

the first church in chestnut hill

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



January 2023

SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

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

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

culture, *n.*: the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group.

Religion is always influenced by culture: the culture of where it is resident, the culture of its people, and the cultures that have shaped it over time. Christianity has been affected by many cultures and continues to change culturally wherever it finds itself.

This January and February, I will be offering a sermon series about culture and its various effects upon Christianity, both now and long ago. Some cultural influences are to be expected, like the Judean backdrop for much of Jesus' life and teachings. But there are other less obvious cultures at play: Roman notions of family, Egyptian cosmology, and even Persian theology. Some of these effects are prominent while others are quite subtle. They add up to a composite of many ideas expressed through a common framework, as Christianity becomes its own cultural force.

Culture sometimes seeks to add onto existing practices and other times it seeks to exclude foreign elements. Unitarianism grew out of English Puritanism and this striving for "purity" was one way by which one culture contends against another. The Puritans did not want to permit what they perceived as Roman Catholic influences within their congregations, and so they sought to eliminate sacraments they deemed non-Biblical like marriage (yes, marriage) and religious observances that were considered too pagan like Christmas (yes, Christmas).

In January, we will hear about the role of the Greeks, Germans, Italians, and English in Christian culture. Sometimes this will require a deep dive, like into Greek philosophy. Sometimes it will be such familiar material that it might be difficult to imagine things without those influences, like the many Anglican aspects of our service. Culture can be pervasive yet unseen, like the air we breathe. It will hopefully be interesting to consider those influences and to imagine what we owe, for good and for ill, to our many cultural predecessors in this ancient faith.

God bless and Happy New Year,
~ *Mark*

OUR SCRIPTURES FOR THIS SEASON

January 1: Sirach 24:1-12, John 1:1-9, Psalm 147
January 8: Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17, Psalm 29
January 15: Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:29-34, Psalm 40
January 22: Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:12-23, Psalm 27
January 29: Micah 6:1-8, Matthew 5:1-12, Psalm 15

JANUARY SERVICES

January 1: Carol Sing
January 8: Baptism of the Lord
January 15: Martin Luther and MLK
January 22: Fisher of Men
January 29: Do Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

January 1: The flowers are given in loving memory of Elizabeth and Archibald Galbraith by the Saltonstall Family
January 8: The flowers are given in loving memory of our dear friend Nancy Kropp Grote by Sally and Lisle Baker
January 15: The flowers are given in loving memory of our parents, Priscilla and Ralph Stuart and Polly and Ben Tieslau by Carol and Ralph Stuart
January 22: The flowers are given in loving memory of Anne Parker Batchelder by her family
January 29: Dedication to be determined

USHERS

January 1: Lisle Baker
January 8: David Brooks
January 15: Mark Chadbourne
January 22: Bert Dane
January 29: Werner Lohe

SCRIPTURE READERS

January 1: Lisle Baker
January 8: Joe Hicks
January 15: Mark Chadbourne
January 22: Bert Dane
January 29: Carol Lohe

COFFEE HOUR

January 1: Sally & Lisle Baker
January 8: Sally & Lisle Baker
January 15: Sarah & Andrew Welch
January 22: Molly & Sandy Batchelder
January 29: Pauline Ho Bynum

DECEMBER MUSIC

January 1, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Miniature</i>	Peeters
Anthem:	<i>Noel Nouvelet</i>	French Carol
Hymn:	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	#120
Prayer Response:	<i>Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Prince of Peace</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>Il est ne le divin enfant</i>	French Carol
Hymn:	<i>The First Nowell</i>	#141
Hymn:	<i>Good Christian Men, Rejoice</i>	#125
Choral Amen:	<i>Threefold Amen</i>	Traditional
Postlude:	<i>The Fifers</i>	Dandrieu

