

# FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship for the Lord's Day December 13, 2020

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PRELUDES

*Da Pacem*  
selections

Virtual Choir  
Jon, Ingrid, Burns

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## "For Such a Time as This"

### PLEDGE DRIVE FOR MINISTRY IN 2021

Session meets Tuesday night to work on next year's budget.

Last year, our pledges totaled \$211,000.

This year, we project that we need between \$210,000 and \$220,000.

CURRENTLY, Our pledge total for next year is \$113,000.

Gap: \$107,000

*Yes, that means the current gap is very large.*

*But we believe there are many dedicated members still out there who will turn in pledges. Please Susan Devine your pledge, or use this online form:*

<https://forms.gle/ag4tj55ysmhZRZkC7>

*It would be very helpful to know your pledge by TUESDAY!*

- This Week: Prayer Service Every Night at 6pm (Zoom)
- Meals every day, Monday thru Friday, 11am-1pm
- Learning Pod for remote learners (see Katie Cole for details)
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday (4pm-5:30pm, during which time the sun sets!):  
**SANCTUARY AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION**  
*Music will be playing. Candles will be lit. Come and go at your convenience.  
(Please wear your mask. Limit of no more than 5 people in the sanctuary at one time.)*
- Wednesday: **ADVENT STORY-SHARING CIRCLE**, 6:40pm-7:30  
We gather (on Zoom) to share stories and reflections on Advent themes.  
This week: "Where have you found joy?"
- **CHRISTMAS CONCERT CHOIR REHEARSAL**– We're putting together a 2020 version of the concert for Saturday, December 19 at 4pm. REHEARSALS on WEDNESDAYS (zoom) at 8pm.  
*But the big task is for everybody to upload their individual recordings!*
- Mindful of day-to-day changes in COVID numbers, Session has voted to lower the number of people allowed in attend worship IN PERSON, for now through December 20. We will be allowing **11 worship participants, plus 4 worship leaders**. **Windows will be open and everybody needs to wear a mask.**  
Session will continue to monitor our situation.  
*Sign up with Debbie, Katie or Burns to have a space.*

\* THIS SATURDAY, 4pm: Our Christmas Concert on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86980346577?pwd=Z2cxNnNqSjAxdzV6MlV1WHdFVXFqQT09>



*Please write announcements & prayer requests in the Zoom Chat Section.*

*DO YOU WANT A CALL? Tell Deb Duval or Katie Cole in the chat and we will call you today.*

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\*CALL TO WORSHIP - The Season of Advent

Leader: Come all who are weary, all who are broken-hearted, all who ache from the world's hurt.

People: With the prophets we name our plea: O that the Lord would tear open the heavens and come down.

L: We plea, we hope, and we prepare.

P: Make a way for the Lord. Repent and make these paths straight.

L: With the prophets we live in expectation,

P: For the spirit of the Lord is upon us

L: And like the prophets we offer ourselves as God's partners in repairing and building.

All: O Lord, we remember that you came.

We acknowledge that you're here.

We trust that you're coming.

We offer our hands to build your kingdom

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES  
The Light, A Psalm, A Prayer, The Peace

(Philip, Hannah & Eliza Eash-Gates)

\*HYMN (#107)

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

(sanctuary)

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning,  
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
to open wide the heavenly door,  
and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
whose humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing.  
Music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of loving kindness,  
the thunder of the anthems roll  
to shatter all hate and injustice.

In deepest night Christ's coming shall be,  
when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free,  
so warm and gentle and caring.  
One without voice breaks forth in song,  
a lame one leaps in wonder,  
the weak are raised above the strong,  
and weapons are broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though cold the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,  
be strong and loving and fearless;  
Love be our song and love our prayer,  
and love, our endless story,  
may God fill every day we share,  
and bring us at last into glory.

Unison Confession: Gracious and merciful God, we often dwell in shadows that darken Your bright image. Forgive us for seeing ourselves and those around us with eyes dimmed by judgment and fear; open our eyes that we may see each other as You see us – as beloved. Forgive us for closing our ears to the sound of Your voice; may we hear the sound of Your good news, and leap for joy like John in his mother’s womb. Forgive us for allowing our minds to be fixed on despair; keep us awake to signs of hope. We cry out, O God, come down and reveal Yourself to us once more. Restore us, so that we may do Your work of restoration.

Time for Silent Confession

Sung Response

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

\*LITURGY OF PARDON (sanctuary)

Leader: “Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God.

People: The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us.

Leader: The glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people together will see it, will hear it, and will live in it.

People: We have beheld that glory.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Sung Response (#23)

Gloria. In excelsis Deo (repeat)

TIME FOR CHILDREN -

A Sample from Friday Night’s Theater Experience,  
“Onward and Upward”

CELEBRATIONS, CONCERNS & PRAYER

A MOMENT FOR THE Pledge Campaign to Support Ministry in 2021

PRAYER REQUESTS – From The People Gathered in the Sanctuary  
From Those Gathered on Zoom

Deb Duval will share prayer requests written in the “Zoom Chat Section”

PASTORAL PRAYER Burns

\*HYMN (#79) “Light Dawns on a Weary World” (sanctuary)

Light dawn on a weary world  
When eyes begin to see all people’s dignity.  
Light dawn on a weary world:  
The promised day to justice comes.

*Refrain:*

The trees shall clap their hands;  
The dry lands, gush with spring;  
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out with joy,  
And be led forth in peace,  
As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Love grows in a weary world  
When hungry hearts find bread  
And children’s dreams are fed.  
Love grows in a weary world;  
The promised feast of plenty comes.

*Refrain*

Hope blooms in a weary world  
When creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world:  
The promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11  
I Thessalonians 5: 16-24  
Luke 1: 46-55

(Diane Devore)  
(sanctuary)  
(Dave Courage)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“There Are Angels Hovering ‘Round”

Virtual Choir

MESSAGE

“A Deeper River”

\*UNISON PRAYER

(from the poetry of Mary Oliver)

(Katie Cole)

Gracious God, thank you for this wild and precious life. Thank you for moments that amaze, the silence in which Another Voice speaks, and even gifted boxes of darkness. Guide us this season in the living of this life—

That we might pay attention,  
That we might be astonished.  
That we might tell others about it.

We patch our words together, Holy One, with all our yearnings, our hopes, our fears and our faith. Awaken in us a heart to receive and be astounded. Amen.

OFFERING

(Katie Cole)

We can give online at [www.fourthboston.org](http://www.fourthboston.org) OR send a check to  
Fourth Presbyterian Church, 340 Dorchester Street, South Boston, MA 02127

DOXOLOGY

Tim, Michelle, Abe Sanchez & Grandma Jenny (in Somerville)  
*With a recording from a past worship service*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER  
Music Offering

Rev. Deborah Duval and Burns  
(sanctuary)

\*HYMN (#134) "Joy to the World" (sanctuary)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing (3x)

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy (3x)

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found (3x)

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love (3x)

\*BENEDICTION

Spoken Response: Alleluia, Amen!

Sung Response God be with you till we meet again; Loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again

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