

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 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 *Come Thou Font of Every Blessing* — arr. Brad Nix

INTROIT *Prepare the Way O Zion* — Then Swenska Psalmboken

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come once more, with eager longing, to receive the promises of God.

People: Out of the desert places of our lives, we gather with joy and gladness.

Leader: Come expectantly, with your questions.

People: Bring to this place all your hopes and dreams.

Leader: Out of our weaknesses and fears, we assemble to gain new strength and courage.

People: Come to behold the majesty of God.

Leader: Draw near to God's holy way.

People: Let us worship!

*HYMN #123 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*UNISON OPENING PRAYER

Today, O God, we are united together in your presence, in the fellowship of your Son, Jesus. Although we come from many different places and come with many different needs, we know that you will pour out your blessing so that, as we leave, we may leave with the consciousness that we have met you here today. For this we praise you, saying now, 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 *(Insert)*

Edie Tompkins

CHORAL ANTHEM

Advent Carol

— D. Besig

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON (*following this sermon, children proceed to Fellowship Hall*)

SCRIPTURE READING (p. 862, Pew Bible)

John 1:1-18

SERMON

Walk as Children of Light

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

— Mendelsohn

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

Your abundance and grace have blessed us beyond measuring, Gracious God. As you have blessed us, may we now be a blessing to others through our giving, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION REFRAIN #274 (*v.1 only*) *Break Thou the Bread of Life*

Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me, as Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea.

Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord, My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word.

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

(Note: we use gluten free bread and grape juice, so all can join at Christ's table.)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you and bless you for being born as one of us, then coming again to give your spiritual presence to us in this supper. Let your Spirit with us become our preparation to celebrate your birth. By your power help us to live out gratitude by serving others in whom you are born. Amen.

*HYMN #8 (Blue Book) *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

**BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE *Lord, Let Us Now Depart in Peace*

— G. Whelpton

POSTLUDE

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

— arr. P. Keverin

**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),
Steve Legge (Reader)

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:

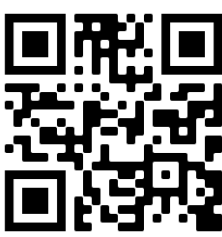
Family of Bruce Wyman	Joe Marchesani	The Carey Family
Edie Tompkins	Settled Pastor Search Committee	John Greene
Janice Owen	Abby Winkler	Billy Smith
Barbara Gale	Gemma Sampas	Rachel Elliott
Nick Coppola	Don Landry	Family of Ellen Hargraves
Halsey Platt	Family of William Shute	Friends of Sheila Mitchell
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.



Give Online



Upcoming Events



Join Our Email List

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Light of Light

J. Raney

MUSICAL OPENING

The Choir sings:

Light, we humbly pray; shine in our hearts today. Dispel the gloom and dark of night; fill all the world with love and light. Voices cry out from a world in grief: prayers of those who seek relief. End their darkness, hear their call for peace on earth, good will for all.

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: Advent is a time to turn away from meaningless distractions.

People: Prince of Peace, clear our minds and calm our hearts.

Leader: Advent is a time to notice and count our many blessings.

People: Prince of Peace, help us recognize all that is good in our lives.

Leader: Advent is a time to let go of bitterness and resentment.

