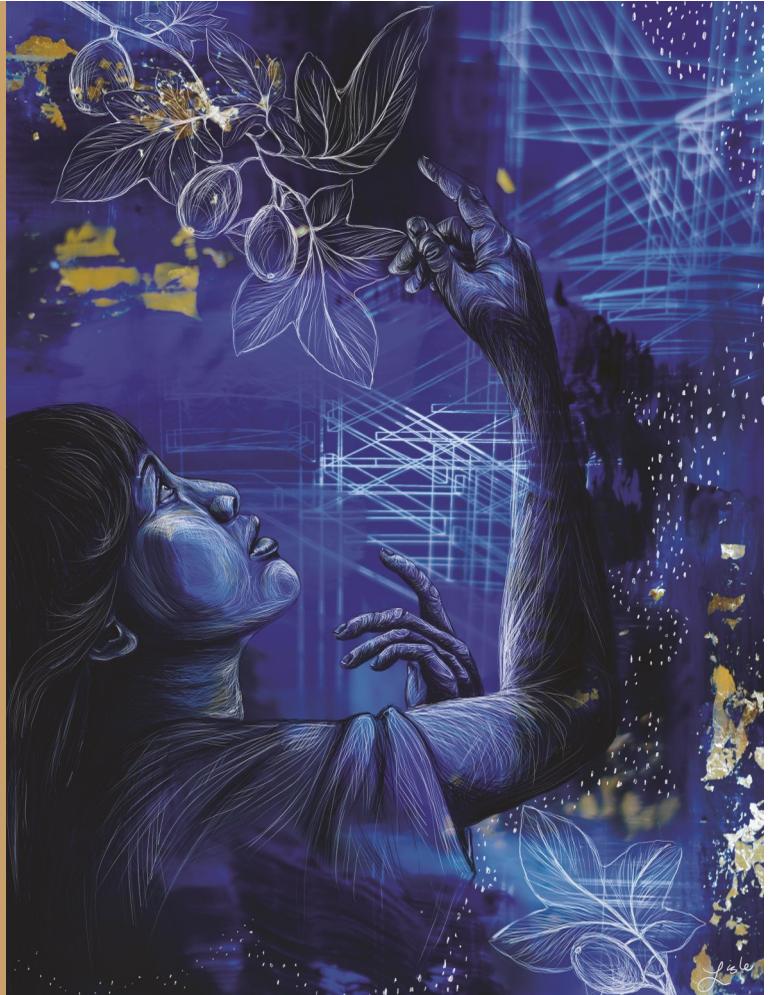


First Sunday of Advent



*We are an Open and
Affirming/Reconciling
Congregation
of the United Church of Christ
and the
United Methodist Church.*

*No matter who you are
or where you are
on your faith journey,
you are welcome
at the
Cotuit Federated Church!*



Sunday, November 28, 2021 | 10 o'clock in the morning

40 School Street | Post Office Box 436 | Cotuit, MA 02635
www.cotuitfederatedchurch.org | 508-428-6163

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life.

Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."

~Henri Nouwen

Awake To Wonder (COVER ART)

by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

It is peculiar that we begin Advent with adult Jesus offering us a prophecy and parable filled with fear and mystery. This particular scripture is within a longer section of Jesus describing the coming destruction of the temple. As we read these words now, this litany of fear and foreboding feels far too familiar—a bit too close to home.

I think we all share a collective homesickness. It feels like nostalgia. It looks like the trauma hiding in our past.

It can turn into foreboding fear that robs us of real joy. But in this image and in Jesus' words, I see a call to resilience despite the difficult realities that confront us. I see a longing so deep that it keeps us reaching for a home restored, for comfort renewed, for the fruit that is sure to come.

GUEST INFORMATION: Thank you for worshipping with us today! Pick up a welcome brochure to learn more about our church. Join us for coffee hour following today's worship — just follow the crowd to our community room (Bruce Hall). Both our sanctuary and community room are handicapped-accessible at the High Street entrance. Handicapped parking is available on High Street and in the driveway to Bruce Hall. Please ask a Greeter or Deacon to answer any questions.

FELLOWSHIP PADS: Whenever you have questions or comments, feel free to note them in the red fellowship pads available at each pew. Everyone — guests and regular attendees alike — are asked to sign the fellowship pads when passed during the Offering. If you are a first time visitor, please include your email or physical mailing address.

