



Sudbury United Methodist Church

Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2016

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: "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" (*Sleepers, Wake!*) J. S. Bach

***Advent Call to Worship:** (*Isaiah 11:1-3, alt.*)

Liturgist: A shoot shall come forth from the stump of Jesse.

People: A branch shall grow from David's roots.

Liturgist: The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him:

People: The Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding.

Liturgist: The Spirit of Counsel and Might.

People: The Spirit of Knowledge and the Fear of the Lord.

(Here the first, second and third candles of Advent are lighted.)

Liturgist: Light and peace in Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Opening Hymn:** UMH # 448 – "Go Down, Moses" (*verses 1, 2 and 3*)

***A Reading from Scripture:** Exodus 4:1-16

This reading is found on page 51 in the Old Testament.

***Opening Hymn:** FWS # 448 – "Go Down, Moses" (*verses 4 and 5*)

***Invocation:** (*Based on the Third O Antiphon, 8th cent.*)

**O Adonai and Leader of the House of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the flames of the burning bush
and gave him your holy law on Mount Sinai:
Come and with your outstretched arm redeem us. Amen.**

Children's Time: "The Jesse Tree – The Family of Moses"

***Hymn of Response: FWS # 2100 – "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"**

A Time of Fellowship

Greeting Our Guests

Concerns and Celebrations

The 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: Advent Conspiracy

The Offertory: "Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child" Asanafieff/Carey/Holland

***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 Thanksgiving**

***Hymn of Commitment: UMH # 211 – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (*verses 1-4*)**

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude: "Noël X"

L. C. 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.

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Church Staff

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Communications Coordinator: *Alexandra Plotkin*
Interim Youth Director: *Anthony Harrison*
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We are a Stephen Ministry
Congregation



We are a Reconciling and Welcoming
Congregation

Sudbury United Methodist Church

December 11, 2016

Welcome, Guests!

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we welcome you. Please help us get to know you by signing the attendance pad, remembering to include the name of each person attending from your household. Also, if you feel comfortable, please introduce yourself midway through worship when our pastor greets our guests. And, if you have the time, join us after worship for fellowship and a tour of our evolving building. Grab a cup of coffee and make a new friend!

Why Are Those Branches Circling the Cross?

Listen to the words of Isaiah 11 during today's Call to Worship. When King David's dynasty was cut down at the end of Judah's war with Babylonia in 587 BCE, its citizens assumed they would never see another son of David ruling on his throne. Isaiah begged to differ. From Jesse, David's father, a branch would sprout. Nowadays, Jesse Trees sometimes stand in for Christmas trees during Advent to tell the stories of Jesus' lineage. Each time we add a new symbol to our church's Jesse Tree, we learn something about Jesus' ancestors and why we need a Savior.

A Final Opportunity to Close the Gap

Sudbury UMC's financial leaders have launched "Pave the Way +" to close a \$100,000 gap between the \$2.5 million pledged for this year's extensive renovations and a 4% overage that emerged when unanticipated but necessary improvements were discovered. Can you help by making a first-time pledge to PTW+ or by making a supplemental pledge? Please use one of the cards in the pew racks to indicate your level of support today. Then, stay tuned for next Sunday's announcement!

Let's Go A-Caroling!

Today the Sudbury UMC caroling crew will visit Sudbury Pines Nursing Home – 642 Boston Post Road in Sudbury – to carol to residents from 12:30 till 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to come along!

How Can I Say Thanks to Our Pastor and Staff?

With Christmas approaching, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee invites you to contribute to a special gift for Sudbury UMC's staff. This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to recognize this special group. Kindly make your check payable to SUMC and write Staff Christmas Gift on the memo line. Then place your gift in the offering. Thanks for your generosity.

What Is a "Barn Sing"?

Sudbury UMC families and others looking for a break from the swirl of the holidays are invited to our church's beloved "Barn Sing" next Sunday afternoon, December 18, at 4:00 p.m. in Hawes Hall. We will sing carols and celebrate this year's "partridge in a pear tree." No barn. No hay. No horses. Please bring nut-free goodies, sweet or salty, to share. Beverages will be provided.

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 children two years old and younger. Look for the stairs in the northwest corner of the narthex leading up to a cozy room furnished with sofas and toys and books.

Hearing Assistance Available

Individual hearing assistance units are available. An usher will help you to borrow one.

Large Print Worship Books

Do you prefer large print materials? Special copies of *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing* are available in the narthex. Please speak to an usher for assistance.

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. Another rest room can be found just past the side door of the sanctuary closest to the pulpit and three steps up.

Help Refill the Food Cart

The contents of the shopping cart near the O'Reilly Room entrance are delivered to food banks in Sudbury, Stow, Marlborough, Maynard, Wayland, and Hudson. The Outreach Commission is grateful for your donations. Canned vegetables and soups, canned tuna and meat, crackers, jams, jellies, canned pastas and tomato sauces, noodles, rice, cereals, and baby foods are always needed. Donations past the expiration date stamped on the package must be discarded.

Please Recycle This Bulletin

The Worship and Music Commission has placed blue recycle bins near the sanctuary's entrances. Please recycle the materials distributed on Sundays either here at the church or at home.

Read for Spiritual Growth

Want to read for spiritual growth? Ten minutes each day with *The Upper Room* can lead to a growth spurt! Free booklets are available in the narthex. Help yourself! Or check out <http://devotional.upperroom.org> to visit *The Upper Room* each day online.

