

HOPE

softly glowing.

PEACE

gently flowing.

LOVE

sweetly glowing.



*Unto you is born this
day in the city of David
a Saviour, which is
Christ the Lord.*

LUKE 2:11



A Service of Word and Table for Christmas Eve
December 24, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

Before worship, feel free to greet those near you. We want to be known as a friendly church.
During the prelude, prepare silently to be with God. We want to be known as a godly church.

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

Welcome

Prelude: Medley of Christmas Carols, Mike Cooper, guitar and Kevin Murphy, organ

Choral Introit: “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” T. Baker and M. Praetorius

***Call to Worship:** Isaiah 60:1

Liturgist: Arise! Shine! For your light has come!

People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

***Processional Hymn:** UMH # 234 – “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *(omit verse 6)*

A Reading from the Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7

(This reading is found on page 638 in the Old Testament.)

***A Litany for Lighting the Christ Candle** *(Daniel Benedict, USA, 21st cent.)*

Pastor: O Finality.

O final Light.

O luminous One,

People: outshining lamp, stars, and sun.

Liturgist: O End of Night.

O Day's Light without ending.

O Light, all light,

People: outshining lamp, stars, and sun.

Pastor: Break forth, O heavenly Light, and reign to the ages of ages.

Shine forever and let no more greed or hatred come near.

Illumine and save all creation,

People: outshining lamp, stars, and sun.

Liturgist: O Light, we shall see face to face.

O Radiance, we shall ever bear upon our foreheads.

O Splendor of Love, the world of greed and hatred ending,

People: outshining lamp, stars, and sun.

(Here a silence will be kept.)

***Gospel Acclamation** (*Tune: St. Louis*)

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

***A Reading from the Gospels:** Luke 2:1-20

(This reading is found on page 58 in the New Testament.)

***Gospel Acclamation** (*Tune: St. Louis*)

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.**

Sermon: “Without Lifting a Finger”

The Rev. Joel B. Guillemette

***Hymn of Response:** UMH # 240 – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

The Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem: “The Stable”

Crowell & R. G. Hammerton

***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

***The Great Thanksgiving:** UMH pages 17-18 – “Musical Setting A”

***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.**

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.)

Communion Anthems: “O Holy Night” Leslie Bell, soprano Adolphe Adam
“Quelle est cette odeur agréable?” Trad. French, arr. J. Huston

Prayer after Communion

***Candlelight Hymn:** UMH # 239 – “Silent Night, Holy Night”

(Worshipers will receive the candlelight from ushers stationed in the center aisle. For safety’s sake, please hold all lighted candles upright at all times. To receive the flame, tip only unlighted candles sideways. Then pass the light to the person next in line.)

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude: “Weihnachts Pastorale”

Gustav Merkel

This evening’s liturgist is Nancy Hammerton.

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

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Church Staff

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Christian Education Director: *Eric Magnuson*

Director of Youth Ministries: *Zachary Moser*

Music Director/Organist: *Kevin Murphy, AAGO*

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We are a Stephen Ministry
Congregation

We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation

Sudbury United Methodist Church

December 24, 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. We hope you enjoy your visit and invite you to come back soon!

Christmas Services of Worship for Today, Tonight, and Next Sunday

- **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 Mag-nuson 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.

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 stars have been shining over our heads in the sanctuary since Advent began three Sundays ago. The stars are there to lead us to make a 2018 financial pledge to the children and teens of Sudbury UMC *no later than today*. 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 the staff members who reach and teach them. Beyond that, funds totaling more than \$100,000 extend our church's annual outreach regionally, nationally, and globally. Christmas is here! If you would like to cast a vote for abbreviating or even cancelling January's month-long pledge drive, please fill out a 2018 pledge card today! A basket of pledge cards can be found at the center-aisle end of your pew. After completing it and signing your name, please add it to your Christmas offering!



Is There Child Care during Sunday Morning Worship Services?

