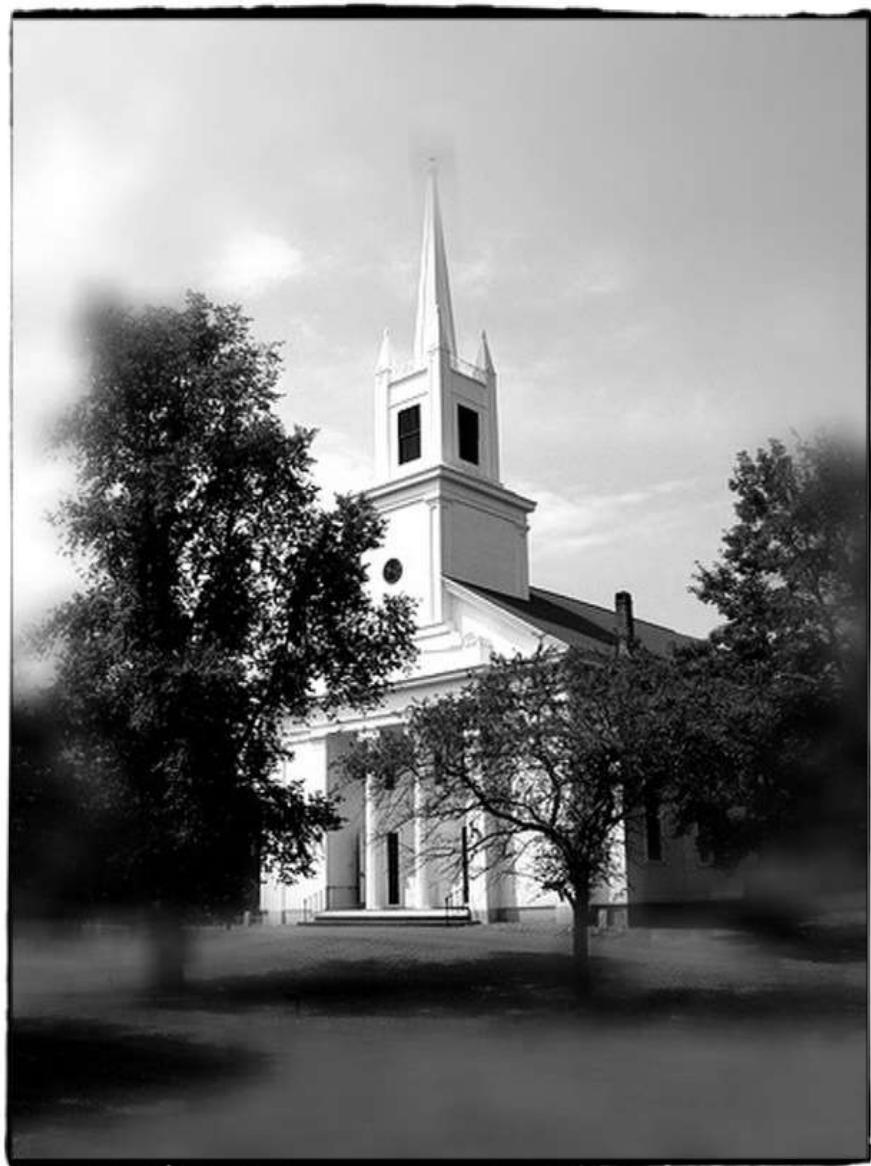


The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of
the United Church of Christ*



**ORDER OF WORSHIP
CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24TH, 2021
5 p.m.**

*Please remain seated for all the singing of the hymns,
except the first and the last.*

PRELUDE

Christmas Medley

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF PEACE

TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION AND PRAYER

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Deck the Halls

Jac Nulsen

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Itz Family

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Danielle Redding

Leader: In the darkness around the solstice, on this Christmas Eve night, there is HOPE, yes, though there are also many questions, for even the sure among us have hearts that are filled with doubt.

People: We stand together, here, within the small circle of these Advent lights...

Leader: so that when we feel alone, unappreciated, or neglected, when we seek PEACE...

People: we can reach out to hold one of the many hands that support this community.

Leader: When we move past divisions and open up to possibilities, there is JOY to be shared, standing together with the Spirit.

People: When we step into this circle of light, when we allow ourselves to reach farther towards others who are hurting, we will never be apart from the Spirit and we will know over and over again the power of God's abiding LOVE. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Damian Townes

Leader: God of sheep and shepherds, God of angel songs and simple stables, deep in the night all the world had locked the doors and closed the shutters.

