



*“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?
For we observed his star at its rising,
and we have come to pay him homage.”
Matthew 2:2*

Sudbury United Methodist Church

**Sunday before Epiphany
December 31, 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

Hymn Sing

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

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

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

***Hymn of Praise:** UMH # 237 – “Sing We Now of Christmas” *(omit verse 2)*

***Opening Prayer:** *(Frank Colquhoun, England, 20th cent., alt.)*

**Lord Jesus, may your light shine on our way,
as once it guided the steps of the Magi:
that we too may be led into your presence and worship you,
the Child of Mary, the Word of the Father,
the Sovereign of nations, the Savior of humankind;
to whom be glory forever. Amen.**

A Reading from the Psalms: Isaiah 60:1-6

(This reading is found on page 690 in the Old Testament.)

Children's Time: “The Difference between Enjoying and Reflecting”

Special Music

***Gospel Acclamation** *(Tune: St. Louis – before and after the reading below)*

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
We hear the Christmas angels their great glad tidings tell.
O come to us. Abide with us. Our Lord, Emmanuel.**

***A Reading from the Gospels:** Matthew 2:1-12

(This reading is found on page 2 in the New Testament.)

Sermon: “More Than One Light”

The Rev. Joel B. Guillemette

***Hymn of Response:** UMH # 253 – “We Three Kings”

A Time of Fellowship

Greeting Our Guests
Concerns and Celebrations
The Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Stewardship Moment: Dedication of Choir Chairs (*insert – page 1*)

Offertory

***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 17-18 – “Musical Setting A”

***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’ signal worshipers may join the line to receive a morsel of 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 pew by the side aisles.)

Prayer after Communion

***Hymn of Commitment:** UMH # 246 – “Joy to the World”

***Dismissal with Blessing**

***Postlude**

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 31, 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!

An Order for the Dedication of Choir Chairs in Memory of Lee Hartwell Goodstone

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to you, Lord,

People: To sing praises to your name, O Most High;

Pastor: To declare your steadfast love in the morning,

People: And your faithfulness by night,

Pastor: For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work;

People: At the works of your hands we sing for joy.

Pastor: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let us pray.

Living God, your people have always worshiped you through psalms, songs, and hymns. We give thanks for those who have answered your call to special service in the choir since our congregation formed in 1836. Remembering them, we dedicate these choir chairs given by Pauline Goodstone to your glory and in loving memory of her husband Lee Goodstone. Empower those who occupy these chairs for your service that the music they offer may always bless those who worship here.

People: Amen.

Pastor: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

People: And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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. Concurrently, 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 17, December 31 to January 6, is Humility: “All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another...” (1 Peter 5:5)

Adult Bible Study Begins January 7

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 8, 15, 22, 29, and February 5 and 12 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, to register, or to receive a copy of the workbook, please contact Eric Magnuson at 978-443-4351, ext. 207, or eric@sudbury-umc.org.

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. Gail 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.