

## Welcome to Worship

**W**e believe that all people are blessed and loved equally by God. Following the teachings of Jesus we heartily welcome everyone into God's covenantal community. Whatever your race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic or marital status, variety of thoughts and beliefs, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression - whoever you are and wherever you come from you are welcome into the full life and ministry of our church.



## Third Sunday of Advent

*Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ*

**Order of Morning Worship    Advent 3    December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*We gather in worship this morning with joy and reverence in our hearts and a sincere welcome to all.  
Remember some will greet neighbors while others come quietly to prayerfully seek God.*

The service is being livestreamed to be watched online by those unable to join us in person.



## WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

ADVENT 3 – LOVE

Voice 1: The third Sunday of Advent is often celebrated as the Sunday of Love. We not only are called to love one another, but honor and remember God's perpetual love for us.

Voice 2: Love comes in many forms. In Isaiah, the prophet speaks of God's love for us through renewal; our own personal renewal and the renewal of the world around us.

Voice 1: Isaiah says that when God restores the world the blind will see, the deaf will hear, and the feeble will leap like the deer. Furthermore, rivers will sprout in the desert and travelers will have no fear of wild beasts.

Voice 2: Today we may feel weak, or infirm, or fearful of our lives. But in God's great love we will each be restored; perhaps in this life, but most certainly in the next!

*(Light the candle)*

\*HYMN NCH # 116 verses 1, 6-7

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

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

\*GLORIA

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Dale Azevedo

\*HYMN NCH # 128

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

*Children and teachers may depart for classes during the singing of this hymn.*

PRAYERS

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12

(New Testament p. 2)

REFLECTION

*Redemption and Men of the Bible*

Rev. Dale Azevedo

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY

CHORAL ANTHEM

*There's a Light A-Comin'*

Lantz

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

\*PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION

OUR COMMUNITY GOES OUT TO SERVE GOD

\*HYMN NCH # 131 verses 1-3

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Verse 4

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

POSTLUDE

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

*Please freely change the wording of any part of this service to more inclusive language.  
Our purpose is to worship God in wholeness.*

About our hymns: Those designated "PH" are from the *Pilgrim Hymnal* (blue);  
those designated "NCH" are from *The New Century Hymnal* (black).

Large Print Bulletins and Hearing Devices are available from the Ushers.



TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS:

One arrangement is given by Fiona Nicholson and family in loving memory of  
her father, Tony Mudd, as they remember his birthday.

The second arrangement is given by the Stoddard family in loving memory of  
Jonathan Converse.



The boxwood wreaths that grace our front doors and the live greens on the windowsills are made possible by your donations to the Chancel Fund.



Greeters: Jay and Phyllis Buckley  
Ushers: Bethia Rosner and Joe Judge  
Worship Tech Support: Seth Forman

To Our Visitors: We especially welcome those who are visiting with us today. We are pleased to have you among us and invite you to fill out a Visitor Response Card found in the pew rack. Welcome Folders are available for pick up from the racks in the stairwells. We hope that you will come back and worship with us again.

Ministers to the World: All the Congregation

Office Administrator: Sara Bagwell

Senior Minister: The Rev. Dr. Dale Azevedo

Music Director: Matthew Marion

Associate Minister: The Rev. Racquel Ray

Financial Secretary: Patricia Stoddard

Dir. Faith Formation: Andrea Terni Bullard

Custodians: Frank & Barbara Lee

Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

461 County Road, Barrington, Rhode Island 02806

Telephone: (401) 246-0111 Email: [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org)

Website: [www.bccucc.org](http://www.bccucc.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bccucc](http://www.facebook.com/bccucc)

TO MAKE A DONATION: Offering envelopes are available for your use in the pew racks. To make a donation online visit the donation page of our church's website at [www.bccucc.org/donation/](http://www.bccucc.org/donation/). Thank you for your financial support.

