



Study from “Madonna and Child with St. Flavian and St. Onophrius” (1508), Lorenzo Lotto, at the Borghese Gallery in Rome - Jewish Jesus Painting Exhibit, New York

Sudbury United Methodist Church

Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 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: "Joseph est bien Marié"

Claude Balbastre

***Advent Wreath Call to Worship:**

Liturgist: We wait for Christ who comes to give life in abundance.

People: Come, Giver of Life.

(The first, second, and third 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.**

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

Liturgist: The bread of life is given for all people,
a sharing in the body of Christ.

People: Come, Giver of Life.

Liturgist: "I am the bread – the living bread – who came down from heaven."

People: Lord Jesus, shine in our world today.

***Hymn of Praise:** UMH # 196 – "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

***Opening Prayer:** *(The Book of Worship, 1965, alt.)*

**O God, you so loved the world as to give your only begotten Son,
that whosoever believes in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.**

**Grant to us the precious gift of faith,
that we may know that the Son of God is come,
and gain a blessed immortality;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A Reading from Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

(This reading is found on pages 691-692 in the Old Testament.)

Children's Time: “Jingle All the Way”

Special Music: “Veni Creator Spiritus”

Willard S. Fast

***A Reading from the Gospels:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

(This reading is found on page 91-92 in the New Testament.)

Sermon: “Change the Subject”

The Rev. Joel B. Guillemette

***Hymn of Response:** UMH # 189 – “Fairest Lord Jesus”

A Time of Fellowship

Greeting Our Guests

Concerns and Celebrations

Pastoral Prayer

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 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: Advent Conspiracy

Offertory: “Song of Sustenance”

Yosef Kottler

***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 # 190 – “Who Is He in Yonder Stall”

***Dismissal with Blessing**

***Postlude:** “Noël X”

Louis-Claude Daquin

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 17, 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!

Today at 3:00 p.m. - Cookies and Carols (Formerly the Barn Sing!)

Warm up your singing voice, bring your friends and family, and come to Hawes Hall for Christmas carols and holiday cheer today at 3:00 p.m. We will sing Christmas carols, holiday songs, and seasonal hymns with plenty of breaks for hot cocoa and treats. Wear your favorite Christmas sweater, necktie, socks, or other festive apparel! Please bring a nut-free snack, sweet or salty, to share, as you are able. Coffee and hot cocoa will be provided.



Led by a Star to Give to a Child

A blazing star led the Wise Men to give their gifts to the Christ Child. That's why we have been seeing stars over our heads in the sanctuary since Advent began two Sundays ago. The stars are leading us to make a 2018 financial pledge to the children and teens of Sudbury UMC *no later than December 24*. Each star is named for one of the 109 children and teens in our church who we have promised to "surround 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 infant, toddler, child, and teen in the total cost of Christian Education programming and the salaries of staff members who reach and teach them. Funds totaling more than \$100,000 extend our church's annual outreach regionally, nationally, and globally. With one week to go till Christmas, we will know very soon if a month-long January pledge drive can be abbreviated or even canceled. Look for a 2018 pledge card in the basket at the center-aisle end of your pew. Then, fill it out and add it to this morning's offering!

Peanut Butter Giving Tree Inventory Follows Worship Today

All of this year's Peanut Butter Tree gift tags have been claimed. Thanks for returning the unwrapped gifts you purchased, with your tag number, by today's deadline. After worship this morning, inventory will begin in the church office. Help is welcome and appreciated. Karen Monteiro thanks each gift-giver who participated in spreading the spirit of Christmas.

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/>.

A Visit with the Wise Men



Today's Church School class will include a live Nativity experience: visiting with the Bible's Wise Men. After meeting the Magi, kids will bake star cookies.

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

The key word for Week 15, Dec. 17-23, is Honesty. "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). Note to Prayer Pals: consider joining together this afternoon at 3:00 for Carols and Cookies in Hawes Hall (formerly known as "Barn Sing").

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.

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 praying with a Stephen Minister after worship in the O'Reilly Room. Linda Lombardo is today's volunteer.

Celtic Eucharist and the Longest Night

Having trouble getting into the Christmas spirit this year? Overwhelmed by preparations for the holidays? Grieving lost loved ones, lost jobs, or lost relationships? The Sudbury Clergy Association invites you to attend this year's Blue Christmas service at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church. At 5:00 p.m. this evening, join others who are struggling for a Celtic Eucharist filled with comfort for anyone who is bracing for the "longest night" of winter. This quiet service of worship will offer a safe space to acknowledge the grief, depression, and anxiety that sometimes accompanies the season of holiday preparation and celebration.

An Announcement from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Last week, assistant custodian Phil Lenentine sent a letter to the SPRC announcing his plans to complete more than 20 years of employment at Sudbury UMC on December 31, 2017. "I am looking forward to being completely retired," Phil wrote, "and being able to spend more time with my family and friends." Sherry Stonebraker, SPRC chair said, "Phil's service to our church has been long and dependable. When the SPRC has talked with Phil and Mary about their plans in January, we will announce a date when we can all show Phil how much we have appreciated his help." Applicants for this part-time position are encouraged to send a letter and resume to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA

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

Only one Advent soup supper remains in this year's "Mother and Child" series of chapel services and classes for children, teens, and adults. Soup is served at 6:00 p.m. in Hawes Hall. After food and fellowship, here are this Wednesday's 6:30 p.m. classes and worship options.

- **"Mother and Child"** – Pastor Joel will lead this class in the Choir Room. Does Luke's Christmas story share any parallels with Jewish precedents in Hebrew Scripture?
- **"Praying with Mary"** – Heather Josselyn-Cranson and musicians Kevin Murphy and Rob Hammerton will lead worship in Davison Chapel featuring hymns, scripture, and prayers focused on Mary and her Son. 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 a 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 will introduce holiday customs in the countries represented by children attending this week's Advent class.

Last but Not Least: Today's Advent Conspiracy Carol Sing

Carolers from Sudbury UMC will gather at noon today at the Deaconess Abundant Life Center. Bring a bag lunch or snag a slice of pizza at church before carpooling to 80 Deaconess Road, Concord, to sing carols for retired friends living at Rivercrest. We will also sing at the campus' nursing home and in the memory unit. Questions? Call Brad Stayton 617-460-3816.

Celebrate Our 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.

Christmas Services of Worship on December 24 at Sudbury UMC

- ★ **Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship** at 9:30 a.m. led by Pastor Joel in Davison Chapel.
- ★ Church School **Christmas Pageant** at 10:30 a.m. led by Kristin Murphy and Eric Magnuson in the Sanctuary with a cast of fifty children and angels! (*Note new time!*)
- ★ Sixth Annual **Christmas Eve Lovefeast** at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary with Pastor Joel, Wind Ensemble, and Dieners. Family service with carols, cookies, beeswax candles.
- ★ Christmas Eve **Service of Word and Table** at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Choir music, Pastor Joel's Christmas sermon, Holy Communion, and candlelit "Silent Night."
- ★ **Epiphany Service of Word and Table** at 9:30 a.m. on December 31. Dedication of new choir choirs in memory of longtime choir member, Mr. Lee Goodstone.