



WELCOME to worship at United Church of Christ in Norwell.

Whether you are a member or affiliate member of our church, a frequent attendee, or a first time visitor, we are truly glad you are here and invite you to participate in the many opportunities for worship, growth and service. We hope you will find your time here to be meaningful and the congregation welcoming. At the conclusion of the postlude, please join us for conversation and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

LISTENING DEVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, AND LARGE PRINT HYMNALS ARE AVAILABLE. An usher or deacon would be happy to assist you with any of these needs. A CD of this morning's service will be available for \$2.00 in the sound room (back left corner of the sanctuary), or you may borrow a copy through the church library.

Child care for infants through grade 2 is available downstairs in rooms 10 and 7.

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

Audio recordings of sermons are available online: uccnorwell.org.

United Church of Christ, Norwell

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

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www.uccnorwell.org ❖ email: office@uccnorwell.org

Ministers to the World		All the Congregation
Ministers to the Congregation		All the Staff
Rev. Leanne S. Walt	Lead Pastor	lwalt@uccnorwell.org, ext. 12
Rev. Deborah Spratley	Associate Pastor	dspratley@uccnorwell.org, ext. 11
Kristen Albert	Child Care Coordinator	contact Cathy below
Cathy Benedict	Minister of Children's Education	cbenedict@uccnorwell.org, ext. 25
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Danielle Biggins	New Nursery School Director	newnurseryschooldirector@gmail.com 781-659-2535

United Church of Christ, Norwell

An Open and Affirming Church

December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**Standing to praise God*

WELCOME

Rev. Leanne Walt

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*HYMN #122

Comfort, Comfort You My People

GENEVA

TIME OF RECONCILIATION

Geoff Gordon

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Lord, we offer You our repentance.

We replace holy days with holidays.

We hurry past opportunities to give the gifts of kindness and honesty.

Our days are filled to the brim, leaving little room for Your birth in our lives.

**We get stuck in the rough places of the journey -
allowing anger to rob us of peace and
regret to rob us of Your purpose for us.**

Straighten our Spirits, accept our humility and guide us to Your grace. Amen.

(time for silent confession)

Assurance of Grace

Friends, believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

May the Lord guide your way
and make you abound in love
for God and for one another.

Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING *Candle of Peace*
Confirmant: Matthew Hybertson
Confirmation Mentor: John Galvin

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *Christ, Be Our Light* Bernadette Farrell;
Arr. John Rane
(Chorus) Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40: 1-11

SERMON *The Surprising Comfort of God* Rev. Leanne Walt

ANTHEM *Comfort Ye; Every Valley* George F. Handel
(from the *Messiah*) David Won, tenor

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Geoff Gordon

Response #128 (all) *One Candle Is Lit* v. 2 *CRADLE SONG*

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR RESOURCES

Offertory *Somebody Build a Manger* Joel Raney

Please sign and pass the Red Book (in aisle seats) so we may greet each other by name.
If you are with us for the first time, please add your contact information.

*Doxology *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*HYMN #153 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* v. 1-3 *CAROL*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (seated) *Angels We Have Heard on High* Arr. Kenneth Varner
Karen Harvey, organ



Second Sunday of Advent