

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

December 4, 2022 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Reflecting the Sacred: Advent II: "Sacred People"

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 *Waiting For Love to be Born* Mathes

Announcements and Welcome

The Advent Light of Love

Song *Christ Be Our Light* Farrell

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 Love this day.

We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

**We open to see each person
as a gift of holy presence.**

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

***Opening Hymn** *People, Look East* UMH #202

Prayer

**Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Love,
we give you thanks for this holy gathering of Beloveds.
As we take in the love you offer,
may we be a reflection of your light,
expanding the sacred presence you have promised
into the sacred presence we can offer.
Amen.**

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

Proclaiming the Word

Anthem *In Silence We Wait* Parker/Larson

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Congregation sings:

**Holy, Holy, you are Holy!
Blessed is the One who comes.
All your works are full of glory.
Join in the unending hymn:
Sing Hosanna! Sing Hosanna!
Now your gracious kin-dom bring.
Jesus in us shall reign forever.
Let the earth with praises ring!**

**Come, oh long-expected Jesus.
You are born to set us free.
From our fears and sins release us.
With new eyes, you help us see.
You're our strength and consolation;
Hope of all the earth you are.
Source of goodness, well of compassion:
You're the joy of every heart.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Love, 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 the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion Song *What Feast of Love* Dufner/English ballad

Prayer after Receiving

God of pregnant expectations, God of Christmas promise, God of child-like hope, we have eaten and drunk from your table. May the eating and the drinking fill us with hope in a world of despair. May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the world will be changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet which is to come would give us the hunger for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen

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

A Time for Young Disciples

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

Scripture Reading Matthew 3: 1-12

Message Reflecting the Sacred: Sacred People Brendan J. Fox

Response *For the Healing of the Nations* UMH #428

Responding to God's Word

Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* Benson/English melody

***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 Rev. Amy Gregory

**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.**

***Closing Hymn** *Like a Child* TFWS #2092

***Benediction**

Postlude *Hope of the World* Harkness/Copes

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

Announcements

The **altar flowers** this morning are given in loving memory of **Bill Borthwick** by his family.

Flowers by the tree are from the memorial service of **Keith Diener**, beloved grandson of the Longbothams.

Join us each Sunday night in **Advent at 5pm on Zoom** for an At-Home Advent Candle Lighting Service. The church has purchased sets of Advent candles and small Advent wreaths for folks to set up at home. During these services we will pause as a community, reflect on our journey towards Christmas thus far, and share in a time of prayer, music, meditation, and ritual. **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 for **caroling at Glendale Nursing Home**, 59 Hetcheltown Rd. Glenville on **Wednesday, December 7. Meet at 6:15** in the lobby to take a COVID test (or bring a picture of test from home). **From 6:30-7:30pm**, we will carol from floor to floor Mask required. All singing abilities welcome! It's a joy to be able to carol again!

Help decorate the sanctuary for Advent. This year our theme is **nativities**. Please consider bringing in nativities from home to place on the sanctuary window sills. Advent begins **Sunday, November 27th**, so please bring in your nativities starting Thanksgiving week.

Ways to Give This Season:

Fair Trade: Our annual advent sale of fair trade items will be held in Knight Hall **today** after both church services. Coffee, chocolates, textiles, baskets, and ornaments will be display. Come shop where your dollars make a difference in people's lives Thank you! The Outreach Committee

The Giving Tree is set up and full of "ornaments". On the back of each "ornaments" 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). The best way to attach the ornament is to securely tape the sting 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.** We need the gifts back by this date so we can sort them for distribution prior to Christmas. 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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR	
Sunday, December 4	
9:00 AM	Worship
9:45 AM	Youth Choir
10:00 AM	Fair Trade Sale
10:30 AM	Worship with Sunday School
11:30 AM	Voices of Hope
11:30 AM	Fair Trade Sale
12:00-2:00 PM	Pageant Rehearsal
5:00 PM	Zoom Advent Wreath Candle Lighting
Monday, December 5	
9:30 AM	Earlybirds/Knight Hall
7:00 PM	Trustees meeting
Wednesday, December 7	
8:30 AM	Fix-its
9:30 AM	Explorers
6:00 PM	Girl Scouts/Knight Hall
6:15 PM	Caroling at Glendale (Lobby for Covid test)
6:30-7:30 PM	Caroling
Thursday, December 8	
9:15 AM	Seekers
10:30 AM	BH-BL Women's Group
7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 11	
9:00 AM	Worship
9:45AM	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



December 4, 2022

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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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