

Announcements and Invitations

HOLIDAY BOOK FAIR

TODAY

Sunday, December 4, 2022

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Open to all!

- Crafts, cookies, story time
- Book sale (Barefoot Books)
- Each child will receive a free book and milk and cookies



Part of East Congregational Church's literacy initiative for the community, "Reading Changes Lives"



CITY MISSION CHRISTMAS SHOP

TWO SUNDAYS ONLY:

December 4 and 11

Shop early and quickly this year, please!

In addition to clothing and toys, City Mission has highlighted the increased need for household items. As you are shopping for your Christmas Shop donations, please consider purchasing items requested below. All items must

be new, and we cannot accept food items. *Denotes high need items. Please place your UNWRAPPED gifts under the tree in the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity.



TOYS/GAMES/BOOKS:

- ⇒ Infant and Toddler Toys
- ⇒ Dolls of diverse ethnicities*
- ⇒ Children's Toys
- ⇒ Teen Games and Activities*
- ⇒ Children's Books
- ⇒ Books featuring people of color*
- ⇒ Teen Books
- ⇒ Sports Equipment
- ⇒ Art Supplies
- ⇒ Gifts for adults*
- ⇒ Backpacks, purses, wallets

CLOTHING:

- ⇒ Children's Clothing - All Sizes
- ⇒ Teen Clothing* - All Sizes
- ⇒ Adult Clothing - All Sizes
- ⇒ Including Professional/work Attire*
- ⇒ Hats
- ⇒ Mittens/Gloves
- ⇒ Scarves
- ⇒ Underwear for all ages/sizes*
- ⇒ Household supplies:

HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES:

- ⇒ Bedding
- ⇒ Towels
- ⇒ Cleaning Supplies
- ⇒ Tableware
- ⇒ Dishes
- ⇒ Pots & Pans
- ⇒ Blender
- ⇒ Mixing bowls
- ⇒ Household Gifts
- ⇒ Toiletries
- ⇒ Blankets

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will fill the Sanctuary on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18th. A sufficient quantity will be purchased to decorate the Chancel and be donated to our hospitalized, grieving, or less-mobile members after the worship service.

Please order poinsettias at \$12.00 each in memory or in honor of a loved one by completing the form below & returning it to the church office no later than **Sunday, December 11th.**

Checks should be made payable to "East Congregational Church"

Please be sure to mark the Memo: Poinsettias and write a separate check for poinsettias.

Enclosed is my cash or check for a Christmas remembrance poinsettia(s):

of Poinsettias _____ Total Amount: \$ _____

(Please check ☒ one)

☐ Given In Loving Memory of:

☐ Given In Loving Honor of:



From: _____

Address: _____

Phone#: _____

I would like to leave my poinsettia to be delivered to another member of our community. ☐ Yes ☐ No

I will take my poinsettia home with me after worship on either Sunday Dec. 18th or Christmas Eve ☐ Yes ☐ No

OUR VISION

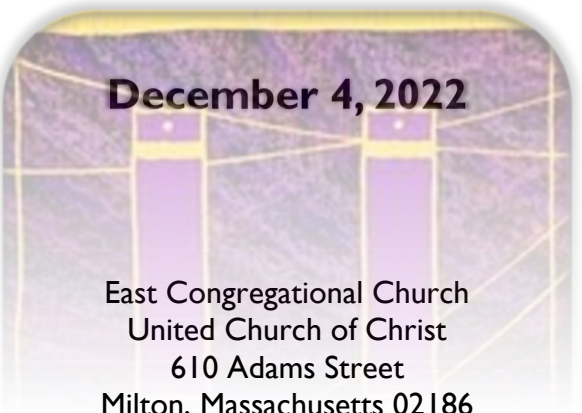
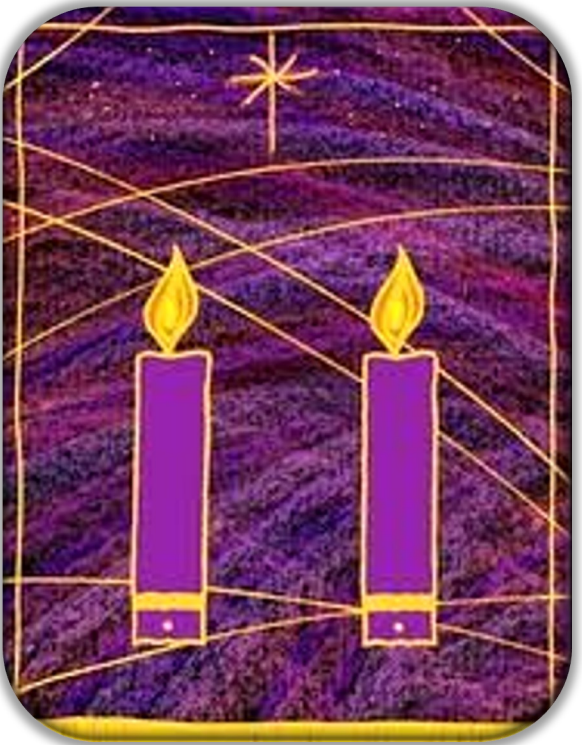
Drawn together the mystery of God and led by Christ, we will grow in the Spirit by engaging faith, embracing change, and seeking justice for all.

