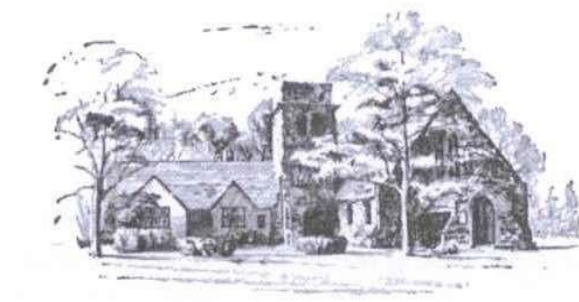


the first church in chestnut hill

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



December 2023

SUNDAY SERVICE at 10:30

Rev. Mark J. T. Caggiano, Minister

VERITAS, CARITAS, ET RISUS

A Midnight Clear

The evening grew to blackest blue
A chill upon the air
The stars out bright, the moon a sight
Wood smoke now twining fair
The season ripe, the ever green,
A garlanded time of year
The harvest song now far along
And winter white so near

The hats and gloves and boots arrayed
Against the cold wind's flow
The hidden paths and buried walks
Now cleared of drifting snow

Four candles lit, four flames arise
Four weeks of wanting wait
The growing hour, the old surprise
On Advent's dawning date

To travel near or far to home
Or to a distant place
A nearby stroll, a sail unfurled
A journey on to face
The coming once again to us
Into our busy days
Reminders of an ancient gift
A light that showed new ways

Of love of stranger and of God
Of one and all for one
Of gardens green and gardens lost
Of turning towards the sun
To hearth and home, a church of stone
To candles in the dark
To carry on with holy song
To which the angels hark

And then so silent, calm and bright
As if an infant slept
True present of God's presence nigh
A whispered promise kept

God bless,
~Mark

December 3

Sermon: Keep Awake
Scriptures: Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Scripture Reader: Bert Dane
Usher: G. West Saltonstall
Coffee Hour: Sarah Buermann
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Dorothy and John Brooks by their family.

December 10

Sermon: Comfort Ye My People
Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Scripture Reader: Mark Chadbourne
Usher: Mark Chadbourne
Coffee Hour: Judith Vanderkay
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of George Maliff from his friends at First Church.

December 17

Sermon: Music Sunday
Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Luke 1:46b-55, Psalm 126
Scripture Reader: Carol Lohe
Usher: Werner Lohe
Coffee Hour: Sally and Lisle Baker
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Sandy Belfer by her husband Myron Belfer.

December 24 *No Morning Service (Candlelight Service at 4:30 PM)*

Sermon: Christmas Eve
Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20, Psalm 96
Scripture Reader: Reverend Mark
Usher: David Brooks and Geoff Swift
Coffee Hour: No coffee hour
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of the founders of First Church by the First Church in Chestnut Hill

December 31

Sermon: Carol Sing
Scriptures: Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Luke 2:22-40, Psalm 148
Scripture Reader: Susan Welch
Usher: John Welch
Coffee Hour: Susan and John Welch
Altar Flowers: The flowers are given in loving memory of the founders of First Church by the First Church in Chestnut Hill

DECEMBER MUSIC

December 3, 2023

Prelude	Arabesque	Vierne
Anthem	Ave Maria	De Prez
Hymn 103	Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus	
Response	Praise God, the Lord, Ye Sons of Men	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Dixit Maria	Hassler
Hymn 107	Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	
Hymn 101	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	
Choral Amen	Twofold Amen	Persichetti
Postlude	Fugue	Bach

December 10, 2023

Prelude	Pater noster	Foote
Anthem	The Truth from Above	English Carol
Hymn 109	Watchman, Tell Us of the Night	
Response	Abide, O Dearest Jesus	Bach
Offertory Anthem	How Far Is It To Bethlehem?	English Carol
Hymn 110	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	
Hymn 104	Comfort, Comfort Ye My People	
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Persichetti
Postlude	Nun freut euch, lieben Christen	Bach