People: But you pierced the darkness with a divine light and shattered the silence with the birth cries of a very special child, a holy child.

Leader: In that marvelous miracle, you call us all to be born with Christ.

People: Let this child's love embrace us – right now, on the eve of Christmas! Amen.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

We Three Kings

Jessa Nulsen

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Who Built the Stable: A Nativity Poem

by Ashley Bryan

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| HYMN #246 | “Joy to the World” verse 1 page 5 | ANTIOCH |
| SCRIPTURE LESSON | Luke 2: 1-7 Pew Bible page 53 | Molly Howes |
| MUSICAL INTERLUDE | God Rest Ye Merry Gentlman | Damian Townes |
| SCRIPTURE LESSON | Luke 2: 8-14 Pew Bible page 53 | James Love |
| HYMN #238 | “Angels We Have Heard on High” verse 1 page 6 | GLORIA |
| SCRIPTURE LESSON | Luke 2: 15-20 Pew Bible page 53 | Jessa Nulsen |
| MUSICAL INTERLUDE | O Come All Ye Faithful | Catie Nenart |
| RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS | | |
| OFFERTORY | Away in the Manger | Arr. Steven Scott |
| †THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION | | Nathan Miller |
| Leader: | Like the wise ones, we have brought you the gift of our treasure. | |
| People: | Use it to build your peace on earth, God. | |
| Leader: | Like the shepherds, we have brought you the gift of our worship. | |
| People: | Gratitude orients our living toward you, God. | |
| Leader: | Like Mary and Joseph, we bring you the gift of our lives. | |
| People: | May we be inspired and creative, as you intended us to be, so that we will build with your vision, sharing your love in the name of Christ. Amen. | |
| MUSICAL INTERLUDE | Hark the Herald Angels Sing | Charlie Townes |
| A PRAYER FOR FAMILIES | | Rev. Amy A. Bruch |
| †HYMN #234 | “O Come, All Ye Faithful” verse 1 page 7 | ADESTE FIDELES |
| MUSICAL INTERLUDE | Jingle Bells | James Love |
| CANDLE LIGHTING | | |
| <i>The congregation shall stand and remain in the pews for the lighting of the candles.</i> | | |
| *Participants on Zoom or Community TV are invited to prepare and supply their own candles and light them at this time in the service | | |
| †HYMN #239 | “Silent Night, Holy Night” verses 1-3 page 8 | STILL NACHT |
| † <i>Those Who Are Able Please Stand</i> | | |
| BENEDICTION | | |
| <i>Please extinguish your candles before leaving your pew and drop them off in the baskets on your way out to the exits.</i> | | |
| POSTLUDE | Hark the Herald Angels Sing | arr. Edward Broughton |

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
 Let earth receive her King; let
 Let all their songs employ; while
 and makes the nations prove the
 ev'ry heart pre - pare him room,
 fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,
 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, and
 won - ders of his love, and heaven and na - ture sing, and re - peat the sound - ing joy, and won - ders of his love, and heaven and na - ture sing, and re - peat the sound - ing joy, and won - ders of his love, and heaven and na - ture sing, and re - peat the sound - ing joy, and won - ders of his love, heaven, and heaven, and na - ture sing, peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy, won - ders, won - ders of his love, sing, joy, love,

238 Angels We Have Heard on High

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 Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heaven- ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a,

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - -

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

WORDS: Trad. French carol; trans. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt. (Lk. 2:6-20)
 MUSIC: French carol melody; arr. by Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937;
 harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1964

GLORIA
 77.77 with Refrain

Harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

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O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um-phant, O
 1. A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
 * 4. See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra - dle,

come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.
 ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.
 ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.

Silent Night, Holy Night 239

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight;
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant, so ten-der and mild,
nur das trau - te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold - er Kna - be mit lock - i - gem Haar,
 glo-ries stream from heav-en a-far, heaven-ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!
 ra-diant beams from thy ho-ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young;
 st. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2:6-20)
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT
Irr.

