

The First Congregational Church

Gathered 1743
Boylston, Massachusetts



**Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025**

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PRELUDE

Charles Nwachukwu

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader/ **People**

We gather in hope, waiting for Christ's coming.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

Come, Lord Jesus—renew our hearts and our world.

Come, Lord Jesus, our hope and our salvation.

Let us worship!

* HYMN 278 — *Angels We Have Heard on High*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judith White

PRAYER FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by
patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold
fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior
Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for
ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES:

Reader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming.

We are preparing ourselves for the days

When the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears
into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, or train for
war anymore. —from *Isa. 2:5*

The wolf shall dwell with lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the kid,
The calf and the lion and the fatling together,
And a little child shall lead them — from *Isa. 11:6*

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

ADVENT SONG (to the tune of “Away in a Manger”)

**A candle is burning, a candle of *Peace*.
A candle to welcome brave Mary’s new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow.
As Peace brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

CATECHISM

Question 48 — What is the Church?

Answer 48 — The Church is the whole community of faithful Christians in
heaven and on earth, called and formed by God into one people. The
Church on earth gathers to worship God in Word and Sacrament, to serve
God and neighbor, and to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth

INVITE KIDS TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, have mercy upon us.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

Forgive us and grant that we may serve and please you in the newness of life,

Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised to forgive the sins of those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE

* SONG — *Light of The World*

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING:

Reader: Our teaching texts for this morning come from 2 Peter 3:8–15 and Mark 1:1–8:

⁸ But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.⁹ The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as

unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

¹¹ Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, ¹² looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames.¹³ But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

¹⁴ And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

¹⁵ And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him—

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.^[a] It began ² just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

*“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
and he will prepare your way.*

*³ He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord's coming!
Clear the road for him!’”*

⁴ This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. ⁵ All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. ⁶ His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ John announced: “Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. ⁸ I baptize you with^[d] water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

SUNDAY TEACHING Series — The Waiting Room Part 2

Pastor Zac Stephenson

* SONG — *Come All you Unfaithful*

COMMUNION

Pastor: Great is the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor: Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

People: Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Pastor: According to his commandment:

People: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Pastor: Christ is the bread of life:

People: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

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.

Prayer over the Elements
Words of Institution
Invitation to the Table

* HYMN 258— *Go Tell It on The Mountain*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Charles Nwachukwu

* congregation stands as each is able

You are invited to join us for Coffee and Community following our service. This is a great place to grab some food and make new friends. Coffee and Community is located in the Fellowship Hall.



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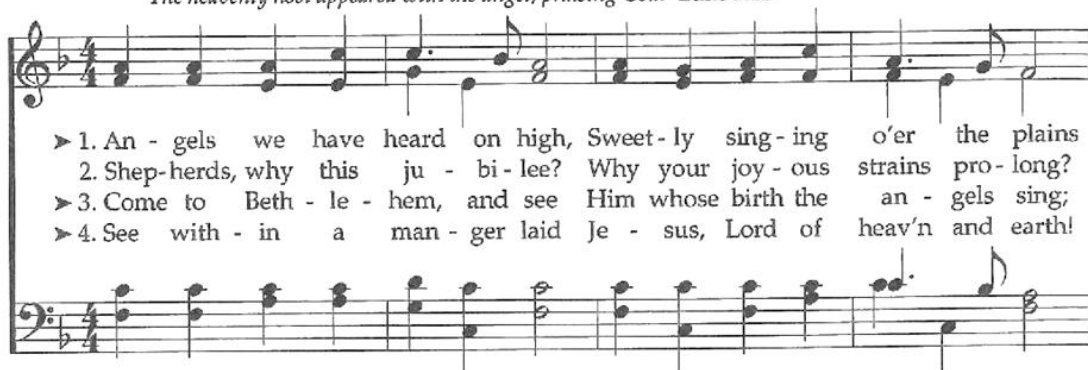
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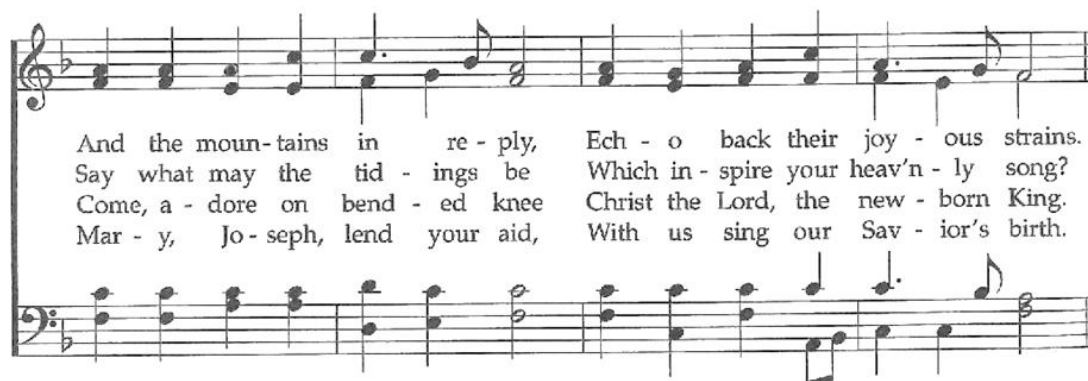
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278 Angels We Have Heard on High

The heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God. Luke 2:13



> 1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 > 3. Come to Beth - le - hem, and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 > 4. See with - in a man - ger laid Je - sus, Lord of heav'n and earth!

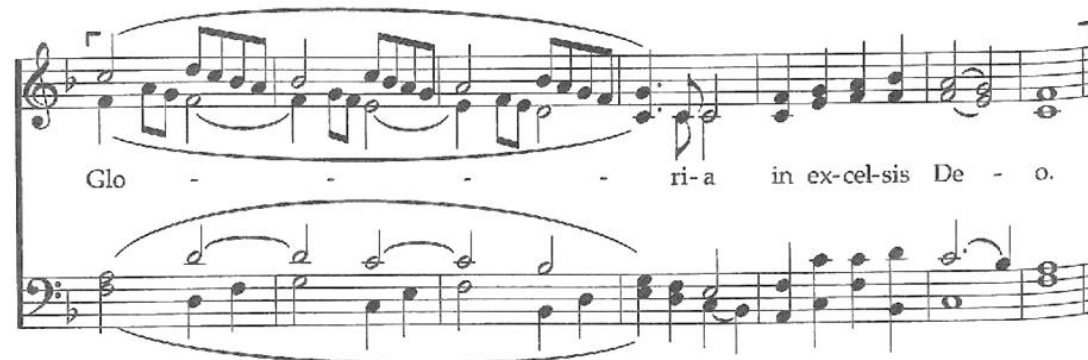


And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
 Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid, With us sing our Sav - ior's birth.

Refrain



Glo - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,



Glo - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

TEXT: Traditional French carol

MUSIC: Traditional French melody; Choral ending by Ken Barker

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GLORIA

7.7.7.7. with Refrain

258 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

When they had seen Him, they spread the word about this Child. Luke 2:17

Refrain
Unison

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
(2. The) shep - herds feared and trem - bled When lo! a - bove the earth
(3. Down) in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born,

Be - hold! thro'-out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And brought us God's sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Refrain
Unison

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born! 2. The born!
3. Down born!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God in Loving Memory of My Dad, My Son and My Husband by Gail Valera-Coolidge.



Advent Season — Advent services began on Sunday, November 30th. Our Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Wednesday December 24th.



Poinsettias — If you would like to purchase a memorial poinsettia for our Christmas Eve Services, please complete an order form (which can be found on the tables outside of the Sanctuary) and return to the church office with your payment. The cost is \$15.00, and **orders must be received today** (December 7th).



Meal Train – Our FCC-B family is growing! A meal train has been set-up for the Robichard family to help them as they welcome home their new baby. If you would like to sign up to provide a meal or give a gift card to the family, please use the QR code.



Buy-A-Brick Campaign - We are still selling engraved bricks to be set into a memory garden beside the walkway at the rear of the church. Proceeds will go into our Capital Account to continue many projects in and around the church. This is the perfect way to honor a person or event or to memorialize that person, event or memory. Forms are ready and available at church on the table near Fellowship Hall.. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Jan Fuller at 508-868-4879 by phone or text or by email at janlfull@aol.com.



We keep in our prayers — Ruth E. Coyle, Donna Kelleher, Max Lariviere, Adam Brunt, Brody Jones, Dick Martino, Ginny Felch, Karl Nelson, Roger Wentzell, Brady, Shelly, Brian Strand, Maureen Anderson, Travis & Lori Rotti, Austin, Brenda & Tim, Jen, Carter Bean, Paula Sylvester, Jeff Sears, Carole Szwarc, Roz Franzen, David Rice, Bill, Patty, Rachel Thomas & family, Bob & Judy Brousseau, Linda Erickson, and David Carlson.