PRAYER CARDS: You will find prayer request cards at the Welcome Center and in the pew racks. You are invited to fill out a card and place it in the offering basket. If you want your request included in next Sunday's bulletin, please check the appropriate box.

OUR E-LIST: The "Weekly Word" is an e-mail newsletter for our members and friends. If you do not receive it and would like to, please complete the New Comer form available in the Welcome Packet, or call the Church Office at (508) 428-6163 or e-mail cfc436@gmail.com to sign up.

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to donate flowers on any given Sunday, please sign up on the Sign-Up Sheet or contact Shannon in the office— (508) 428-6163— with your dedication.

Please join us today for coffee and refreshments following the service.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 28, 2021 | 10 o'clock in the morning

WELCOME

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Passing of the Peace is the oldest part of the Christian liturgy and is a special way we welcome each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. At this time due to COVID, you are invited to participate by crossing your hands over your heart, waving or giving the sign of the peace.

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION

Cindy Kenna

One: Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

Many: We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.

One: Yes, we are homesick—

Many: for joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors, and for hospitals that run empty.

One: We are homesick for the world God promises.

Many: We are homesick, but we are on our way.

(Cont. on next page)

One: God is here. God is still creating.
Many: **Let us worship Holy God.
Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Hymnal #213

Please join in singing.

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Cindy Kenna

When you're a kid and you get homesick at a sleepover or a summer camp, you call home and your parents come and get you.

Sometimes, that's what love looks like. Love bails us out.

In the same way, when we call upon God to confess that we've messed up, or forgotten something, or overlooked the truth,

God answers with grace. God answers with love.

So let us confess today, knowing that nothing could keep God from loving us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Cindy Kenna

**All: Gracious God, We find ourselves with two options
every day—
to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to
allow cynicism to win.**

(Cont. on next page)

**Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?
Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible?
Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.
Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel
a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.
Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Angela Menke-Ballou

One: Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news:

All: **There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home.**

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Woodwind Ensemble

Dona Nobis Pacem-Traditional Canon

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Field Family

Mac: *Today we hope.*

Jessica: We hope for a world where all are fed.

Many: We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.

Jessica: We hope for a world with wide open doors.

Many: We hope for a world with contagious laughter.

Jessica: We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean.

Many: We hope for a world where all people feel at home-in their bodies, in the church, in their physical homes.

Jessica: We hope for that world.

Many: We long for that world.

Jessica: We are homesick for that world.

Mac: *We are homesick of that world.*

Jessica: So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.

Lighting of the Candle of Hope, while the congregation sings:

***For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth***

***its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.***

Jessica: May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

Mac: *We are close to home.*

**Many: We are close to home. May we carry hope with us.
Amen.**

(Young children are dismissed to Bruce Hall)

HYMN

Hymn #202

Please join in singing.

People, Look East

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HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

Rev. Angela Menke-Ballou

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

GOSPEL LESSON

Cindy Kenna

Luke 21: 25-36

SERMON

Rev. Angela Menke-Ballou

Homesick

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Prayer in Song

*Make of my heart a stable, a house for the Holy
A warm and sturdy place for hope to live and grow.*

*Make of my life a stable, a house for the Holy
A warm and sturdy place for hope to live and grow.*

*Make of our church a stable, a house for the Holy
A warm and sturdy place for hope to live and grow.*

Gathering of the Prayers

Prayer in Song

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 in Song

OFFERTORY

Rev Angela Menke-Ballou

Invitation to Offering

Bringing our Pledges and Gifts Forward

*Doxology:

*Praise God from whom all blessing flow,
Praise God all creature here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

*Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #216

Please join in singing.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Bloom

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BENEDICTION

Rev Angela Menke Ballou

Liturgy and Prayers by Spill the Beans

TODAY'S SERVERS

Ministers: *All the People of Cotuit Federated Church*
Pastor: *Rev. Angela Menke Ballou* | Director of Music: *Megan Anthony*
Deacon for November: *Gary Potter* | Lay Reader: *Cindy Kenna*
Greeters: *TBA*
Director of Christian Education: *Lynne Belfiore*
Admin. Assistant for Ministry: *Shannon Boon* | Sexton: *Mark Eames*

Thank you to all who served today!

