

We are here to: Love God, Love Our Neighbor and Serve the World.

December 11, 2022 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Reflecting the Sacred: Advent III: "Sacred Space"

Our Advent Series: Reflecting the Sacred

The shiny visuals and the lights of our Advent and Christmas decorations remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. "Incarnation" is a word that means that God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we will remember the call to shine with this holy light.

Prelude Interlude (excerpt) from **Dancing Day Suite**
by John Rutter/ed. K. Caldicott

Announcements and Welcome

Stewardship Moment John Rogers

The Advent Light of Joy

Song Christ Be Our Light Farrell Voices of Hope Choir

Congregation joins on the refrain:

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness

Christ be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Advent Response

We pray for Joy this day.

We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

We open to see each place

as a gift of holy presence.

This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,

lighting the way to joy.

***Opening Hymn** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice UMH #224

Prayer

Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Joy,
we give you thanks for this physical and online space for gathering.

As we take in the joy you offer,
may we be a reflection of your light,
expanding the sacred space of "right here"
into the sacred place of "everywhere."

Amen.

Proclaiming the Word

Anthem Whatcha Gonna Call That Baby? Youth Choir
By Wolfe-White

Hymn Jesus Loves Me, verse 1 UMH #261

A Time for Young Disciples

Anthem Angels We Have Heard on High Voices of Hope Choir

First Reading Isaiah 35: 1-10

Anthem A Simple Noël, based on **The First Noel**
arr. Rhett Barnwell

Second Reading Luke 1: 46b-55

Message "Reflecting the Sacred: There's Something About Mary"
Rev. Amy B. Gregory

Response Let It Be

Responding to God's Word

Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Arabian Dance/We Three Kings of Orient Are
arr. Sylvia Woods

***Singing Our Praises** Doxology to the tune of What Child Is This UMH #219

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God all heavens and the earth

reflecting the sacred story.

This, this is Christ the One
who mirrors hope for all of us.

Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Word of time eternal.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Joys and Concerns

Prayer Song Come, Emmanuel Worship & Song #3130

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Brendan J. Fox

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Joy, 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, the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** What Child Is This UMH #219

***Benediction**

Postlude God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, 16th c. carol
arr. John Lanier

Thank you to our guest harpist Karlinda Caldicott (thelivingharp.com) for sharing her musical gifts with us today.

Please join us for Coffee Hour after the service hosted by The Seekers

Announcements

Christmas Eve Worship: Join us!

3:30-4:00 pm Family-Friendly Service: Great for early bedtime, busy cooks and driving before dark!

7:00 pm Christmas Pageant: The Christmas Story in music, scripture/pageant.

9:00 pm Candlelight Service: The Christmas Story in music/scriptures.

Christmas Day

9:30 am (one service) Come as you are Christmas: pj's, ugly Christmas sweaters, bedhead welcome. Pastries & coffee with carol singing and Christmas Story.

January 1

9:30 am (one service) Reflect on the gift of a new year, Holy Communion. All are welcome at the table.

Announcements—continued

Carol Sing on Christmas Morning: request a carol by emailing the office or leaving a request in the basket in the Narthex.

The Chancel Choir is putting out a call to welcome singers for the 9:00 pm Christmas Eve service. Rehearsals Thursdays, 12/15 and 12/22 at 6:30 pm. Contact Pete Van Keuren.

If you plan to worship on **Christmas morning** at 9:30 am and can **help with the service**, please **contact Pastor Amy**.

Be sure to tune in to the Church's **You Tube channel at 7:00 pm on Sunday, December 18**, for a program of **Advent and Christmas Music offered by musicians Harmon Tunison and Peter Van Keuren**. The event is made possible by a program from the American Federation of Musicians Local 85-133. Both familiar and unfamiliar tunes are sure to get you in the holiday spirit!

Join us Sunday nights in **Advent at 5pm on Zoom** for an At-Home Advent Candle Lighting Service. **Wreath and candles are in the Narthex**. The Zoom link is in the weekly email (and is the same every week) but you can also email either of the pastors to get the link. Join us!

Help decorate the sanctuary for Advent. This year our theme is **nativities**. Bring in nativities from home to place on the sanctuary window sills.

Ways to Give This Season:

The Giving Tree has just a few “ornaments” left. On the back of each “ornament” is a gift request. Please buy the item, **wrap it and ATTACH THE ORNAMENT** (the ornament information is the only way we know who gets the gift). Securely tape the tag to the package (this allows the information to be read). **Bring the gifts to church and place under the Giving Tree by December 18, 2022.** If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mark Witkofsky (518-669-2978). Thank you for your generosity.

Heifer International: For more than 75 years, Heifer International has worked with people around the globe to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. **Animals, trees and seeds are provided to families to improve food security.** Your gifts save lives. We will have an information table in Knight Hall after Sunday services in December. Please stop by to see the animal gift cards and brochures. Your donation will be gratefully received. The Outreach Committee.

Our Christmas Offering helps neighbors near and far. Our church keeps none of the gifts that are received for this offering. This year we will again support **Schenectady Community Ministries, Skye Farm Camp, UMCOR** (flood/hurricane relief), **Conference Ministries** (specific to Outreach projects), **RISSE** (support for refugees and recent immigrants), and the **food pantries of SCM** in Schenectady, **Life Works** in Ballston Spa and the **Rensselaer UMC**. Thank you for giving to people in need. **Envelopes available from the ushers.**

WEEKLY CALENDAR	
Sunday, December 11	
9:00 AM	Worship
9:45 AM	Youth Choir
10:30 AM	Worship with Sunday School
11:30 AM	Voices of Hope
12:00-2:00 PM	Pageant Rehearsal
5:00 PM	Zoom Advent Wreath Candle Lighting
Monday, December 12	
9:30 AM	Earlybirds/Fireside Room
12:00 PM	BH-BL Women's Group Luncheon
6:30 PM	Girl Scouts
7:00 PM	Church Council/Hybrid
Tuesday, December 13	
9:30 AM	Tuesday Connections
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts/Knight Hall
Wednesday, December 14	
8:30 AM	Fix-its
9:30 AM	Explorers
1:00 PM	Preschool Meeting
5:30 PM	Girl Scouts/Knight Hall
6:00 PM	Girl Scouts
6:30 PM	Girl Scouts
Thursday, December 15	
9:15 AM	Seekers
6:00 PM	Girl Scouts
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 18	
9:00 AM	Worship
9:45AM	Youth Choir
10:30 AM	Worship with Sunday School
11:30 AM	Voices of Hope
11:30 AM	Prepare meal for Soup Kitchen
12:00-2:00 PM	Pageant Rehearsal
4:00 PM	SPAC concert
5:00 PM	Zoom Advent Wreath Candle Lighting
7:00 PM	You Tube Concert/Pete Van Keuren and Harmon Tunison



December 11, 2022

Advent III: “Sacred Space”



BHUMC Welcome Statement

At Burnt Hills UMC, we aspire to be a community of grace and unconditional love, where all people will find hospitality, compassion and mercy. We seek to welcome all on the journey, to grow together in faith and to go out to serve the world. We welcome people of any age, culture, race, nationality, ability, marital status, economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity, as full participants in the life of our congregation. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be part of Jesus' movement of love and justice for all of God's children. All are welcome to worship, grow and serve with us.

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