 109 children and teens 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." Each year, Sudbury UMC invests almost \$1,000 per child and teen in Christian Education program costs and the salaries of the staff members who reach and teach them. Oh! That's where those stars are leading us! Please write your 2018 financial pledge to Sudbury UMC before December 24. Look for pledge cards and pens in each pew's basket. Add your pledge to today's offering!

Let's Take the Peanut Butter Giving Tree across the Finish Line!

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.

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 Volunteer Teachers and Creative Learning for Our Kids!



Eric Magnuson leads training for volunteers who teach Sunday School classes for kids age three through teens in Grade 8 on Saturdays starting at 9:15 a.m.

Dec. 9: The What?

Dec. 16: The How?

December Sunday School classes include a live Nativity experience:

Dec. 10: A Visit from the Christmas Angel and Shepherds

Dec. 17: A Visit from the Three Wise Men

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

The key word for Week 14, Dec. 10-16, is *Health*. “Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.” III John 1:2

Make a Christmas Card during Coffee Hour

After worship today, make a Christmas card for Sudbury’s Musketaquid Village in Hawes Hall. Helpers of all ages are needed to decorate cards for our neighbors. Look for an empty chair at the table and give it your best shot!

Want to Be in the Christmas Pageant?

Sudbury UMC's children will present the 2017 Nativity Pageant during the 10:30 a.m. Christmas service on Sunday, December 24! Rehearsals take place on Saturdays through December 23, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. with an 8:00 a.m. practice for Dancing Angels. There is a role for every child – speaking and non-speaking. To register, please see Kristin Murphy or Eric Magnuson.



Musical Duo Coming to Magic Years This Week

Join Sudbury UMC’s retirees in Davison Chapel on Thursday, December 14, from noon until 2:00 p.m. for our next Magic Years event! Our guests will be Meredith DeBow and Janice Lunn with a musical program called, “Christmas Carols, Our History and Heritage.” For this week’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 volunteer for 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 taking time to talk and pray with a Stephen Minister after worship on Sunday in the O’Reilly Room. Melody Karian is today’s volunteer.

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

Did you know that some non-Christian faiths have their own version of Christmas story and others offer close parallels? On Sundays in Advent, images from Islamic, Buddhist, Jewish, and Hindu art are introducing us to some of these "Mother and Child" stories. But classes and worship on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. provide more detail and opportunities to discuss similarities and differences. A soup supper precedes at 6:00 p.m. on December 13 and 20.

- **"Mother and Child"** – led by Pastor Joel in the Choir Room, this class introduces parallels to the Christmas story in Buddhism (Dec. 13) and Judaism (Dec. 20). Why are birth stories similar from faith to faith? What do the parallels suggest?
- **"Praying with Mary"** – Heather Josselyn-Cranson and musicians Kevin Murphy and Rob Hammerton lead worship in Davison Chapel featuring Advent hymns focused on Mary and her Son, scripture, and prayer. Looking for "peace on earth"? Try it!
- **"My Neighbor's Faith"** – teens and their friends join youth leader Zack Moser in the Youth Room for an Advent workshop introducing the beliefs and religions practiced by our neighbors. How does Christian faith overlap or differ with other faiths?
- **"Christmas Celebrations around the World"** – for kids in grades 5 and under, CE Director Eric Magnuson introduces holiday customs in Sweden (St. Lucia Day – Dec. 13), and countries represented in this year's Advent class (Dec. 20).

Give "Presence" This Week during These Advent Conspiracy Get-Togethers

- **Today, Dec.10: Christmas Party at Pathways Family Shelter (4:00-5:30 p.m.).** Meet at 248 Edgell Road, Framingham, to make Christmas cards and decorate cookies with 14 families. Questions? Contact: Libby Hampton at 617-893-0090.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 12: Caroling at Open Table (6:00-7:00 p.m.).** Meet at 33 Main Street, Maynard, to sing carols to the guests while they share a meal. Contact Brad Stayton at 617-460-3816 or Patty Helsingius with your questions.
- **Saturday, Dec. 16: Christmas Party at Musketavid Village (2:30-4:00 p.m.).** Meet at 55 Hudson Road, Sudbury, to share tasty treats, play Christmas trivia, and visit with friends. Our choir will sing carols. Contact: Brad Stayton 617-460-3816.
- **Sunday, Dec. 17: Caroling at Deaconess Abundant Life Center (12:00-1:15pm).** Bring a bag lunch or snag a slice of pizza. We will carpool to 80 Deaconess Road, Concord, to sing carols for retired friends at Rivercrest, then make our way to the nursing home and those in the memory unit. Contact: Brad Stayton 617-460-3816.

Celebrate Our Church's Staff Members during Your Christmas Giving

What makes Sudbury UMC unique? Our creative, tireless staff! The variety of music; youth and education programs; maintaining our building, financial planning and, of course, worship services and sermons. The Staff Parish Relations Committee invites you to celebrate our staff during the holidays. Write your check to Sudbury UMC, noting "Staff Gift" on the memo line.