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 a New Year's resolution? 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/>.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast – The Verve Crowne Plaza Hotel, Natick



The annual MLK, Jr. breakfast hosted by the Greater Framingham Community Church will begin at 8:00 a.m. on January 15. The keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. Robert A. F. Turner, will share his thoughts about “Where Do We Go from Here? You will also be treated to special music, a hearty breakfast, and lively conversation. Tickets are available now or at the door: Adults - \$35, Youth 13-18 - \$10, Children 5-12: - \$5. Contact Romelle Herring at 508-626-2118.

“Remember His Words” during Boston’s MLK Breakfast

Greater Boston’s MLK breakfast will reemphasize Dr. King’s vision of a “Beloved Community” with this year’s theme, “Remember His Words.” Shayna Seymour, co-anchor of WCVB’s award-winning, nightly news magazine, Chronicle, will serve as mistress of ceremonies. Boston dignitaries will speak briefly. Live music will fill the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Finally, this year’s keynote speaker, Bakari Sellers, a CNN political analyst, lawyer, and activist, will deliver an inspirational address. General admission tickets are available now for \$50 and may be purchased on line at <https://on.slingo.com/e/mlkboston>

Social Justice and Christian Education Commissions to Host Series on Anti-Racism

A recent Globe investigation of racism in our communities highlighted ongoing structural inequality including racial hierarchy, poverty, health care and academic achievement. Con-currently, the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church has asked all of its local churches to engage in a series of “Vital Conversations” about racism with an emphasis on deconstructing the system that supports and perpetuates it. Starting January 14 with the celebration of MLK Weekend, and continuing for 4 weeks, the Social Justice and Christian Education Commissions will present a series of videos and conduct facilitated conversations about racism. On January 21, Robin Miller, educator and specialist in African American Heritage art, will preach during worship at 9:30 a.m. and participate in a talk-back session after worship. Watch for emerging details in The Chronicle and the Sunday bulletin insert.

The 2018 Flower Calendar Has Been Posted!

If you would like to sign up to give flowers for the altar in 2018 in honor or memory of a loved one, the flower calendar has been posted near the door to the church office. Simply select a date, perhaps an anniversary, birthday or just a date when you would like to honor someone special, and we will take care of the rest. The cost is \$40.00. Help the Flower Team enhance our worship time by giving this gift to God. Questions – contact Wanda Doughty at mwandadoughty@gmail.com.



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

The key word for Week 16, December 24-30, is Hope. “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

Adult Bible Study Begins in January

St. Paul’s First and Second letters to the Corinthians will be the focus of a new Bible study for adults to be led by John McKinney and Jim Empfield. Classes will take place January 7, 14, 21, 28, and February 4 and 11 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. In his letters to Corinth, Paul discusses practical, down-to-earth challenges that most Christians grapple with. For more information, or to register, please contact Eric Magnuson at eric@sudbury-umc.org or 978-443-4351.

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. Richard Smith is today’s volunteer.

An Announcement from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Assistant custodian Phil Lenentine has announced his plans to complete more than 20 years of employment at Sudbury UMC on December 31, 2017. Sherry Stonebraker, Staff-Parish Relations Committee chairperson, says, “Phil’s service to our church will be celebrated during the coffee hour on Sunday, January 7. Cards, notes, and gifts of appreciation are welcome.” Applicants for this part-time position are encouraged to send a letter and a resume to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA

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.

How to Make a Year End Donation to Sudbury UMC

When a calendar year ends, members of Sudbury UMC often make donations of appreciated stock, life insurance cash-outs, distributions from IRAs, or Donor Advised Funds. When making these gifts, please notify business manager Mike Greb (michael@sudbury-umc.org) with your name, the name of your broker, dealer, bank, insurance company, or mutual fund company. Remember: All 2017 Annual Fund and Pave the Way donations must be received by December 31, 2017, in order for you to take a tax deduction in 2017.