



**Worship Notes.**

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**“Cleaned Up  
For  
Jesus”**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*Rev. Thomas Bentley*

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

United Church of Christ  
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

**December 3, 2023**

**10:00 am**

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
United Church of Christ  
5 Summer St. Lynnfield MA 01940  
781-334-3050 [www.Centre-Church.org](http://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

**Prelude**  
*Song Of The Watchman*

Grieg Arr. Blake

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**Jeff Langill**

Leader: The days are coming:

**ALL: When God’s promises are fulfilled.**

Leader: The days are coming:

**All: When God leads us on paths of righteousness.**

Leader: The days are surely coming:

**All: When the kingdom of God draws near.**

Leader: Let us worship our God of possibilities and hope. God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Jeff Langill**

**God of love and mercy, we thank you for your loving presence in our lives. You have formed us in your image and you continue to transform us as we grow in faith. Break through the darkness in our lives and let the light of your love flood in, that we may become more productive disciples of Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**Social and Environment Team**

Leader: We light this first candle, beginning with hope—the hope that God holds for a new world:

**People: God’s gift of hope, that persists to bring forth life.**

Leader: God’s gift of hope, that protests the way the priorities of the world discounts people.

**All: God’s gift of hope that names all as beloved and beautiful children, that comes to be with us.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

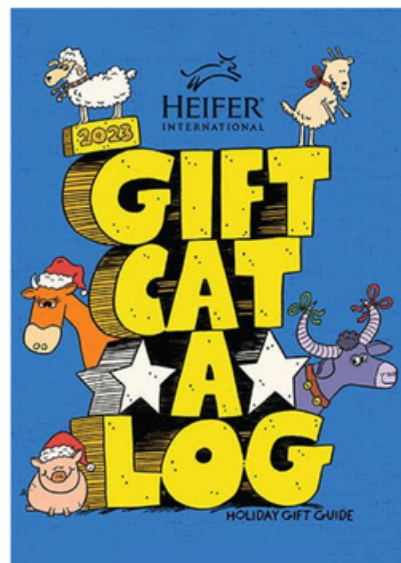
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\*Stand as you are able





Shopping cards to donate, gift or use, can be ordered through the church on Friday Dec 1 for delivery before we bless the Angel Tree gifts, and again on Dec 8 for delivery before Christmas. All cards purchased as donations to The Angel Tree will be MATCHED with a donation from our Missions budget as well. Please see Linda Ladd or our website for more information.



**Heifer International Living Gift Market  
Dec 17 after worship**

**Buy crafts and honor loved ones  
with donations to Heifer**

**New 2023 honor cards!**



**Children's Time**

**New Testament Reading**

**Jeff Langill**

**1 Corinthians 1:1-9 *The Message***

I, Paul, have been called and sent by Jesus, the Messiah, according to God's plan, along with my friend Sosthenes. I send this letter to you in God's church at Corinth, believers cleaned up by Jesus and set apart for a God-filled life. I include in my greeting all who call out to Jesus, wherever they live. He's their Master as well as ours!

May all the gifts and benefits that come from God our Father, and the Master, Jesus Christ, be yours.

Every time I think of you—and I think of you often!—I thank God for your lives of free and open access to God, given by Jesus. There's no end to what has happened in you—it's beyond speech, beyond knowledge. The evidence of Christ has been clearly verified in your lives.

Just think—you don't need a thing, you've got it all! All God's gifts are right in front of you as you wait expectantly for our Master Jesus to arrive on the scene for the Finale. And not only that, but God himself is right alongside to keep you steady and on track until things are all wrapped up by Jesus. God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. He will never give up on you. Never forget that.

**Call to Offering**

**\*Offertory**

***An Advent Credo***

**Martin**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's 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**

*An Advent Prayer*

Pote

**Gospel Reading**

Mark 13:24-37

The Message

Jeff Langill

“Following those hard times,

Sun will fade out, moon cloud over,

Stars fall out of the sky, cosmic powers tremble.

“And then they’ll see the Son of Man enter in grand style, his Arrival filling the sky—no one will miss it! He’ll dispatch the angels; they will pull in the chosen from the four winds, from pole to pole.

“Take a lesson from the fig tree. From the moment you notice its buds form, the merest hint of green, you know summer’s just around the corner. And so it is with you. When you see all these things, you know he is at the door. Don’t take this lightly. I’m not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too—these things will happen. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won’t wear out.

“But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven’s angels, not even the Son. Only the Father. So keep a sharp lookout, for you don’t know the timetable. It’s like a man who takes a trip, leaving home and putting his servants in charge, each assigned a task, and commanding the gatekeeper to stand watch. So, stay at your post, watching. You have no idea when the homeowner is returning, whether evening, midnight, cockcrow, or morning. You don’t want him showing up unannounced, with you asleep on the job. I say it to you, and I’m saying it to all: Stay at your post. Keep watch.”

**Message**

“Cleaned Up for Jesus”

Rev. Tom Bentley

**\*Closing Hymn**

*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*”

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**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Lift Up Your Heads*

Paxton



Our ushers this morning are Steven Riley & Raden Sorli Hawk

The flowers on the altar this morning are in memory of Charles and Charlotte Kilgore, given by their family.

Our coffee fellowship hosts this morning are Nancy Lauzon, Annmarie Pendola & Janet Everson