

Second 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, December 5, 2021 | 10 o'clock in the morning

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

From the Artist Hannah Garrity
Berakah | Hannah Garrity

In this image, Zechariah holds his baby boy. He speaks a blessing, a berakah.⁸

For his neighbors, he answers the question, "What then will this child become?" (v. 66). The intimate love of a father with his newborn son is captured in this pose. Patterns of water pour over John's little shirt. Zechariah sees what his son will become and begins to speak his future into being from the start. As dawn breaks over Zechariah's shoulder, his prophecy foretells God coming into the world—of light dawning in weary spaces.

Zechariah relents. God has made Her statement. He could not speak until he de-centered himself from the story. He gives the name that Elizabeth has been called to give. Zechariah's willingness to hear the call is the action in this moment. Traditionally, he would give his first born son his own name. His neighbors are shocked by the name he chooses to give, by the prophecy, by his being able to speak again. By removing his own personal and family legacy from the picture, he is truly able to give way to the greater narrative that God is calling him to participate in. This is an incredible moment of humility. As I created this image, I asked God's help in identifying where I can step out of the way to forward Her vision for this weary world. She knows. Her work is greater than my legacy.

Berakah is the Jewish prayer of blessing expressing gratitude and praise to God.

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 attenders 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, December 5, 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.

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION

Cindy Kenna

One: If life was a home, then we would pray—

Many: may love be the foundation.

May God be the cornerstone.

**May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in. And
may hope be the walls—holding us together.**

One: In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

**Many: We may not know the path ahead, but God is here,
even now.**

One: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

Many: Let us worship Holy God. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Hymnal #211

Please join in singing.

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Verses 1, 4-7)**

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jamison: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives,
we gather together around the candle of peace.

Janet: *The home we long for is a home that knows peace:*

Valerie: *peace that rests between us and our grief,*

Jamison: *peace around our anxiety,*

Janet: *peace between us and our self-criticism,*

Valerie: *peace amidst our relationships,*

Jamison: *peace at the core of our being,*

Janet: *peace hovering through and in our world.*

Valerie: *The home we long for is a home that knows peace.*

Jamison: *So today we light the candle of peace—as a
reminder and as a prayer.*

Lighting of the Candles of Hope & Peace, while the congregation sings:

(Continued to next page)

**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.**

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

Valerie: We are close to home.

Jamison: We are close to home.

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

(Young children are dismissed to Bruce Hall)

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 peace to live and grow.*

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

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

Gathering of the Prayers

Prayer in Song

OFFERTORY

Rev Angela Menke-Ballou

Invitation to Offering

Bringing our Pledges and Gifts Forward

*Doxology:

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mike O'Toole

A Life I Never Had

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HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

Rev. Angela Menke-Ballou

Ezekiel 37:1-14

GOSPEL LESSON

Cindy Kenna

Luke 1:57-80

SERMON

Rev. Angela Menke-Ballou

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Hymn of Preparation

The Lord's Prayer [TFWS # 2278]

*Invitation

*Prayer of Consecration

*Words of Institution

*Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #545

Please join in singing.

The Church's One Foundation

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BENEDICTION

Rev Angela Menke Ballou

POSTLUDE

Liturgy and Prayer by Spill the Beans

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

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:

****DATE CHANGE****

SATURDAY, December 11th, 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 PAGEANT REHEARSALS:

Sundays, December 5th and December 12th

Children please come to Bruce Hall upon arrival.

2021 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES:

Sunday, December 19th, will be the due date for 2021 Pledge Contributions. Interim statements showing pledge balances are available upon request.

Thank you!!

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.

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.

CALENDAR

MONDAY, December 6

Church Office Open	9:30 –2:30
Nursery School	9 a.m.—noon
Chair Yoga (Bruce Hall)	9 a.m.
Meditation	10 a.m.
AA (Bruce Hall)	6:30 —7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, December 7

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

WEDNESDAY, December 8

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

THURSDAY, December 9

Church Office Open	9:30—2:30
Miracle Kitchen	9 a.m.
Equipping Team	10 a.m.
Cotuit Nursery School	9 a.m.—noon
Bell Choir	6 p.m.
Cotuit Kettleers (Bruce Hall)	6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, December 10

Church Office Open	9:30—1:30 p.m.
Cotuit Nursery School	9 a.m.—noon
AA Meeting	7 p.m.

SATURDAY, December 11

CFC DINNER CLUB

Cotuit Condos Clubhouse	6:00 p.m.
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SUNDAY, December 12

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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