



*Sudbury United Methodist Church*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 18, 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:** "Cradle Song" Jill Gaudet, flute and Bill Hoke, clarinet 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, third, and fourth candles of Advent are lighted.)*

Liturgist: Light and peace in Jesus Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** UMH # 203 – "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" (*verses 1 and 2*)

**\*First Reading from Scripture:** 2 Samuel 7:1-13

*This reading is found on page 281 in the Old Testament.*

**\*Opening Hymn:** UMH # 203 – "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" (*verses 3 and 4*)

**\*Invocation:** (*Based on the Fourth O Antiphon, 8<sup>th</sup> cent.*)

**O Root of Jesse, who stands for an ensign of the people,  
before whom rulers shall keep silence  
and to whom Gentiles shall make their supplication:  
Come quickly to deliver us and tarry not. Amen.**

**Children's Time:** "The Jesse Tree – The House of David"

**Special Music:** "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

arr. Hammerton

**Second Reading from Scripture:** Matthew 1:18-25  
*This reading is found on page 1 in the New Testament.*

**Sermon:** “What Justice Requires”

Pastor Joel Guillemette

**\*Hymn of Response:** UMH # 210 – “All Earth Is Waiting”

### **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:** “Adagio” Bill Hoke. Clarinet

T. Albinoni/R. Giazotto

**\*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 # 246 – “Joy to the World”

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

**Postlude:** “And the Angels Cried” Patty Helsingius, vocals

Allen/Nims

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**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

**Lead Pastor:** *The Rev. Joel Guillemette*  
**Business Manager:** *Michael Greb*  
**Christian Education Director:** *Jackie Roder*  
**Communications Coordinator:** *Alexandra Plotkin*  
**Interim Youth Director:** *Anthony Harrison*  
**Music Director/Organist:** *Kevin Murphy, AAGO*  
**Sanctuary Choir Director:** *Rob Hammerton*  
**Office Administrator:** *Shetal Kaye*  
**Sextons:** *Joe Picorelli*  
*Phil Lenentine*

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We are a Stephen Ministry  
Congregation



We are a Reconciling and Welcoming  
Congregation

**Sudbury United Methodist Church**  
**December 18, 2015**

**Welcome, Guests!**

If you are visiting today, we would like to extend our sincere welcome. Please join us at the back of the church immediately following the worship service during the postlude to meet the pastor and some church members as well as to receive a small gift. We also invite you to join us, as time permits, for informal fellowship and coffee in Hawes Hall after the service. We hope you enjoy your visit and invite you to worship with us again as soon as you are able.

**Why Are Those Branches Circling the Cross?**

Our chancel's abstract Jesse Tree tells the story of Jesus' lineage. We have been adding new symbols to Jesus' family tree each Sunday in Advent, learning about Jesus' ancestors and our need for a Savior. Whose stories from the Scriptures of the Old Testament can you recognize? Which family reminds you most of your own? How does God's gift to us through the coming of Christ redeem and restore the best of who and what we are – and the worst?

**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" this afternoon 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. Just good old-fashioned fun! Please bring nut-free goodies, sweet or salty, to share. Beverages provided.

**Love All! This Week's Advent Conspiracy Opportunities**

- **Won't You Warm Up Your Voice with Today's Flash Mob?** We'll be meeting up at Sudbury Farms this afternoon from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. It's the perfect way to bring cheer to our community and to warm up for the Barn Sing at 4!
- **Open Table Food Pantry:** On Monday, December 19, at 4:30 p.m., come and stock shelves at the Open Table Food Pantry -12 Bancroft Street in Maynard. Visit with clients. Lend a hand as a personal shopper for a new friend. Sneak in a carol!

**Youth Fellowship Christmas Party**

Youth ministries director Anthony Harrison invites teens in grades 6 to 12 to today's Christmas party at the home of Scott and Cindy Simon: 53 Pine Street in Sudbury. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. Parents, please return at 8:30! Food, games, a White Elephant gift exchange, and more!

### **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.

### **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, Diane Hammond, tap on the door across the hall from the door near the lectern.

## **Sudbury UMC's Cancer and Caregiver Support Prayer Group**

Sudbury UMC's Cancer and Caregiver Support Prayer Group meets this Wednesday, December 21, from 6:00 - 7:00 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? [SUMC.MA.Cancer.Care.Group@gmail.com](mailto:SUMC.MA.Cancer.Care.Group@gmail.com).

## **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 Conspiracy: Love All!**

Thus far, we have talked about Worshipping Fully, Spending Less and Giving More. The fourth tenet of the Advent Conspiracy is to **Love All!** God gave us the perfect gift at Christmas – the presence of God's only Son. God's Christmas list included everyone. And when God's people serve the poor in humble, generous ways, the story of Jesus is told again and again. The poor in our world will be touched by God through how we choose to celebrate Christmas. Expand your Christmas list this year to include those who really need your presence. We are the ones who have been given this extraordinary gift of life with God, and now we are called to enter this broken world and love differently. When we do, ***Christmas can still change the world!***

## **How Can I Say Thanks to Our Pastor and Staff?**

With Christmas approaching, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee invites you to consider a special gift for Sudbury UMC's staff. This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to recognize this special group of Christian servants. From musicians to teachers to administrators and maintenance professionals, our staff members sacrifice every day to help our church grow and thrive. Kindly make your check payable to SUMC and write Staff Christmas Gift on the memo line. Then place your gift in today's offering. Thanks for your generosity.

## **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.

## ***“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 beautifully decorated 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 individual 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 one of Pastor Joel’s favorite preachers, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells, and we will share Holy Communion to celebrate the Incarnation.*