

# the first church in chestnut hill

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[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



*December 2022*

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SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, *Minister*

## VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

Have you ever read ahead in a book? To see if the hero survives or how some other built-up narrative tension is resolved? Maybe it is just me, but I will occasionally look at the last paragraph in a book, which might be high heresy to some. But there it is.

This is also true of my understanding of the season of Advent. I know I am supposed to wait. Wait to break out the Christmas carols. Wait to focus on Christmassy themes. Wait patiently for spiritual tension to build before December 25. And yet I will sometimes stray from that script.

Over the course of our lives, our relationship with the Christmas season changes. For children, there is anticipation of the big day, but not the somber, Advent-style of waiting. Even when I attended parochial school long ago, the season was more about celebration than religious expectancy. As adults, Christmas becomes more about planning and logistics, the battle plan for the holidays. This is not just about eating your vegetables but peeling and cooking them...as well as convincing yourself that Brussel sprouts are all for the best. Sometimes that is a hard sell to those around the dinner table.

This will be my first Christmas as a grandparent. I am still trying to sort out what I am supposed to be doing these days. But I hope that it is more about the peace, joy, and love part of Christmas than the prelude to Holy Week that often characterizes the Advent season. Church should not be a big scoop of spiritual lima beans. The commercial aspects of the season can certainly be put off until after Thanksgiving, but I am not one to wait any longer for Christmas carols, gingerbread, or thoughts of merry making. I am more than ready for Christmas to be here and I hope you all have a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

God bless and Merry Christmas,

~ *Mark*

## OUR SCRIPTURES FOR THIS SEASON

- December 4: Matthew 3:1-12, Psalm 72  
December 11: Luke 1:46b-55, Psalm 146  
December 18: Isaiah 7:10-16  
December 24: Luke 2:1-20, Psalm 96

## DECEMBER SERVICES AND EVENTS

- December 4: The Baptist  
December 11: The Song of Mary  
December 15: Messiah Sing – 7pm  
December 18: A Sign – Music Service  
*Join us in “hanging the greens” after this service!*  
December 22: Taize Service – 5:30pm  
December 24: Christmas Eve Service – 4:30pm

***Please note, there will be no Sunday Service Christmas Day***

## ALTAR FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

- December 4: The flowers are given in loving memory of Ann and Tom Gannett by Deborah and David Brooks  
December 11: The flowers are given in loving memory of Alice and Philip Morss by Jennifer Drayton  
December 18 & 24: The flowers are given in loving memory of the founders of First Church by the First Church in Chestnut Hill

## USHERS

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| December 4: Mark Chadbourne | December 18: Lisle Baker                  |
| December 11: John Welch     | December 24: David Brooks, Geoffrey Swift |

## SCRIPTURE READERS

- December 4: Joe Hicks  
December 11: Bert Dane  
December 18: Lisle Baker

## COFFEE HOUR

- December 4: Sarah Buermann  
December 11: Judith Vanderkay  
December 18: Sally and Lisle Baker

## DECEMBER MUSIC

December 4, 2022

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Prelude:	<i>Prelude</i>	Bach
Anthem:	<i>Wade in the Water</i>	Spiritual
Hymn:	<i>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</i>	#105
Prayer Response:	<i>From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>Our God is Our Refuge and Strength</i>	Mozart
Hymn:	<i>On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry</i>	#115
Hymn:	<i>Watchman, Tell Us of the Night</i>	#109
Choral Amen:	<i>Threefold Amen</i>	Traditional
Postlude:	<i>Dwell with Us O Lord</i>	Pachelbel

December 11, 2022

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Prelude:	<i>Sinfonia</i>	Handel
Anthem:	<i>Nativity Carol</i>	Rutter
Hymn:	<i>Praise Thou the Lord, O My Soul, Sing Praises</i>	#17
Prayer Response:	<i>The Only Son from Heaven</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>How Far is it to Bethlehem?</i>	Arr. Willcocks
Hymn:	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	#107
Hymn:	<i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>	#103
Choral Amen:	<i>Fourfold Amen</i>	Traditional
Postlude:	<i>All My Heart This Night Rejoices</i>	Ebeling

