



Angel Tree - We'll be gathering gifts for The Christmas Shop and Coat Boston. Please see centre-church.org for Angel Tree gift suggestions.

Worship Notes.

Music licenses: One License with license #A-733437, and CCLI License #A-2267261 and Streaming #CSPL169342, Size A

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer St. Lynnfield MA 01940
781-334-3050 www.Centre-Church.org
We Welcome Everyone: An Open and Affirming Church

Rev Thomas Bentley, Pastor
Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School
Alison O'Connor, Church Administrator



“Time to Dig
Up the Buried
Treasure”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

November 19, 2023

10:00 am

Prelude

We Gather Together

Arr. Bradshaw

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Scott Barke

Leader: The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

People: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.

Leader: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

People: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.

Leader: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

Leader & People: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. AMEN.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Scott Barke

Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with your love. You called us from slavery into witness and service. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you. Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts with which you have blessed us in your service. For we offer this prayer in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

*OPENING HYMN

"You Walk Along Our Shoreline"

#504

The graphic features a background of a Christmas tree with warm, glowing bokeh lights. At the top center is the Centre Church logo, which includes a stylized church steeple icon and the text "CENTRE CHURCH". Below the logo, the title "Advent and Christmas at Centre Church" is written in a white, elegant cursive font. The graphic is divided into three main sections by semi-transparent grey rounded rectangles. The top-left section is titled "Sundays" and lists four Advent weeks with their respective themes and activities. The top-right section is titled "Wednesdays" and lists the dates and time for the Advent Journey sessions. The bottom section is titled "Christmas Eve" and provides details for the evening and morning services on December 24th and 25th.

CENTRE CHURCH

*Advent and Christmas at
Centre Church*

Sundays

WORSHIP AT 10 AM
IN PERSON AND LIVESTREAM

12/3 First Advent~Cleaned up for Jesus
Decorate Our Angel Tree after worship

12/10 Second Advent~Looking Towards
the End

12/17 Third Advent~The Thunder of Joy

12/24 Fourth Advent~ Love and the
Birth of Jesus

Wednesdays

11/29, 12/6, 12/13 & 12/20
7 -8 PM

Advent Journey session with
Pastor Tom in the Pastor's
lounge.
All are welcome!!

Christmas Eve

Sunday, 12/24

NO MORNING WORSHIP

5:00 pm, Worship for all ages
Candles, Lessons, and Carols
Sanctuary and Livestream

11:00 pm, Worship
Candles, Lessons and Carols
Chapel

Monday, 12/25
MERRY CHRISTMAS
*** NO WORSHIP ***

Welcome to an Advent Journey in Spirit and Love

hosted at Centre Church, 5 Summer St.
Lynnfield MA - Phone: (781) 334-3050

**First Session: Wednesday November 29 at
7:00 PM in the lounge adjacent to the Pastor's
Office.**

In our one-hour sessions we
will discover the ancient
practice of Lectio Divina
where we read aloud short
passages and then spend
time in quiet reflection
followed by a time of sharing.

On the Wednesday
evenings from November
29th to December 20th
we will discover how
Divine Love can help us
quell our inner noise. In
that place of peace we
can prepare our hearts
for the Joy of Christmas.



New Testament Reading

Scott Barke

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 NRSV

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

Fill Your Hearts With Joy

Quartel

Tune: Old 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Living God, whom we adore

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

THE LORDS PRAYER (in unison)

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

ANTHEM

What Gift Can We Bring

Marshall

GOSPEL READING

Scott Barke

Matthew 25:14-30 The Message

“It’s also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master’s investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master’s money.

“After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’

“The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master’s investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’

“The servant given one thousand said, ‘Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.’

“The master was furious. ‘That’s a terrible way to live! It’s criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.

“Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this “play-it-safe” who won’t go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness.’

MESSAGE

“Time to Dig Up the Buried Treasure”

Rev. Tom Bentley

CLOSING HYMN

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

#502

BENEDICTION

Rev. Tom Bentley

POSTLUDE

Triumph and Thanksgiving

Ritter



Our ushers this morning are Kathi Martin & Margaret Waugh

The flowers on the altar today are given in loving memory of
Craig S. Richard and Albert (Skip) White by
The DiFillippo and Richard families.

Our coffee fellowship hosts this morning are
Linda Ladd & The Social Action and Mission Team