December 17, 2023

Prelude	Pastoral Symphony	Handel
Anthem	Noel Nouvelet	French Carol
Hymn 114	Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates	
Response	O Be Glad, My Soul, Be Cheerful	
Offertory Anthem	Coventry Carol	English Carol
Hymn 115	On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry	
Musical Sermon	And the Glory of the Lord And He Shall Purify For Unto Us a Child is Born Glory to God His Yoke is Easy, and His Burthen is Light Hallelujah	Handel
Hymn 119	As With Gladness Men of Old	Parry
Choral Amen	Sevenfold Amen	Stainer
Postlude	Piece pour Orgue	Franck

December 31, 2023

Prelude	Andante with Variations	Volger
Anthem	The Angels and the Shepherds	Bohemian Carol
Hymn 116	All Things Bright and Beautiful	
Response	Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Prince of Peace	Bach
Offertory Anthem	The Cherry Tree Carol	English Carol
Hymn 120	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	
Hymn 130	Joy to the World	
Choral Amen	Twofold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Deck the Halls	English Carol

MUSIC PROGRAM NOTES

This Christmas season we will be performing Carols from many traditions. It has been a joy to be part of the services.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Joyous Holiday Season.

QUICK REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

PFLAG Workshop

The Zoom session with PFLAG has been changed to Wednesday, January 17 at 6pm due to a conflict. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rev. Mark who will send the Zoom link when it is generated.

Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 10 - The Hanging of the Greens, after the service.

Thursday, December 14 - Messiah Concert at 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 17 - Messiah Music Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 21 - Taize Service at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:30 p.m. (no morning service)

Sunday, December 31 - Carol Sing at 10:30 a.m.

SNOW POLICY

As a reminder, as we head into another winter season here at First Church, Newton's winter parking restriction go into effect beginning on December 1st and continues through March 31st. If Newton announces a parking ban during a snowstorm on any given Sunday, then the service will be canceled. Please stay warm and safe.

FCCH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We're still welcoming checks for the 2023 Phantom Thanksgiving Fair, hoping to raise as much as we did last year. All of the proceeds are divided between the Brookline Food Pantry and the Centre Street Food Pantry in Newton. Both pantries are experiencing increased demand by families in need.

We're also continuing our food drive for the Kids Club at the Centre St. Pantry. Thanks to all who have already donated the items displayed on the table. We'd like to fill the table by mid-December. The requested items are:

Cereal (including oatmeal)

Applesauce in small cups

Mac n Cheese

Jelly in plastic containers

Please bring your donations to church on Sunday or drop them off on the Baker's side porch at 137 Suffolk Rd. Thank you!

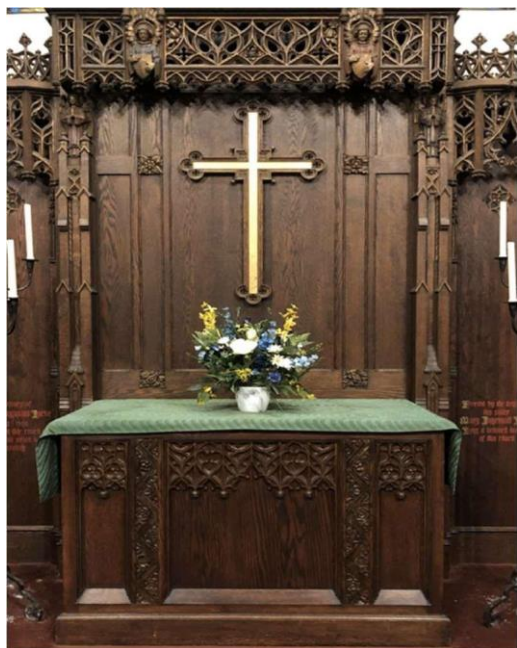
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 10:00am on Wednesdays on Zoom. We are studying the Gospel of Luke. Contact Rev. Mark 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, multiple dates are still available for the year. Please contact Victor Strama if you are interested at 26suffolk@gmail.com.

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

26Suffolk@gmail.com

FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS MONTH

Please contact Rev. Mark at the church or via email
(mjtcaggiano@gmail.com)



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Parsonage Telephone 617-232-0011
www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org