December 18, 2022

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Prelude:	<i>Chaconne</i>	Handel
Anthem:	<i>I Wonder What Child This is</i>	Rosenbach
Hymn:	<i>Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light</i>	#118
Prayer Response:	<i>Savior of the Nations, Come</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>Of the Father's Heart Begotten</i>	Arr. Willcocks
Hymn:	<i>As With Gladness Men of Old</i>	#119
Hymn:	<i>Lo, How a Rose e're Blooming</i>	#131
Choral Amen:	<i>Twofold Amen</i>	Traditional
Postlude:	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	Carol

### MESSIAH SING ON DECEMBER 15

*The First Church in Chestnut Hill*  
presents  
**HANDEL'S MESSIAH**

Christina Grandy de Oliveira, soprano  
Kristin Hagan, mezzo-soprano  
Jack Keller, tenor  
Christopher Humbert Jr., bass

Kathryn Rosenbach, music director/pianist

12/15/2022  
7:00 p.m.

26 Suffolk Rd.  
Chestnut Hill, MA

Please join us and sing a-long for the choruses. Bring your own score!

We are hosting a Messiah Sing on **Thursday, December 15 at 7pm**. The event is free and open to the public. Bring your score and sing along with our professional quartet as we bring Handel's beloved music to life. All are welcome! For more information about the hosting musicians, visit our website at [firstchurchchestnuthill.org/music/](http://firstchurchchestnuthill.org/music/).

## TAIZÉ SERVICE ON DECEMBER 22

We are holding a Taizé Service on **Thursday, December 22 at 5:30pm**. Taizé is a type of sung prayer originating in France. This service will include chants for the advent season.

## THIRD ANNUAL PHANTOM THANKSGIVING FAIR

Have you made your donation to the phantom fair? We have yet to reach last year's total of \$11,000 and every dollar counts. We appreciate all the donations we've received -- they will make a difference at each food pantry. We hope to match last year's total by early December, in time to provide funds to the pantries before Christmas.

If you would like to contribute, there is still time! Make checks out to **FCCH Outreach** and send to Deborah Brooks at 72 Pond St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. Thank you for your generosity.

~Sally Baker and Deborah Brooks

## IN MEMORIAM: CONSTANCE ELEANOR AUSTIN 1953-2022

We lovingly remember Constance "Connie" Eleanor Austin who died on October 17, 2022, at the age of 69. She passed on under the loving watch of family and friends.

## ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 10:00am on Wednesdays on zoom. Contact him at [mjtcaggiano@gmail.com](mailto:mjtcaggiano@gmail.com) to be included on the zoom invitation list. All are welcome.

## DONATIONS

Collection has returned to its traditional format during the service. If you wish, you may also make your donation via Zelle or mail a check to the church, Attention: Treasurer, 26 Suffolk Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Many thanks for your anticipated generosity.

## ALTAR FLOWERS



Attention flower donors: please contact Dana Flynn (617-680-0702) to coordinate the delivery of your flower donation. He will meet the florist (or you) at the church on the Saturday prior to your date. If you prefer, we also have tasteful silk arrangements which can easily be placed on the altar.

**If you would like to donate flowers, April 30, 2023 is still available.** Please contact our administrator Ashley Mulcaire, [26Suffolk@gmail.com](mailto:26Suffolk@gmail.com) if you are interested.

## VOLUNTEER SCRIPTURE READERS

If you would like to join the group of volunteer scripture readers, please contact Carol Lohe (ctroyen@mfa.org.) This is a rewarding opportunity to be part of our Sunday services.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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**to** .....  
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*grow spiritually*  
*foster community*  
*serve others*

### **ORGANIST and MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Kathryn Rosenbach, 617-821-0385

### **SEXTON**

Dana Flynn, 617-680-0702

### **ADMINISTRATOR**

Ashley Mulcaire, [26Suffolk@gmail.com](mailto:26Suffolk@gmail.com)

### **FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS MONTH**

Please contact the The Parish Service Committee Co-chairs:

Molly Batchelder 617-232-6213

Carol Stuart 617-731-0196

or Rev. Mark at the parsonage 617-232-0011 or via email

*([mjtcaggiano@gmail.com](mailto:mjtcaggiano@gmail.com))*



Church Telephone 617-566-6237  
Parsonage Telephone 617-232-0011  
[www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org](http://www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org)