



Welcome to worship at United Church of Christ Norwell. Whether you are a member of our church, a frequent attendee, or a first-time visitor, know you are welcomed here. We hope you will find your time among us inspiring and leave feeling strengthened and transformed by the love of God in Christ.

Listening devices for the hearing impaired and large print bulletins are available.

Note: if you remove both hearing aids to use a listening device, please store them apart from each other to avoid sound system feedback.

Activity bags are also available for children to use (a Deacon or usher can assist you). Audio of the worship service can also be heard in the library. Please note that a parent must remain with their child(ren) in the library to supervise them.

This morning service is being live streamed and available for viewing on our Vimeo channel and Facebook page.

United Church of Christ Norwell

We are a Christ-centered inclusive community called to ministry.
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 Ministers to the Congregation

All the Congregation
 All the Staff

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United Church of Christ Norwell

An Open and Affirming Church

December 31, 2023

10:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

Call of the Bell

John Kelso

Welcome

Rev. Terry Martinson

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us, that we might become your people.

One: Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you are the promised gift, that we might witness in power.

All: Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

—Arlene Mark, *Words for Worship*

*Hymn #155

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Valerie Donaldson

Redeeming God, you are waiting with us, for we are slow to make room in our hearts for the Christ child. Your stars are shining, and the angels' songs are praising. Yet we are in no hurry to hear the message of peace and goodwill, to sing "Glory" with the angels, to leave our sheep on the hillside, and come with haste to find incarnation.

Redeeming God, forgive our unbelief, forgive our lack of wonder. Open us to your miracle; let us hear again the message of love that Jesus Christ is born. Let us respond with joyous hearts, glorifying and praising God for all that we have heard and seen.

—Arlene Mark, *Words for Worship*

Let us now bring our silent confessions before a listening God.

Assurance of Grace

God comes to us now to make all things new. Where we are too busy, God brings peace; where we are lost, salvation; where we are sad, joy; where we are bitter, God gives us courage to love again. Rejoice, Christ has come to us bringing us all these gifts of God.

In Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

*Passing of the Peace

*Musical Response

O Thou Joyful!

O SANCTISSIMA

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful grace revealing Christmastide!
Jesus came to win us from all sin within us;
glorify the holy child!

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful love revealing Christmastide!
Loud hosannas singing and all praises bringing:
may Thy love with us abide!

*Children are dismissed to Church School (downstairs)
and youth dismissed to "Not" Church School (library).*

We Receive God's Word

Scripture Luke 2:25-40

Sermon *Wrinkled Wrappings* Rev. Terry Martinson

Anthem *Wexford Carol* Arr. Elaine Hagenberg

We Respond to God's Love

Prayers of the People Valerie Donaldson

Prayer Response *This Christmastide* Donald Fraser

Call to Offering

Please sign and pass the Red Book (in aisle seats) so we can greet each other by name.
If you are with us for the first time, please add your contact information.
You may also join our mailing list by texting Uccnorwell to 228-28.

Offertory

Down to Earth

PERSONENT HODIE

*Doxology

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

*Prayer of Dedication

We Depart to Serve

*Hymn #170 *How Great Our Joy!* v. 1, 2, 4 *JUNGST*

*Benediction Rev. Terry Martinson

Postlude *In Dulci Jubilo* William Merrill
Karen Harvey, piano

* Please stand, as you are able

Additional Ways to Give

Give by text, text the amount you wish to give to 844-738-0029.
Give online by scanning the QR code at right.

