

# WORSHIP CELEBRATION

*Third Sunday of Advent*

December 12, 2021

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verse. 2) No. 154

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name of the most high God!

**All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

One: Proclaim the mercy of the One who comes as one of us.

**All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

One: Trust and do not be afraid.

**All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

One: With joy you will draw water from the well of peace.

**All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation. Hallelujah!**

**Amen!**

\*HYMN “Sing Out, All God’s People” Insert

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

The Candle of Joy

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25

*This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give*

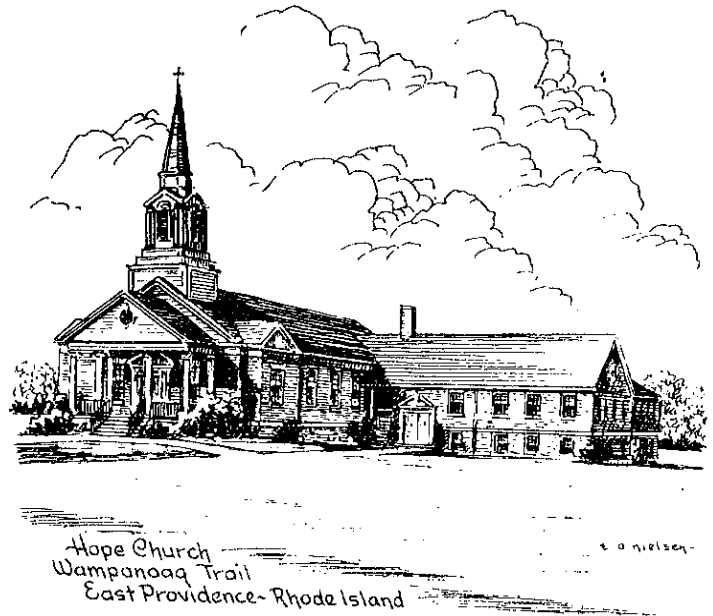
# NEWS AND NOTES

1. A very special welcome this morning to **Rev. Dr. Patty Kogut**, South-east Region-Area Conference Minister. Rev. Patty has been 34 years in Ministry, serving 21 years at North Congregational Church, Middleboro, MA. She has “two fabulous kids” and enjoys kayaking, woodworking, white line painting, and the outdoors.
2. **“Adopt a Family” stars** are on the tree outside the office. Please take a star or two to make Christmas extra special for some needy children. All wrapped gifts must be into the church office by **Friday, December 17th with the star attached to the package**. Thanks.
3. Enclosed is the **order form for poinsettias** to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas services. The **deadline is TODAY!**
4. **3 M’s Christmas Luncheon will be on Friday, December 17th** at The Crossroad Pub in Warren at 12:30 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should call Sarah Tonole at 392-1978.
5. **“Get Crafty”** is meeting on **Thursdays at 6:30 pm** at the church building. Come and join the fun and fellowship while working on crafts.
6. Hope Church is open and ready to welcome any members of the community who are in search of a warm and friendly place to worship. **Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us in worship.**

**In light of the emerging contagions with the Omicron strain of the virus, we are asking/encouraging people to wear masks, even if vaccinated, during worship.** Everyone will also be expected to sign in on our contact list.

If you are unable to attend the regular worship service of Hope Church in person on any given Sunday, the following is the information needed to livestream the service on YouTube or any time after and to get the Sunday bulletin to follow along with the service. A link to this week's livestream service and bulletin as well as those from past weeks is available at: [hopecongrgri.org/?page\\_id=90](http://hopecongrgri.org/?page_id=90). You can click on the "plus" mark for that week.

*\*If you are able to do so comfortably, please stand.*



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*birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

Hymn (Sung to tune of “Away in a Manger”)

*Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth.  
Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.  
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.  
One candle is lit for joy of these days.*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame to praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, you are forgiven. The Lord has taken away the judgements against you.  
Do not worry. Live in peace.

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen!**

\*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:1-17

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

## SERMON "Holiday Preparations"

\*HYMN "Open My Eyes, That I May See" No. 480

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastoral Prayer (including prayer concerns)

Time of Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

Prayer Response "Jesus, Name Above All Names" No. 177

## DELIGHTING IN GIVING

(The offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary.)

Invitation to Present Our Offerings

Offertory "Waiting for Our Lord" *Andrew Foster*  
\*Doxology "Give Thanks" No. 359  
\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**God of All Generations, in faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and of self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for the coming of the Christ Child. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" No. 59

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

GUEST PASTOR - Jonathan Ryder  
GUEST SPEAKER - Rev. Dr. Patty Kogut  
MUSIC DIRECTOR - Kim Kuda  
DEACON & LAY READER - Donna Hassell-Winter  
MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Sangho Nam, Kim Kuda

