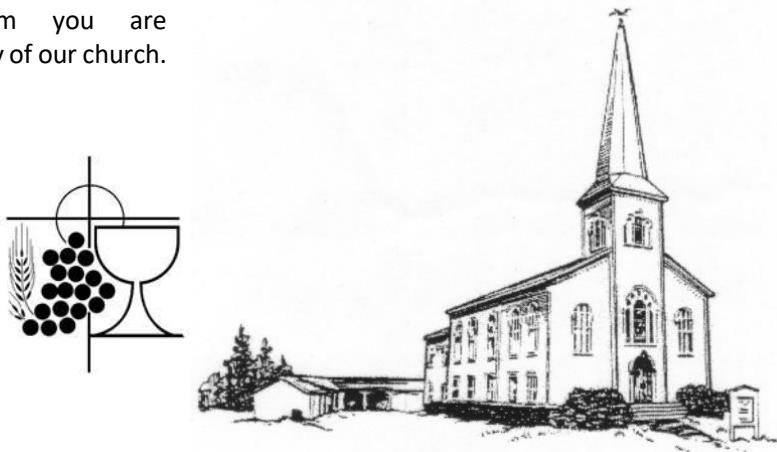


## Welcome to Worship

We 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.



## Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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**Order of Morning Worship**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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



### WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Matthew Marion

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME

EXTENDING THE HAND OF PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you...

**Response: And also with you...**

Let us greet one another extending the hand of Christian Peace.

*(All are invited to greet one another by shaking hands or waving, offering the peace of Christ.)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHORAL INTROIT

### CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively, please*)

Joe: The people sitting in deep darkness saw a great light, and the light guides us on along the way.

**All: We will follow the light, the beautiful light!**

Racquel: Jesus is the light of the world, but he does not shine far away like a star. He is here among us, in our midst and at our table.

**All: Let us set the table and break bread with Jesus.**

Joe: Jesus serves us through our neighbor, and we serve Christ through serving others. What we do for the least among us, surely we do to Christ.

**All: Let us serve Christ by serving others. Let us celebrate his birth by following his example.**

\*HYMN NCH #154

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

**God of service and God of mercy, we confess that too often we do not treat others how we wish to be treated. Help us see your Son in each and every person, especially the outcasts. Convince us, O God, of the dignity and worth of every person, and give us the strength, patience and kindness to respect it. Listen now to the prayers we bring to you in silence...**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### \*GLORIA

**Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.  
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*(The cups contain grape juice. All the bread is gluten-free).*

### WORDS OF INVITATION

### COMMUNION PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**  
One: Lift up your hearts and give thanks to God.  
**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER debts/debtors (*in unison*)

**SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP (*Please serve your neighbor each element. It is our custom to eat the bread individually, symbolizing our personal relationship with God and to drink the cup together, symbolizing the value of our faith community.*)**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*HYMN NCH #332

*As We Gather at Your Table*

*(Children and teachers may depart to classes during the singing of the hymn)*

## PRAYERS

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
MORNING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING                    Matthew 25:34-40                    (New Testament, p. 29)

REFLECTION                            *The Other Wise Man*                    Rev. Joe Zarro

OFFERTORY

CHORAL ANTHEM                            *Come to the Table of the Lord*                    Althouse

\*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

\*HYMN NCH #160 (*v 1-3*)                    *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)*

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE                    *v 4 & Refrain*

**Hail the Bearer of God's peace! Jesus the light of the world; Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Jesus the light of the world. We will follow the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops  
of mercy are bright, Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the light of the world.**

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.*

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

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



TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS:

Both arrangements have been provided by the Chancel Fund.



Greeter: Barbara Lee

Ushers: Jay & Phyllis Buckley

Worship Tech Support: Tom Colby

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  
Associate Minister: Rev. Racquel Ray  
Office Administrator: Sara Bagwell  
Music Director: Matthew Marion

Interim Sr. Minister: Rev. Joe Zarro  
Dir. Faith Formation: Andrea Terni  
Financial Secretary: Patricia Stoddard  
Custodians: Frank & Barbara Lee

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TO MAKE A DONATION: Offering envelopes are available for your use in the pew racks. To donate online via Tithe.ly, use this QR code or visit [www.bccucc.org/donation](http://www.bccucc.org/donation). Please remember to select where you would like your donation to go using the dropdown menu. Thank you for your financial support.

