

Order of Worship

Gathering Music

organist: Richard Bunbury

Welcome

Rev. Will Burhans

A Time of Silence

Prelude

Call to Worship

Ben Pulaski

One: As we gather to worship, hear the words of the poet Jan Richardson: "I cannot tell you how the light comes. What I know is that it is more ancient than imagining. That it travels across an astounding expanse to reach us. That it loves searching out what is hidden, what is lost, what is forgotten or in peril or in pain. That it has a fondness for the body, for finding its way toward flesh, for tracing the edges of form, for shining forth through the eye, the hand, the heart. I cannot tell you how the light comes, but that it does. That it will. That it works its way into the deepest dark that enfolds you, though it may seem long ages in coming or arrive in a shape you did not foresee. And so may we on this day turn ourselves toward it. May we lift our faces to let it find us. May we bend our bodies to follow the arc it makes. May we open and open more and open still to the blessed light that comes."

All: **We open ourselves this morning to the light that has come!
Let us worship together.**

*Opening Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

PH #116

*Gathering Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (From Maren Tirabassi)

Kathleen Zagata

Emmanuel, God promised and God with us: give us peace as we need peace; give us courage to live in times without peace. Awaken us to the hope of your reign, but restrain us from the vain hopes in the dominions around us. Free us to claim our own welling-up joy, and sustain us when joy seems far. Lead us to service in your world; strengthen our feeble attempts to serve. Spirit of holiness and good tidings, we come through Advent and into Christmastide again and again we learn the meaning of the incarnation. Form and receive our words of praise, prayer, and prophecy, for we magnify your name and rejoice in your salvation in the Christmas moment and the journey of our years and lives. In Jesus' name we pray...

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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

A Time for the Young

Ben Pulaski

*Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

PH #129

Scripture

Luke 2:21-40

Liturgist: Fred Greene
NT pg. 59, LP NT pg. 51

Sermon

"A Light of Revelation"

Rev. Will Burhans

A Quiet Time for Reflection

Prayers of the People

Rev. Will Burhans

Offertory

Duet: Karen and Steve Lauterwasser

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above you heavenly host, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

NCH #780

*Closing Hymn

Away in a Manger

PH #137

Benediction

Rev. Will Burhans

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Postlude

Today's Worship Service

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Stephen Leahy and Timothy Beckett Jr., by the McCall-Taylors.

Meet Our Church

First Congregational Church in Winchester, UCC, An Open and Affirming Congregation

21 Church Street, Winchester, MA 01890

781-729-9180

www.fcc-winchester.org

facebook.com/fccwucc

instagram.com/firstchurchwinchester

twitter.com/fccwucc

We are a Christ-centered, nurturing community: growing in faith, serving in love, welcoming all with joy.

The Congregation, Ministers To The World

Rev. William Burhans, Lead Pastor

Rev. Judith B. Arnold, Associate Pastor

Ms. Kathleen Zagata, RN, MS, CS, Minister of Congregational Health & Wellness

Ms. Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Mr. Ben Pulaski, Minister of Faith Formation: Children & Youth

Ms. Sarah Marino, Office Manager

Mr. Tyler Campbell, Sexton

Mr. Ed Banzy, Building Manager

Mr. Bill Lewis, Custodian

Mr. Jeffrey Mead, Organist

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Orth, Pastoral Counselor (Affiliate)

December 30, 2018

First Sunday after Christmas

10:00 Worship Service

Welcome!

We are happy you have joined us today for worship. We hope that in the coming hour of quiet, song, prayer, sacred scripture, and communal gathering, you will awaken more fully to God's presence in your life and the world around us.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located down the stairs as you first enter the front doors of the church.

Accessibility

We now have an inductive hearing loop for those whose hearing aids have Telecoil (ask your audiologist). Listening devices are also available in the back. For our coffee hour in Chidley Hall, an elevator is located out the doors to the right of the front chancel area and down the hall. Please ask a greeter if you need assistance.

Childcare

Children are always welcome in the sanctuary! We appreciate the sounds of little ones among us. If you'd prefer, there are trained caregivers in our a nursery on the floor beneath the sanctuary. Ask a greeter if you need help finding it.

Family Room

There is also a comfortable room with water, sofas, chairs, carpet and a video link to the service for when you need more room to attend to your family. It is located just outside the doors to the right of the front chancel area.

Children (Stepping Stones) and Youth Church School

Classes for children and youth in pre-k through 12th grade are taught during worship. Families begin the worship service together in the sanctuary. Children are then invited to join us at the front (if they are comfortable) for the Time for the Young. Afterwards, their teachers lead them and the youth to their classrooms.

Get connected!

Please tell us about yourself and/or request a prayer by filling out a Welcome/Prayer Request Card found in each pew and place it in the offering plate when it passes. We look forward to getting to know you at Coffee Hour, held downstairs immediately following the service.

People for Whom We Are Praying ...

<u>Name</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
The Zimber and Moorman Families	For healing and peace
Beth Preston	For the loss of her husband Ted
Bruce Lauterwasser	For strength and healing during this current course of chemotherapy
Alice, friend of John Keeley	For strength
Barbara Hoekelman	Healing and comfort
Rachel, friend of Mike Redding	For healing from cancer

*Please let the Deacons or Ministry Team know
if you have someone to add or remove from this list.*

**Epiphany Celebration Sunday January 6th
Join the Wisemen in Searching for the Baby Jesus!**



Most people know that the Wise Men brought gifts to the Christ Child. What you might not know is that those gifts were given, not on Christmas Day, but on Epiphany. Epiphany is January 6th – the 12th day after Christmas. That’s right – the 12th day – 12 drummers drumming. We celebrate it beginning with a potluck dinner. There’s a special dessert with a secret about it. After dinner, three special Wise Ones lead the group through the darkened church building – guided by a few battery-powered candles – to locate the star over the baby in the manger. When we find the baby we, like the Wise Men before us, will worship him. Then, also like the Wise Men, we will continue our journey home – carrying with us a special instruction and a special blessing.

This is a great family event – kids love the search for the baby through the dark church. It’s also a way to express Christmas beyond the presents and the tree. The dinner is at 6:00 pm and we’re finished by 8:00 pm.

The Outdoor Church

On the 5th Sunday of the month (4 times a year), the First Congregational Church makes and brings sandwiches and other items to the Outdoor Church congregation in Cambridge. Our tradition is to make the sandwiches in the kitchen after worship on “our” Sunday using ingredients donated by the Congregation. Two to five members of the congregation volunteer to deliver the food and to spend a few hours with the clergy of the Outdoor Church following a route around Harvard and Central Squares offering food to those who are hungry. There are some people who are ongoing members of the Outdoor Church and some we will only see once or twice. Our next Sunday is TODAY –We are blessed to have enough walkers for this month (thank you Gallop family!). If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Loughlin at lisa3abp@aol.com.