

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping with us today. Large print bulletins and personal listening devices are available at the back of the Sanctuary or from an Usher. If your baby or child(ren) become a little restless during worship, feel free to walk with them in the back of the Sanctuary or use the rocker by the right-side exit door. Children (PreK-7th grade) go to Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall after the Children's Sermon. Feel free to approach an Usher or the Pastor with any questions.

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PRELUDE	<i>Largo from "Xerxes"</i>	— G. F. Handel
	<i>Prayer op.48, no. 1</i>	— L. van Beethoven
INTROIT	<i>God Reveal Your Presence</i>	— J. Neander

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us go together to God's mountain - a mountain of glory and peace.

People: Let us prepare for Christ's arrival, the birth of the prince of peace.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Spirit of Love.

People: Clothed in Christ's love, we are ready to worship and pray.

Leader: In this spirit, let us worship the Lord together.

*HYMN #124	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>
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*UNISON OPENING PRAYER

God of Glory, we know that you are coming at an unexpected time. Come to us now, in spirit and in truth. Take us up into your presence and make us ready for your reign of peace, through Jesus Christ, we pray, saying together. . .

*PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR *(unison, debtors)*

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.

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

(As a sign of reconciliation with God and each other, you are invited to share the peace of Christ with those closest to you.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING <i>(Insert)</i>	The Platt Family
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CHORAL ANTHEM	<i>He Will Come</i>	— P. Liebergen
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CHILDREN'S SERMON

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

SCRIPTURE READING (p. 806, Pew Bible)

Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON

Keep Watch

The Rev. Dr. Priscilla Lawrence

OFFERING OF PRAYERS

SONG OF PREPARATION

In The Stillness

— E. Tompkins

In the stillness, Savior, draw me near. In the stillness, teach my heart to hear.

*Like a little child I come to Thee, and pray that in the stillness I may rest in Thee;
and know that in the stillness You will speak to me.*

LIFTING NAMES INTO GOD'S LIGHT

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

Amen

— Denmark

SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC & PASSING THE PLATE

*THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We may not know the time of your coming, but we know that it is time to wake from sleep and put on the armor of light. In gratefulness for calling us as your own, we offer you our thanks and praise. Receive the gifts of our hands, and use them to bring light to the darkness and hope to places of despair, through your Son, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

*HYMN #128

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

**BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE

God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again

— R. V. Williams

POSTLUDE

Fantasy on "Holy Manna"

— arr. J. Carter

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

***Following the Benediction, you may depart immediately or remain seated to listen to the Postlude.*

Thank you for serving today: Nancy Thornton (Greeter), Andrea McDonough (Usher)
Doris Barreiro (Reader)

Offering Note: Pledge offerings and donations can be given in the passed plate, or scan the QR code on the back of this bulletin to give online. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of our congregation. **Ministry of Fellowship:** Welcome to all who are joining us this morning. We're glad to have you sharing in our celebration of worship. Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship for refreshments and conversation. **Altar Flowers:** If you know someone who might like to receive the altar flowers after worship, please speak to a Deacon.

Welcome Guests and Newer Folks

Our church family is made up of people from all walks of life and from every point along the spiritual journey. No matter who you are, what you believe, or even if you aren't sure what you believe, you are welcome here in this place. We are not a church that tries to get everyone to think alike, but we do encourage and teach people to love alike. If you would like to stay up with what happens around here, we encourage you to sign up for our weekly Union Digest email that comes straight to your email inbox each Friday. There you will find worship recordings, devotional videos, seasonal reflections, upcoming events and opportunities, and other materials to support you in your journey of faith. Feel free to sign a guest card and place it in the offering plate, sign up on our website www.uccgroton.net, or email the office at unioncc@uccgroton.org.

Our Ongoing Prayer List:

Family of Bruce Wyman	Joe Marchesani	The Carey Family
Edie Tompkins	Settled Pastor Search Committee	John Greene
Janice Owen	Abby Winkler	Billy Smith
Barbara Gale	Gemma Sampas	Rachel Elliott
Nick Coppola	Don Landry	Family of Ellen Hargraves
Halsey Platt	Family of William Shute	Friends of Sheila Mitchell
Family of Michael Janiszewski	Chris Brown	Family of Rev. Vicki Hammel
Family of John Murphy	Family of Rev. Skip Lloyd	David Stewart
Sarah Reiff	Linda Smith Johnson	

We have updated and refreshed our prayer list. If there is a name you would like to add or remove, or if we have removed someone erroneously, please contact the Church Office (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org).

Need prayer and need it now? Simply email prayer@uccgroton.org and your request will go to the confidential pray-ers; or the Church Office (978-448-2091) and we will put your prayer request in motion for you. Prayer requests are held in confidence among those who are praying for you, and you may request that your name be withheld.



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