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

- Sunday School will meet in Bruce Hall following the Children's Moment
- Join us after service for coffee and refreshments.
- **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS** will be available for pickup in Bruce Hall following service.

Look for more information in the Weekly Word or in future bulletins.

****See back page for this week's Calendar.**

NAME TAGS:

When you are in the building, please make sure to wear your name tag (especially to Coffee Hour!). Baskets are available to collect them when you are leaving. Name Tags are in cabinet alphabetically by last name. There is a sheet for those who are new and didn't get one or for name changes.

*Church Office 508-428-6163 or
cfc436@gmail.com.*

ALL CHURCH BUDGET MEETING:

Sunday, December 5 after the 10 a.m. service. Please join us for an All-Church Budget Meeting presented by our Treasurer, Ellen Wakefield and the Admin. Team.

**A zoom link will be provided for those who are unable to meet in person. See the Weekly Word for this link.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIRACLE KITCHEN & FAITH FAMILY KITCHEN:

Thursday, December 9th:

The Salvation Army (100 North Street, Hyannis) is back up and running. Miracle Kitchen food will be prepared there. The Faith Family Kitchen is also back and is the third Wednesday of the month 4:30 -7 p.m. For more information about volunteering for either of these wonderful programs, contact Ken Molloy at kmacape@comcast.net.

SMALL GROUP BOOK STUDY:

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Beginning October 5 through December 7 (**no class on 11/9 or 11/23**). An eight week, small group book study on the ancient, time-tested practice of praying the Scriptures. Books available in Bruce Hall for \$10. Look for ZOOM link in the Weekly Word e-mail.

DINNER CLUB:

Friday, December 10th, 6p.m., hosted by Linda Sullivan and Peter and Ginny Farwell, at the **Clubhouse at Cotuit Bay Condos**, located on Riverview Ave., Cotuit. Bring a dish to share and BYOB.

RSVP to pfvf@comcast.net or linda.sullivan@usa.net

Guest sign up sheet can be found on church bulletin board!

CHRISTMAS IN COTUIT*:

Saturday, December 4th:

CFC Women's Holiday Basket Sale- 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Small Works Art Show- 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cookies and hot chocolate at Bruce Hall 4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

*Please see additional information in the Weekly Word and Cotuit Currents Newsletter available at cotuitcivicassociation.org

COOKIE MAKERS-Please drop off you cookies for Christmas in Cotuit on Friday, December 3rd. There is a signup sheet on church bulletin board for serving during the Cookies and Hot Chocolate Hour at Bruce Hall. Volunteers are needed for setup, serving and clean up crews.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!

CALENDAR

MONDAY, November 29

Church Office Open	9:30 –2:30
Nursery School	9 a.m.—noon
Chair Yoga (Bruce Hall)	9 a.m.
AA (Bruce Hall)	6:30 —7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, November 30

Church Office Open	9: 30 -2:30
Cotuit Nursery School	9 a.m.—noon
Miracle Kitchen	10 a.m.
Bible Study	6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, December 1

Church Office Open	9:30—2:30
Cotuit Nursery School	9 a.m.—noon
Prayer Circle	9 a.m.
AA Women's Group—POT LUCK	6—8 p.m.

THURSDAY, December 2

Church Office Open	9:30—2:30
Equipping Team	10 a.m.
Cotuit Nursery School	9 a.m.—noon
Bell Choir	6 p.m.

FRIDAY, December 3

Church Office Open	9:30—2:30
Cotuit Nursery School	9 a.m.—noon
AA Meeting	7 p.m.

SATURDAY, December 4

CHRISTMAS IN COTUIT

Small Works Art Show	10-3 p.m.
CFC Holiday Basket Sale	10-2 p.m.
Cookies & Hot Cocoa at Bruce Hall	4-5 p.m.

SUNDAY, December 5

2nd Sunday of Advent & Communion Sunday

Worship	10 a.m.
Sunday School	10:15 a.m.

REMINDER: If you holding a meeting at Cotuit Federated Church, please let the office know so we can avoid scheduling conflicts. Thank you in advance for your help!

For more events,

www.cotuitfederatedchurch.org