

VILLAGE CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL † UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Christmas Eve 2024

Candlelight Service

10:00 PM

Welcome to Village Church!

We Are an Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ.

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on the journey of life and faith,
we are delighted you are here!*

Dear Christmas Eve Worshippers,

We extend to you this Christmas Eve a welcome as broad as the outstretched arms of God. Thank you for being here to experience the unfolding of God's love come to earth.

Tonight we experience the marvel and mystery of God-with-us, Emmanuel.

Lowly shepherds, merchant innkeepers, and a young girl with her betrothed first experienced that extraordinary gift. This holy story reveals that God desires to be at home among everyday people, including us.

We're glad that Village Church is your home for this holy night. We hope that anytime you are looking for a church home, you will feel welcome here. For more information or to connect with us, please scan the QR code in the pew.

May God bless you with hope, peace, joy, and love now and in the new year.

Merry Christmas!

*~ Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter, Sr. Pastor, on behalf of the members
and staff of Village Church*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

This evening all hymns are found in the **Red** Hymnal.

*Please stand as you are able.

*For families who wish to be together in a child-centered space,
the service is livestreamed into the Family Worship Room,
located just outside the Sanctuary through the exit on the piano side.*

PRELUDE “Good People All, This Christmas-Time” *arr. Robert Buckley Farlee*
Kristjon Imperio, Organ; Juie Verret, Oboe

INTROIT “Gabriel's Oboe” *Ennio Morricone*
Kristjon Imperio, organ; Julie Verret, Oboe

WELCOME AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Sarah Sarchet Butter

CALL TO WORSHIP “The Mighty Pilgrimage” *Rev. Pam Emslie*
by Christine Rodgers

***OPENING CAROL NO. 132** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADVENT PROPHECY AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Rev. Stacy Swain

Adapted from Isaiah 9:2-7

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.”

The Prince of Peace is born to us today. Alleluia!

Alleluia! The Promised One is born!

ANTHEM

“Will We Know Him?”
Youth and Alumni Choirs
Dr. Kevin McDonald, Conductor

Don Besig

FIRST LESSON

Luke 1:26-33

Rev. Carlos Aoun

The angel Gabriel tells Mary she will bear a son.

ANTHEM

“Infant Holy”
Youth and Alumni Choirs

Robert Leaf

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Megan Strouse

The birth of the babe in Bethlehem.

***CAROL NO. 140** “What Child is This, Who, Laid to Rest”

MEDITATION

“Love Language”

Rev. Sarah S. Butter

ANTHEM

“The Nativity Carol”
Youth and Alumni Choirs

Francis Patrick O'Brien

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

Luke Hargrave

An angel tells the shepherds of the birth.

***CAROL NO. 116**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Megan Strouse

**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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

Rev. Stacy Swain

The shepherds travel to the manger.

***CAROL NO. 141**

“The First Nowell” vv. 1 & 2

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Carlos Aoun

*We are grateful for your offerings to God in support of
the ministries of Village Church.
Checks made payable to Wellesley Congregational Church and placed
in the offering plate at the front or rear of the church.
You may donate online by scanning this QR code.
Thank you for your generosity.*



OFFERTORY

"Two Christmas Carols"
Trond Undheim, Guitar

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Rev. Sarah S. Butter

*Please pass the light carefully, keeping lit candles upright and
tipping unlit candles into the light.*

Proclamation

John 1:1-5, 9-14
The Light of the World

Anthem

"O Holy Night"
Youth and Alumni Choirs

Adolph Adam

Carol Medley (*remain seated*)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven a-far,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

Silent night, holy night! Son of God love's pure light. *(raise candles)*
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Moment of Dedication

*Please extinguish your candles when instructed
and leave candles in baskets as you exit.*

***RECESSIONAL CAROL NO. 120** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

***BENEDICTION**

MUSIC OFFERING “Come, Emmanuel” arr. Dr. Kevin J. McDonald
Youth and Alumni Choirs

POSTLUDE “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light” Christmas Oratorio
J.S. Bach
Kristjon Imperio, Organ

†††

*We wish you and yours a
Blessed and Merry Christmas!*

A CHRISTMAS AND YEAR-END GIVING MESSAGE FROM THE 2024 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Already in our fourth week of Advent, today we are mindful of LOVE. During this beautiful and important Advent season, let us pause to give thanks for the fellowship and values of hope, peace, joy and love we experience at Village Church.