Sudbury UMC's Cancer and Caregiver Support Prayer Group

Sudbury UMC's Cancer and Caregiver Support Prayer Group meets this Wednesday, December 14, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the O'Reilly Room. Cancer patients, cancer survivors, and caregivers are all welcome. Have you been touched by cancer? Come and share your experiences and feelings in a safe, confidential, caring, non-hospital environment. The group is open to all faiths and communities surrounding Sudbury. Questions? Email SUMC.MA.Cancer.Care.Group@gmail.com.

Pageant Rehearsals Now Taking Place Every Saturday

Children who want to participate in Sudbury UMC's annual Christmas Eve pageant at 4:00 p.m. on December 24 are now rehearsing their speaking or non-speaking parts. If you have questions about participating, please come to a rehearsal on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. or email the pageant's director Kristin Murphy at kbando@earthlink.net.

Do You Need Someone to Listen?

A Stephen Minister is available after Sunday worship services to listen and pray with anyone facing a transition in family, health, work, etc. To meet with today's Stephen Minister, John Fraize, tap on the door across the hall from the door near the lectern.

Are You Looking for a Mid-Week Bible Study?

Please join Sudbury UMC's Thursday Bible study group. Each week's focus text is next Sunday's preaching passage. Thursday meetings take place at 10:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, 21 Andrew Avenue in Wayland's Town Center. Bring your Bible and a few bucks for something warm to sip.

Advent Conspiracy: Give More

What was the most memorable gift you ever received? Chances are it was not the thing that cost the most money - and maybe it wasn't even a *thing*. God gave us the perfect gift at Christmas – Emmanuel – God's presence with us through Jesus, God's only Son. This Christmas, think about ways you might give more of yourself to those you love. And remember: God's Christmas list includes everyone. Expand your list this year to include those who really need your presence. There are still opportunities to share the Christmas spirit with those in our community who might need a lift this Christmas. Join us today at Sudbury Pines Nursing Home (642 Boston Post Road, Sudbury) from 12:30 till 1:30 p.m. to sing some carols or just share a smile and a hug. Children Always Welcome! And see *The Chronicle*, SUMC's Facebook page, or an Outreach Commission member for more Advent opportunities to share your presence.

Thank You for Spreading the Christmas Spirit!

Peanut Butter Tree gifts are being collected immediately following our worship service today. Follow the signs for the gift drop-off location. Sorting will occur immediately after the postlude so that all gifts are accounted for and ready for pick-up by the agencies that will deliver them.

Are You Having a Blue Christmas?

For a quieter celebration of Christmas' long expected peace and hope, come to worship at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21. On the longest night of the year, pray with and for others who are grieving the loss of loved ones, jobs, better health, and relationships once held dear. Worship leaders will include our pastor, the Rev. Joel Guillemette, and the pastor at Sudbury's Memorial Congregational Church, the Rev. Tom O'Brien.

Advent Worship and Wednesday Programs

Sudbury UMC's members and friends are enjoying a deep and rich Advent season. We have been tracing Jesus' genealogy by using a Jesse Tree in Sunday services and during weekly worship and formation sessions on Wednesday evenings. This week's soup supper and programs will be the last till Lent begins in 2017. At 6:00 p.m., the Membership and Community Life Commission will serve a simple meal of soup and bread, dairy-free, with gluten-free and vegetarian options available. Later, at 6:30 p.m., programming will be available as follows:

- Heather Cranson, Kevin Murphy, and Rob Hammerton offer Taize-style worship in the chancel. For some healing quiet time with God, try "Prepare the Way of the Lord."
- Pastor Joel is teaching an adult class in the Choir Room called "Finding Jesus' Roots in Matthew's Genealogy." Are you interested in genealogies? Jesus' lineage is surprising.
- Jackie Roder is offering learning centers for kids under 12 during a class designed to explore "Family Trees." Look for Jackie in the classrooms under the church.
- Anthony Harrison looks at Jesus' family tree with teens in grades 6 to 12 in the church's undercroft, focusing on "Who Came before Jesus?" and the promises Jesus fulfilled.

"Come and Worship! Worship Christ the Newborn King!"

- Christmas Eve Pageant, 4:00 p.m.: Children, parents and grandparents, church members and community neighbors, young, old and in between, all find new surprises in the story of Jesus' birth when our children sing the carols we love, reenact the Gospel stories, and dance with joy during this exuberant and celebratory service.
- Christmas Eve Lovefeast Service, 6:00 p.m.: This multi-generational service is becoming a beloved tradition at Sudbury UMC. Celebrate Christ's birth during an informal, uplifting and joyous hymn-sing that also includes a simple meal of cookies and cider, familiar carols accompanied by a brass band, prayers, and an inspirational challenge from our Pastor. The service ends with everyone holding beautiful beeswax candles while singing "Joy to the World."
- Christmas Eve Traditional Worship, 8:00 p.m.: Worshipers who attend the 8 o'clock service will sing holiday carols, hear Pastor Joel's sermon, "Be Careful What You Ask For," and celebrate Holy Communion. Special music is always a highlight of this Christmas Eve observance. Finally, worshipers will light their candles while singing "Silent Night" in a darkened sanctuary.
- Christmas Day, Sunday Morning at 9:30 a.m.: Christmas is on Sunday this year, and we welcome everyone to a Sunday morning celebration. We will sing, we will hear a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells, "God in Pajamas," and we will share Holy Communion to celebrate the Incarnation.