Congregational Church of Topsfield December Birthdays



December Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Eric Gillberg: | 12/03 |
| Gerrie Bunker: | 12/05 |
| Nancy Nelson: | 12/06 |
| Jackson Bridge: | 12/07 |
| Nora Hartung: | 12/08 |
| Jill Wheeler: | 12/09 |
| Robert Barrett: | 12/10 |
| Ryland Loyer: | 12/10 |
| Charlie Wilkinson: | 12/11 |
| Sara Renda: | 12/12 |
| Chelsey Bergsten: | 12/13 |
| Jeff Nenart: | 12/13 |
| Martin Riekert: | 12/13 |
| Bruce Daniels: | 12/14 |
| Brandon Read: | 12/15 |
| Marlena Voss: | 12/17 |
| Michael Miller: | 12/19 |
| Pam Warren: | 12/20 |
| Daniel Cassiday: | 12/21 |
| MJ Riekert: | 12/21 |
| Gregor Smith: | 12/23 |
| Elizabeth Jelinek: | 12/27 |
| John Kinhan: | 12/27 |
| Claudia Worth: | 12/28 |
| Cathy Szymanski: | 12/28 |
| Leah Cass: | 12/29 |
| Jim Bunker: | 12/29 |
| Jack Bridge: | 12/30 |

Congregational Church of Topsfield Parish Care Ministry

Prayer List Contact:

Kim Itz at prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.org or 978 887-6567.

Healing Scripture:

"And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick" Matthew 14:14

Healing Prayer:

Dear Lord, I ask you to turn this weakness into strength, suffering into compassion, sorrow into joy, and pain into comfort for others. May your servant trust in your goodness and hope in your faithfulness, even in the middle of this suffering. Let him be filled with patience and joy in your presence as he waits for your healing touch.

Please Pray For:

Maria Cecilia Guerra - Sister of José Guerra
Karen Burnett - Member of CCOT

Eva - Friend of Irina Günzel-Guerra from Norway

Ken Flewelling - Member of CCOT

Yonel Fortune - BCY Sponsored boy in Haiti
through USFCH

Stoney Stonestreet - Member of CCOT

Doug McIlvaine - Member of CCOT

Keith Jacobs - Friend of Jane & Bruce Jones

Kevin Jackson - Friend of Sally Libby

Edward and Memory Matavhunye and their
community - President of the UCC in Zimbabwe

Doug Gruber - Brother of Susan Gruber

Sue Denton - Members of CCOT

Susan Gruber - Member of CCOT

Stephen & Judith Carnahan - Friends of
Stephen Moore

Barbara Ripley - Mother of Claudia Worth

Paul Rogers - Father of Tony Rogers

Helen Talberth - Member of CCOT

Jane Moyer - Member of CCOT

Tim Sifter - Brother of Sue DiTucci

Ralph & Diana Titus - Members of CCOT

Anne Marie Euglie - Friend of Sandy Whelan

Anna Collins - Granddaughter of Gerrie and
Jim Bunker

Sean Enos - Son of neighbor of Jane & Bruce Jones

Wendy Colby - CCOT's beloved communications
and office manager

Rich Hopkins - Member of CCOT

Chuck Schwab - Friend of Charles Mathison

Renata Car - Sister of Ilona Vele

Jeanie Smith - Best friend of Sally Libby

John Stein - Brother-in-Law of Susan Warner

David Pike - Brother of Susan Warner

Dawn Gillberg- Member of CCOT

Donna & Bob Klaum - Nancy Prebble Barret's
sister and her husband

Joyce Bergsten – Member of CCOT

Brett Hoover - Grandson of Fred & Carole Hoover

Steve Wilson - Friend of Kim & Charlie Itz

Richard Duncan - Neighbor of Jane & Bruce Jones



SERVING THIS EVENING

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Eli Redding | <i>Acolyte</i> |
| The Warner Family | <i>Advent Wreath Lighters</i> |
| Polly Croteau, Carolyn Detato | <i>Altar Guild</i> |
| | |
| Molly Howes | <i>Reader</i> |
| James Love | <i>Reader</i> |
| Nathan Miller | <i>Reader</i> |
| Jessa Nulsen | <i>Reader</i> |
| Danielle Redding | <i>Reader</i> |
| Damian Townes | <i>Reader</i> |
| | |
| Laurie Hieta | <i>Usher</i> |
| Ryland Lindholm | <i>Usher</i> |
| Ellie and Walter Losee | <i>Usher</i> |
| Jac Nulsen | <i>Usher</i> |
| Eli Redding | <i>Usher</i> |

Senior Minister
Martin Riekert: 978 887-2101 ext. 1
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**Associate Minister
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Music Director and Organist
Kim Karchenes: 978 887-2101 ext. 4
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Children & Youth Ministry Assistant
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Communications & Office Manager
Kim Love: 978 887-2101 ext. 3
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