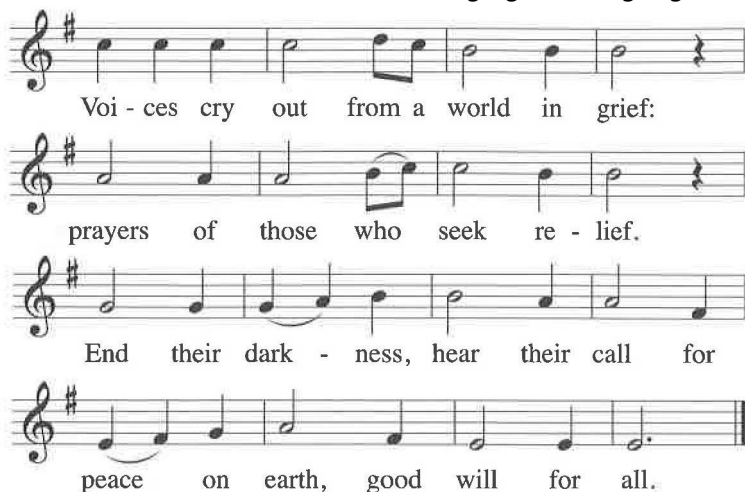
People: Prince of Peace, make us slow to anger and quick to forgive.

Leader: Advent is a time to spread peace to the world around us.

People: Prince of Peace, open our eyes to the needs of others.

CANDLE LIGHTING & PRAYER

MUSICAL RESPONSE (The Choir and Congregation sing together):



ANNOUNCEMENTS – December 7, 2025

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Poinsettia Orders

Help beautify the sanctuary for the season by donating a poinsettia!. Each plant will be \$12 and can be ordered by contacting the office at 978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org, or by visiting bit.ly/UCCPoinsettias2025 Hard copy order forms will be placed at the back of the sanctuary if needed. The plants will decorate the Sanctuary through the Advent season, and after Christmas you can take your plant home. Please place your order by Monday, December 8, 2024.

December Budget Meeting

The 2026 Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 14th, 2025 after worship in the Fellowship Hall. All members are invited to attend and vote to approve the 2026 Operating Budget.

From The Collector

The Donation statements were mailed to pledgers showing giving activity through the end of November. If you have any questions about your pledge or giving activity, please email Margaret Wheeler at collector@uccgroton.org.

Christmas Caroling

Middle school youth and families are welcome to join us for a day of cooking and caroling. Saturday December 13th..meet at UCC at 11am to bake cookies. Head to Nashoba Parks at 130 for 2pm Caroling.

See Kristin Colbert or Katie Leonard with Questions.

The Tewksbury Hospital Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who has picked up a tag to give to the Tewksbury Hospital Giving tree each year! This year, there will be tags for physical gifts, which can be purchased and returned (unwrapped, with the tag attached) to the box in the Fellowship Hall. Alternatively, there will be a box on the Giving Tree table to collect cash, which will be used to purchase gift cards for patients who requested that. The deadline for returning the gifts is December 14, such that we can wrap and I can get them to the hospital by Christmas. Thank you for all your giving and support of this effort over the years. Many of these patients have no family or friends involved in their lives outside of the hospital. Thanks again, Cassie

Altar Flowers

For the months of December 2025, January and February 2026, Country Florist will be unable to provide UCC Groton with our usual bouquet for Sunday worship. The Deacons have ordered two new silk arrangements for use on the altar on any Sundays on which there are no fresh flowers.

If you are interested in providing a bouquet of fresh flowers for worship during the upcoming months, please sign up to schedule a date at uccgroton.net/signups You may pick up the bouquet at a florist or market of your choice and bring it to church by Sunday at 9:30 AM. Feel free to take the bouquet with you after worship. If you prefer, the Deacons will arrange to deliver the bouquet to someone who might enjoy some appreciation or love from their church family.

Chase Hertog Is Going to the USA Special Olympics!

Chase Hertog announced this past Sunday that he won the state championship for golf and is going to compete in the 2026 Special Olympics Games in Minnesota. He needs to raise some money to make that happen. If you would like to help him, you can contribute at <https://fundraise.specialolympicsma.org/campaigns/Chase-2026-golf->

In a Manger at St Andrews

St Andrews is delighted, once again, to open their doors for "In A Manger," their annual exhibit of nativity scenes from around the world. Join them on Saturday, December 13, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday, December 14, from Noon to 4:00 pm (*NOTE: new dates*), in the Parish Hall for one of our most beloved Advent parish traditions.