

Brookline Community Church

UCC-UMC

December 24, 2023

5:00pm

Prelude

***Introit #152 Angels We Have Heard on High**

Call To Worship

Leader: God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem,

All: where the Light of the world is humbly born, into the darkness of human night.

Leader: Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world,

All: so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice.

Leader: So that we, like him, may become defenders of all for whom there is no room.

All: Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us, and walk in the way of peace. Amen.

Lighting of the Christmas Candle – The Avramov Family
ADVENT SONG: Light the Christmas candles now, Sing of donkey, sheep and cow; Birthday candles for the King, Let the alleluias ring; Candle, candle burning bright, Shining in the cold winter night; Candle, candle burning bright, Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Children's Message: God's Special People?

***Hymn #150 What Child is This?**

Pastoral Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the**

kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***Hymn #171 Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

Scripture Reading: Titus 2:11-14, p. 969

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20, pp. 832-833

Response: #820 Threefold Amen (Danish)

Reflection on the Scripture: Decree of Control

MINISTRY OF SHARING: (offering of tithes and gifts)

*** DOXOLOGY: #809 "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."**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

SERVICE OF THE CANDLES (We have battery operated and regular candles, the choice is yours) We will form a circle around the outer walls of the sanctuary & sing:

#164 Silent Night! Holy Night!

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon virgin mother and Child!

Holy infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight! Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,

Radiant beams from Thy holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* Please stand in body or spirit

Welcome!

All who gather here are welcome and included in the church's prayers for God's abundant grace. There is warmth and fellowship for everyone. Please help to extend the rich blessings of this church by signing the guest book in the front vestibule.

Service Participants

Reverend Catherine A. Merrill

Minister

John Nicholson

Lay Reader

Musicians:

Peter Bretschneider, Sanjay Cherian, Jon & Megan King, Yifan Kang, and John Panto.

*Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

Brookline Community Church
Minister: Reverend Catherine A. Merrill
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Sunday Worship: 10:00 am