

# *the first church in chestnut hill*

---

[UNITARIAN]

26 SUFFOLK ROAD OFF HAMMOND STREET



December 2024

---

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 1

Sermon: Be on Guard  
Scriptures: Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-36, Psalm 25  
Scripture Reader: Linda Hicks  
Usher: Mark Chadbourne  
Coffee Hour: Ludy and Garrett Shih

December 8

Sermon: Refiner's Fire  
Scriptures: Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6, Psalm 100  
Scripture Reader: Carol Lohe  
Usher: David Cornish  
Coffee Hour: Judith Vanderkay

December 15

Sermon: A Christmas Pageant  
Scriptures: Zephaniah 3:14-20, Luke 3:7-18, Psalm 23  
Scripture Reader: Rev. Mark  
Usher: Bert Dane  
Coffee Hour: Judie Wyman

December 22 (Music Sunday)

Sermon: Magnificent/Music Sunday  
Scriptures: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:39-45, Psalm 80  
Scripture Reader: Lisle Baker  
Usher: Lisle Baker  
Coffee Hour: Sally and Lisle Baker

December 24 (Candlelight Service at 4:30 PM)

Sermon: Christmas Eve  
Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20, Psalm 96  
Scripture Reader: Rev. Mark  
Usher: Geoff Swift and David Brooks

December 29

Sermon: Carol Sunday  
Scriptures: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Luke 2:41-52, Psalm 148  
Scripture Reader: Joe Hicks  
Usher: Joe Hicks  
Coffee Hour: Susan and John Welch  
Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Sandy Belfer by her husband Myron Belfer.

DECEMBER MUSIC

December 1, 2024

---

Prelude	Pater noster	Foote
Anthem	Comfort Ye My People/Every Valley Soloist – MinSun Im	Handel
Hymn 104	Comfort, Comfort Ye My People	
Response	Praise God, the Lord, Ye Sons of Men	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Quem pastores laudavere	German 14th Century Carol
Hymn 114	Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates	
Hymn 101	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Persichetti
Postlude	Nun freut euch, liebeb Christen	Bach

December 8, 2024

---

Prelude	Communion	Dubois
Anthem	Thus saith the Lord/But Who may abide Soloists – Becca Allen and Guanghao Yu	Handel
Hymn 115	On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry	
Response	O Be Glad, My Soul, Be Cheerful	Bach
Offertory Anthem	Resonemus laudebus	
Hymn 103	Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus	
Hymn 100	O My Soul, Bless God, the Father	
Choral Amen	Sevenfold Amen	Stainer
Postlude	Christus der ist mein	Coe

December 15, 2024

---

Prelude	Fantasia	de Santa Maria
Anthem	Gott ist mein Hirt	Schubert
Hymn 107	Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	
Response	Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now	Bach
Offertory Anthem	For Behold/The People who walked in darkness Soloist – Guanghao Yu	
Hymn 109	Watchman, Tell Us of the Night	
Hymn 110	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	
Choral Amen	Twofold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Fuga	Czernohorsky

December 22, 2024 (Music Sunday)

---

Prelude	Pastoral Symphony	Handel
Anthem	Rejoice greatly Soloist – Christina Grandy de Oliveira	Handel
Hymn 121	From Heaven Above to Earth I Come	
Response	Savior of the Nations, Come	Bach
Offertory Anthem	The Wexford Carol	Traditional
Hymn 129	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	
Hymn 144	What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright	
Choral Amen	Threefold Amen	Traditional
Postlude	Fugue on a Theme of a Russian Noel	Gliere

December 29, 2024

---

Prelude	The Shepherd at the Manger	Liszt
Anthem	A virgin most pure	English Traditional Carol
Hymn 131	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	
Response	From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come	Bach
Offertory Anthem	A Boy was born	Britten
Hymn 124	Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella	
Hymn 130	Joy to the World	
Choral Amen	The Lord Bless You and Keep You	Ludkin
Postlude	Toccata	Berlioz

## MUSIC PROGRAM NOTES

On Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm the Quartet and I will hold a Messiah Sing. This has proven to be an enjoyable community performance for all. Please mark your calendars and plan to sing along!!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

## QUICK REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Christmas Schedule*

Sunday, December 8 – Pageant Rehearsal at 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 15 – Christmas Pageant at 10:30 am

Thursday, December 19 – Messiah Sing at 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 22 – Music Sunday at 10:30 am

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:30 pm

Sunday, December 29 – Carol Sing at 10:30 am

### *Holiday Movie Series*

Wednesday, December 4 - *Miracle on 34th Street*

Wednesday, December 11 - *It's a Wonderful Life*

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> and continues through March 31<sup>st</sup>. 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

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Snacks Drive for the Brookline Food Pantry. The boxes of snacks have been delivered and were much appreciated.

We're also grateful for all the donations to our Fifth Thanksgiving Phantom Fair. There's still time to write a check if you would like to support our annual fund raising for the Centre Street Food Pantry and The Brookline Food Pantry. Checks should be made out to "FCCH Outreach." Especially at this time of year, the pantries face increased needs from food insecure families in our community.

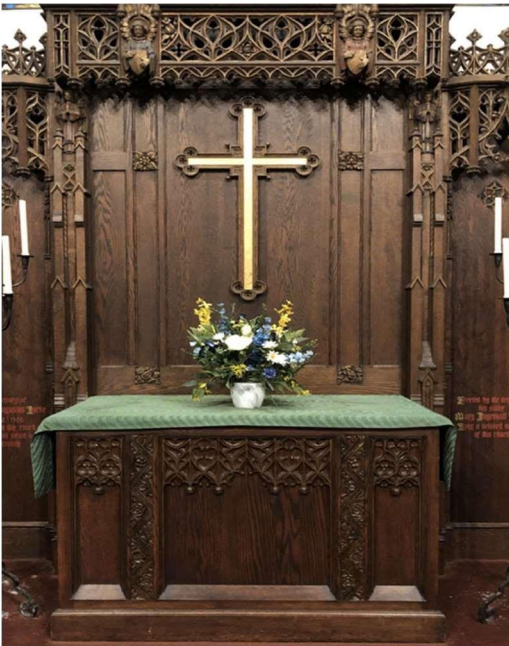
## ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Mark hosts bible study at 10:00am on Wednesdays on Zoom. We are studying the Book of Genesis. Contact Rev. Mark 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, multiple dates are still available for the year. Please contact Victor Strama if you are interested at [26suffolk@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ctroyen@mfa.org).) This is a rewarding opportunity to be part of our Sunday services.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

### MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CHOIR

Kathryn Rosenbach, 617-821-0385

Christina Grandy de Oliveira, Soprano

Becca Allen, Mezzo Soprano

MinSun Im, Tenor

Guanghao Yu, Baritone

### SEXTON

Dana Flynn, 617-680-0702

### ADMINISTRATOR

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

### FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS MONTH

Please contact Rev. Mark at the church or via email

*(mjtcaggiano@gmail.com)*



Church Telephone 617-566-6237

Parsonage Telephone 617-232-0011

[www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org](http://www.firstchurchchestnuthill.org)



