



THAT FIRST
CHRISTMAS

GOD GAVE US HIS BEST.

Today... a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

LUKE 2:11 (NIV)

Christmas Pageant

10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

During the moments before worship begins we invite you to greet those around you and to enjoy the warmth for which our church wishes to be known. We welcome you to worship on this Holy Day.

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

Prelude: “Cold December Flies Away”
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Welcome

The Rev. Joel Guillemette

***Christmas Eve Call to Worship:** *(Adapted from Romans 10:14)*

Liturgist: But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?

People: *(singing)* **Go tell it on the mountain.**

Liturgist: And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?

People: *(singing)* **Go tell it on the mountain.**

Liturgist: And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?

People: *(singing)* **Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

***Opening Hymn:** UMH # 251 – “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

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

**Almighty God, by the birth of your holy child Jesus
you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness.**

Grant that in his light we may see light.

**Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people,
so that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us,
and that we may have the ever brightening hope of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Christ Is Born! The 2017 Christmas Pageant

Retold by Kristin Murphy

Prologue: John the Baptist

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord” *(from Godspell)*

cast & ensemble singers

Introduction

“Get Ready”

cast

Scene I: Mary’s House

UMH # 215 – “To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”

soloist

Scene II: Joseph's House

"Get Ready"

cast

Scene III: Mary and Joseph Travel to the Inn

UMH # 250 – "Once in Royal David's City" (vv. 1 & 2)

cast & congregation

Scene IV: The Inn

UMH # 179 – "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem" (vv. 1 & 2)

cast & congregation

UMH # 222 – "Niño Lindo"

soloists

Angel Dance

Scene V: In the Fields

UMH # 245 – "The First Noel" (vv. 1 & 2)

cast & congregation

TFWS # 2098 – "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

cast

UMH # 246 – "Joy to the World" (vv. 1, 2, 4)

cast & congregation

Scene VI: Traveling from the East

UMH # 254 – "We Three Kings" (vv. 1 & 5)

congregation

UMH # 254 – "We Three Kings" (vv. 2, 3, & 4)

cast

UMH # 239 – "Silent Night, Holy Night" (vv. 1 & 2)

cast & congregation

***Prayer:** (*Elizabeth Windsor, USA, 21st cent., alt.*)

Welcome, Lord Jesus. Yours is the heartbeat of the universe.

Open our hearts to receive your love.

Fill our hearts with peace, justice, and compassion.

Let your joy shine in our hearts this day

that we may carry it out into the world in your holy name. Amen.

Offering of Our Gifts

Offertory: "Mary's Boy Child"

ensemble singers

***The Doxology:** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (*Tannenbaum*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.

Praise God, all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

***Prayer of Dedication:** (*Clairborne, et al., USA, 21st cent.*)

Lord, your coming is still miraculous.

Your joining the family of the poor and displaced still baffles and convicts us.

Keep us by your manger until we learn the way of love. Amen.

***Hymn of Commitment:** UMH # 230 – "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude: “The Snow Lay on the Ground”

Trad. Carol, Anglo Catholic

This morning’s liturgist is Eric Magnuson.

Sudbury United Methodist Church

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Church Staff

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Business Manager: *Michael Greb*

Christian Education Director: *Eric Magnuson*

Youth Director: *Zack Moser*

Music Director/Organist: *Kevin Murphy, AAGO*

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STEPHEN MINISTRY



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.