OUR MISSION

Building and serving community in Christ's name.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT COMMUNION SUNDAY



December 4, 2022

East Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
610 Adams Street
Milton, Massachusetts 02186
www.eastchurch.org

Rev. Shelly Davis, Pastor
Lynn Salmonsens, Organist and Choir Director

The (*) is an invitation to rise in body or spirit as you are able.
For Prayers and Responses in **BOLD** we lift our voices in unison.

THOUGHT FOR REFLECTION

“How come we play war and not peace?”

"Too few role models.”

—Bill Watterson, retired American cartoonist and author of the comic strip
Calvin and Hobbes, syndicated from 1985 to 1995.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE *Once He Came in Blessing* Burkhardt

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: ○ Root of Jesse, come and save us.

○ Wolf-tamer and Leopard-gentler:

ALL: come and touch us tenderly.

One: ○ Sower of the field where cow and bear graze,
where calf and cub play together:

**ALL: come and teach us to love,
even to love our enemies.**

One: ○ Lover of serpents and children:

**ALL: come and draw the poison out of our family
relationships.**

One: ○ One of countless prayers,
who names us naming you:

ALL: come and *in-spirit us*:

One: against hurt and destroying

ALL: in counsel and might,

One: for wisdom and understanding,

ALL: through fear and delight.

One: Come *in-spirit us*, Holy One,

ALL: as we worship you in hope and peace.

[adapted from *An Improbable Gift of Blessing*, Tirabassi & Grant,
Cleveland: United Church Press, 1998, pp. 8-9]

*A SIGN OF UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

We stand and greet one another and offer signs of the peace of Christ,
through the Zoom chat and in our building.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

One: We are God’s gathered people.

**ALL: We come to this moment filled
with holy hope.**

One candle is lit for hope.

One: Our prayer is for justice to roll down
and peace to flow like a mighty river
around the world.

**ALL: We also pray that peace will find a home
in each human heart.**

One: The one whose birth we await with hope,
promises peace.

**ALL: The one who promises peace,
challenges us to live in and work for peace.**

One: May the light that still shines on our path
and in our hearts

ALL: breathe new peace into our lives.

One candle is lit for peace.

***HYMN** [O Come, O Come Emmanuel](#) Black 116
verses 1 & 7

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of this table will be passed among us today.

*As the gluten-free bread is passed,
please take a piece and hold it until all have been served
so we may partake of it together as a sign of our oneness in the body of Christ.*

*As the cups of alcohol-free juice are passed,
please take one and drink of it as you receive it
as a reminder of our uniqueness, each one made in the divine image of our God.*

***HYMN** [Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence](#) Black 345
verses 1 & 2

We join our voices in song as our children and teachers depart for Sunday School.

THE GIFT OF GOD’S WORD

ANTHEM *Personent Hodie* Arr. Rutter

SCRIPTURE
[Isaiah 11:1-10](#) NRSV p.640 OT
[Matthew 3:1-12](#) NRSV p. 2 NT

SERMON Disturbing Pastor Shelly

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

WORDS OF GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY Mid-Winter Chilcott

***DOXOLOGY** (*praise to God*)
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

WE PRAY TOGETHER

SHARING OUR JOYS, SORROWS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Initially, in silence, we fill the Zoom chat and the green prayer
cards in our pew racks with our prayers.

The prayer cards will be collected in the building and those prayers
and the ones in the chat will be woven together for all to
share.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God is good. **All the time.**

All the time. **God is good.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR LORD’S PRAYER (*saying Debts and Debtors*)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*We have come to know God and the kingdom of God by many different names and images.
Please use the ones that speak from your heart today. (e.g. Father, Mother, Creator,
God...Kingdom, New Earth, New Realm, Kin-dom...)*

***HYMN** [Comfort, Comfort, O My People](#) Black 101

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *A Christmas Rondel* Callahan

ADVENT MUSIC SUNDAY DECEMBER 11, 2022

Our choir, under the direction
of Lynn Salmonsens, will offer a
collection of Advent and
Christmas anthems, duets, and
solos during our worship
service. Prepare to have your
hearts moved and lifted with song.



GIVE TO EAST CHURCH