With an eye toward the fiscal year-end, December 31, 2024, we ask you to consider the importance and calling of our Stewardship purpose. Just as God's many gifts provide for us, our gifts combine to sustain our church and fulfill our mission.

If you have not yet given or pledged this year, we hope you will feel called to do so before the 2024 year ends. Thank you to those whose generous gifts have brought us close to our budgeted goal. **If you love and appreciate this church, we hope you will prayerfully consider an extra gift to help close our budget gap.** The gap is now approximately \$150,000.

There are many ways to participate in stewardship at Village Church:

Credit Card or ACH Bank Transfer – Go to wellesleyvillagechurch.org or use QR code on page 4 of this bulletin.

Check - Leave a check in the offering plate or mail to church office.

Donor Advised Fund –

Please direct gift to Wellesley Congregational Church (our legal name).

Stock – Please contact accountant@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

If you have any questions or would like to chat with a member of the Stewardship Committee, please do not hesitate to let us know.

With gratitude for the many gifts you share with Village Church and the ways you make love real.

Your 2024 Stewardship Committee ~

Cynthia Sibold, Carolyn Wood, Ted Bililies, Kim Fox, Huw Gilbert, Dix Leeson, Kathy McGraw Bentley, David Oliver, Charles Peck, Rev. Sarah S. Butter

HOLIDAY CHURCH AND OFFICE HOURS

December 25

Church closed in observance of Christmas

December 26 & 27

Church driveway inaccessible due to geothermal well drilling work being done

January 1

Church offices closed in observance of New Year's Day

WORSHIP

December 29

One 10:00 AM Carol Sing Service-
Wellesley Sanctuary & on livestream

Sunday, January 5, 2025 - Full Schedule Resumes

Wellesley

9:00 AM Chapel Worship

10:00 AM Sanctuary Worship

- Children's Church
- Middle School Youth Group

7:00 PM High School Youth Group

Weston

5:00 PM Weston Service

FOR UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES, VISIT OUR WEBSITE

wellesleyvillagechurch.org



VILLAGE CHURCH MISSION

With open hearts and minds, Village Church welcomes the curious, the seeker, and the sure at every stage of life. Guided by the love of Jesus, our growing congregation shares in inspiring worship, inclusive community, and intentional service. We are continually transformed by following Jesus' example that in giving we receive, in feeding we are fed, and in loving, we are loved. Our intergenerational ministries deepen our faith and compel our service. Together we are called to pursue justice and joy for all people and to care passionately about God's creation and the shared health of our world. Energized by the Holy Spirit, we joyfully live into our future together.

VILLAGE CHURCH IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

At Village Church in Wellesley & Weston, we believe in a vision for God's Beloved Community where all people are welcomed and enthusiastically affirmed, as well as honored and celebrated as made in God's holy image. This intentional inclusivity welcomes people of all races, sexual orientations, gender identities/expressions, abilities, family dynamics and configurations, and so much more. We recognize that our world and our church community do not always live into this vision, and yet as a church, we are continually working to widen our welcome and witness. If you have suggestions for how we can better welcome you and those you love, please reach out to Megan Strouse at: meganS@wellesleyvillagechurch.org.

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter ~ Senior Pastor

Associate Pastors

The Rev. Pam Emslie
The Rev. Stacy Swain

Pastoral Residents

Megan Strouse
Rev. Carlos Aoun

Ministry Directors

Michaela McDonald – Children’s Ministry
Dr. Kevin McDonald – Music Director, Dir. of Youth Music
Kristjon Imperio, Dir. of Worship & Organist
Jade Hargrave – Dir. of Confirmation and Middle School YG

Support Staff

Meg Sweeting – Church Administrator
Christine Toppin – Communication, Worship Support
Gerardo Ortiz - Sexton
Gladys Murillo – Sexton

Livestream Team

Christine Toppin, Santa Wiryaman, Gavin Lordi and Peter Less

All music and words in this bulletin are reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net, OneLicense.net,
License #A-714276
and by CCLI, License #2910233.
CCLI Streaming License #20812468.



VILLAGE CHURCH

Congregational • United Church of Christ

Wellesley + Weston



2 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02482
Office: 781-235-1988
office@wellesleyvillagechurch.org
Urgent Pastoral Care Cell: 781-591-7451
wellesleyvillagechurch.org

