

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

December 18, 2022 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Reflecting the Sacred: Advent IV: "Sacred Knowing"

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.

Music for Gathering *Peace Round* Ritchie Brass Trio

Announcements and Welcome

The Advent Light of Peace

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 Peace this day.

We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

**We open to see our deepest selves.
as a gift of holy presence.**

**This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,
lighting the way to peace.**

***Opening Hymn** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* UMH # 218

Prayer

**Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Peace,
we give you thanks for this holy sensing of your presence.**

**As we take in the peace you offer,
may we be a reflection of your light,
expanding the sacred knowing of "you are here for me"
into the sacred knowing of "you are present for all of us."
Amen.**

Proclaiming the Word

Anthem *Christmas Sanctus* The Chancel Choir
Dengler/Dengler

Hymn *Jesus Loves Me, verse 1* UMH #261

A Time for Young Disciples

Anthem *Mary Did You Know* Quartet
Greene and Lowry arr J. Lilies

Scripture Reading Matthew 1: 18-25

Message "Reflecting the Sacred: Sacred Knowing"
Rev. Amy B. Gregory

Response *Star Child* TFWS#
2095

Responding to God's Word

Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Do You Hear?* The Chancel Choir
Traditional, arr. Van Keuren

***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 Peace, 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** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* UMH#240

***Benediction**

Postlude *If You Would Hear The Angels Sing*
Greenwell/Williams

* * *

Thank you to our musicians for sharing their gifts with us today in worship.

Brass Trio: Jeremy Van Keuren, Harmon Tunison, Peter Van Keuren
Quartet: Libby Horn, Diane Skibinski, Harmon Tunison, Jill Zygo

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.

*You are invited to stand as you are able or comfortable

Announcements—continued

The church office will be closed on December 26 and December 27.

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.** Rehearsal Thursday, 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.** Sign up sheet by Knight Hall.

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!

Ways to Give This Season:

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 18	
9:00 AM	Worship
9:45 AM	Youth Choir
10:30 AM	Worship with Sunday School
11:30 AM	Voices of Hope
11:30 PM	Prepare meals for soup kitchen
12:00-2:00 PM	Pageant Rehearsal
4:00 PM	Concert at SPAC
5:00 PM	Zoom Advent Wreath Candle Lighting
7:00 PM	You Tube concert with Pete van Keuren and Harmon Tunison
Monday, December 19	
9:30 AM	Earlybirds/Fireside Room
10:00 AM	Serve meal at soup kitchen
7:00 PM	Next Steps
Tuesday, December 20	
1:00 PM	BH-BL Book Club
Wednesday, December 21	
8:30 AM	Fix-its
9:30 AM	Explorers
Thursday, December 22	
9:15 AM	Seekers
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, December 24	
3:30-4:00 PM	Family-Friendly service
7:00 PM	Christmas Pageant (also streamed)
9:00 PM	Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 25	
9:30 AM	Come as you are Worship!

On December 18 at 4 pm the Ballston Spa UMC choir will present the cantata "Canticles in Candlelight". Witness the lighting of candles, hear scripture readings and new music. There will be a coffee hour starting at 3 pm in the church's Connections Cafe.

Blue Christmas Service will be held on Tuesday, 12/20 at 7pm at Alpau UMC. This evening service lets us reflect on the depth and power of what we need and long for in the anticipation of Christmas. There is also time to pause and reflect on how we may be separated from loved ones at this time. The church is handicapped accessible.

Scotia UMC will be holding their "Outdoor" Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 on December 24. This service includes hot chocolate, several fire pits and a planned unique Advent Candle for outdoors.



December 18, 2022

Advent IV: "Sacred Knowing"



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.

816 Route 50, Burnt Hills, New York 12027
518-399-5144 burnthillsumc@gmail.com

www.nybhumc.com

Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/BurntHillsUMC