



**Central United Methodist Church – at 10:00 am**

**Second Sunday of Advent : December 4, 2022**

**Preaching: Ann Burnham, Certified Lay Minister**

**Liturgist: Linda Merritt      Musician: Kyle**

**Centering Music:**

**Kyle Akin**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Unison**

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity, and may await with joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen

**Lighting of the Advent Candle:**

**Greetings & Announcements:**

**Linda Merritt**

**Hymn:**

*"Take My Life, and Let It Be"*

**#399 UMH**

**Call to Worship: \***

(Leader) Let us pray for the Spirit of Wisdom to rest upon us  
A spirit of understanding and knowledge  
(All) **Grant us to live in harmony**  
**God's mercy prevail**

(Leader) Let us pray for God's steadfastness to gird our spirit  
May peace prevail like lamb and wolf  
(All) **Grant us to live in harmony**  
**God's mercy prevail**

(Leader) Let us pray, for voices crying out in the wilderness  
Women living in fear, children hiding

**(All) Grant all a place of harmony  
God's mercy prevail**

(Leader) Let us pray, repent of harm done to the innocent  
Clear the chaff of abuse and hurt

**(All) Bear the Spirit of harmony  
God's mercy prevail**

(Leader) Let us pray for the God of hope, joy and peace to fill  
All hearts, one voice glorify

**(All) God, prepare the way  
God's mercy prevail**

**Hymn:** *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

**#196 UMH**

**Bible Reading:**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the 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.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Gospel of **Matthew 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the

prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

<sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

**Children's Message: "Ready of Not – Here I come!"**

**Sermon: "Hurry Up and Wait" Ann Burnham**

**Hymn: "One Bread, One Body" #620 UMH**

**Holy Communion:**

Leader: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him and seek to grow into his likeness. Let us draw near with faith, make our humble confession, and prepare to receive this Holy Sacrament.

**All:**

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own goodness, but in your unfailing mercies. We are not worthy that you should receive us, but give your word and we shall be healed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that is proof of God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

## TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

*The bread and juice from the vine are prepared for the meal by uncovering them if they have been covered, and saying the following:*

Trusting in the presence and blessing of the Holy Spirit upon each of us, we hear anew the sacred story in the letter Paul wrote to the people of ancient Corinth: For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (I Corinthians 11.23-26, NIV)

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (All)**

#### BREAKING THE BREAD

Leader: Because there is one loaf,  
We, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

*A great feast is prepared for us— the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ. God's grace overflows for us— the cup of promise and blessing that we share in Christ the Lord. Come to the table. Come to the feast.*

#### **(after receiving Communion) Prayer (All)**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

**God Moments:** (Joys & Concerns)

**Linda Merritt**

**Pastoral Prayer:**

**Ann Burnham**

Lord of love and light,  
There are some of us today who have heavy hearts as they worry about loved ones who are ill. We ask for healing and comfort.

There are some with us today whose worries are not spoken aloud. We ask for those worries to be lifted and their hearts comforted.

There are some of us today who have broken relationships. We ask for forgiveness and grace to mend those relationships.

We pray for the leaders of our nation. We ask that you give them wisdom and the desire to work together for the good of all.

We pray for our military here and abroad. We ask that you keep them safe and strengthen them and their families as they are apart.

We pray for our police and first responders. We pray for their safety as they work together to protect us.

We pray for those who are struggling with their faith. We pray you will strengthen them and that will feel your love.

**Sharing Our Gifts:**

**Unison**

Gracious and loving God, we bring our tithes and offerings to you and we pray that these gifts will do good work. We know so many are out there hurting and will need a warm jacket, or a hot bowl of soup and we pray these gifts may help a few or the many. May we also remember to give others our greatest gift – the gift of Jesus Christ so that they may feel His grace and everlasting love.

**Doxology:**

**# 95 UMH**

**Special Music:**

**Kyle Akin**

**Closing Hymn:**

*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

**# 211 UMH**

**Blessing:**

**Ann Burnham**

- *Written by Terri and posted on RevGalPrayerPals.*



**Blast from the Past**

**Thank you for worshipping with us today! Please join us again next Sunday.  
Come as a stranger, leave as a friend.**

**Ministry Team**

**Rev. Neil (Sandy) Sweet**, Coordinating Pastor, Elder [sandypadre@aol.com](mailto:sandypadre@aol.com)  
**Ann Burnham**, Certified Lay Minister [Tedann84@verizon.net](mailto:Tedann84@verizon.net)  
**Dave Dextraze**, Certified Lay Minister [Ddextraze1@comcast.net](mailto:Ddextraze1@comcast.net)  
**Susan Scott**, Certified Lay Speaker [susiscott@aol.com](mailto:susiscott@aol.com)  
**Paul Battistini**, Certified Lay Minister, Team Leader & Emergency Pastoral Care:  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**-Christmas Caroling at the Shaw Home has been cancelled due to more recent Covid cases.

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**-Worship service at Oak Point

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**-Brockton Symphony's Holiday Pops Concert at Oliver Ames High School in Easton, MA at 3pm, see Jody Battistini for tickets. Ticket prices are Seniors (60+) \$18, Adults \$23, Children and Students (with ID) FREE. Please contact Jody at 508-947-2612 and leave a message or email her at [jodybatt54@gmail.com](mailto:jodybatt54@gmail.com).

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**-Christmas Eve Service at 7pm.

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**-Christmas Day Service at 10am.

**Lay Servant Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Counter</u>
12/4/22	Ann Burnham	Linda M	Jody B	MJ S	Bob R
12/11/22	Paul Battistini	MJ S	Donna T	Susan R	MJ S
12/18/22	Dave Dextraze	Susan R	Bill G	Bill G	Susan R
12/24/22	Paul Battistini	Linda M	Nancy E	MJ S	Bob R
12/25/22	Susan Scott	MJ S	Bev P	Susan R	MJ S