January 8, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Petit Offertoire</i>	Franck
Anthem:	<i>We Praise You</i>	Minakakis
Hymn:	<i>What Star is This, With Beams So Bright</i>	#144
Prayer Response:	<i>Soar, My Soul, to God on High</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>Adoro te devote</i>	Chant
Hymn:	<i>We Three Kings</i>	#143
Hymn:	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	#29
Choral Amen:	<i>Threefold Amen</i>	Traditional
Postlude:	<i>Ave Maria von Arcadelt</i>	Liszt

January 15, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Prelude</i>	Bach
Anthem:	<i>Geistliches Lied</i>	Brahms
Hymn:	<i>Rock of Ages</i>	#358
Prayer Response:	<i>My Inmost Heart Now Raises</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>Ach, arme Welt</i>	Brahms
Hymn:	<i>A Mighty Fortress is Our God</i>	#363
Hymn:	<i>Let There be Peace on Earth</i>	
Choral Amen:	<i>Fourfold Amen</i>	Barrow
Postlude:	<i>Tocatta</i>	Froberger

January 22, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Toccata for the Elevation</i>	Frescobaldi
Anthem:	<i>Sicut cervus</i>	Palestrina
Hymn:	<i>God is My Strong Salvation</i>	#373
Prayer Response:	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>Christus factus est</i>	Anerio
Hymn:	<i>Within the Maddening Maze of Things</i>	#360
Hymn:	<i>Lift Up Your Hearts</i>	#352
Choral Amen:	<i>Sevenfold Amen</i>	Stainer
Postlude:	<i>The Heaven's Declare</i>	Marcello

January 29, 2023

Prelude:	<i>Voluntary</i>	Stanley
Anthem:	<i>Thou knowest Lord</i>	Purcell
Hymn:	<i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i>	#66
Prayer Response:	<i>Praise God, the Lord, Yes Sons of Men</i>	Bach
Offertory Anthem:	<i>O Lord, increase my faith</i>	Gibbons
Hymn:	<i>Nearer, My God to Thee</i>	#351
Hymn:	<i>Jerusalem</i>	
Choral Amen:	<i>Twofold Amen</i>	Traditional
Postlude:	<i>Variation on 'Stuttgart'</i>	Porter

MUSIC PROGRAM NOTES

Felice Anerio was an Italian composer of the late Renaissance and early Baroque eras, and a member of the Roman School of composers. He was born in Rome, Italy in 1560 and died in Graz, Austria in 1614.

MLK DAY CONCERT AT THE URBAN MINISTRY

This MLK day, the UU Urban Ministry will once again be hosting “The Ties that Bind,” a concert presented by Opera UnMet honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For those who have attended these concerts before the pandemic, you’ll welcome the return of this inspiring event, featuring vocal and instrumental performances, poetry, and dramatic readings. If you haven’t been before, it’s a fitting way to spend MLK day and also provides the opportunity to see the many wonderful changes—the renovation of the exterior of the Meetinghouse, the Peace Garden—on the Urban Ministry’s campus. The concert will be held on **January 16 at 3 PM**; refreshments will follow. Call or email Sally or Carol if you have questions or would like to carpool!

FCCH IN THE COMMUNITY

We are pleased to report the results of the Third Phantom Thanksgiving Fair. Thanks to the generosity of donors, this year we raised \$12,000 — the biggest total ever! In this time of increased food insecurity, both food pantries appreciate receiving our donation of \$6,000 each.

In the words of the President of the Centre Street food Pantry, “Last month we served almost 1300 households, over 4800 individuals, including 1400 children. That was the most ever we served in a month — a sad milestone but one we are also very proud of. Your contribution will have an immediate impact providing families and households with healthy, nutritious food and greater security and ability to survive.”

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Third Phantom Fair. There is clearly a need for our church to continue supporting the two food pantries.

Sally Baker and Deborah Brooks

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 10:00am on Wednesdays on zoom. Contact him at 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 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

.....
to
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

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

(mjtccaggiano@gmail.com)



Church Telephone 617-566-6237
Parsonage Telephone 617-232-0011
www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org