

*HYMN

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

blue hymnal No. 150

BENEDICTION

Christ was born in Bethlehem. But he is born anew in our hearts every day.
Welcome Jesus into your heart right now. Today! Let us celebrate the new
life with Jesus every day. Amen.

POSTLUDE *“Mary Had a Baby”*

Gant

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OUR OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF WELCOME

Believing that everyone is a child of God, it is with joy, and in the love of Christ, that we welcome all persons into the full life, ministry and mission of Dennis Union Church. We choose not to turn away anyone whom Christ would welcome. We affirm the dignity and worth of every person including, but not limited to, people of every race, ethnicity, age, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, family structure or economic circumstance. We celebrate God’s creative love shown in the wide diversity of humanity and the unique gifts each of us brings to the world. It is our intention to love one another as Christ has loved us.

We welcome guests to our worship today. Please sign one of our guest books located at the entrances to the sanctuary. We hope that you will share in the fellowship time after worship. If you are visiting with us today, please take a red cup. If you would like more information about Dennis Union Church, please fill out a guest card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

Crib Room: For your convenience, our **CRIB ROOM** is located directly off the sanctuary.

CHURCH PHONE 508-385-3543

Website: WWW.DUCHURCH.ORG

December 10, 2017

10:00 A.M.

The Second Sunday in Advent – Pageant Sunday

RINGING OF THE BELL – GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE – “*Away in a Manger*” & “*Infant Holy*” arr. Duncan
Willa Crowell, violin

WELCOME

CENTERING PRAYER

Lord, we praise you in our worship today. Let us be bearers of good news and messengers of mercy and peace, through Christ we pray. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God loves us so much that He wanted to be a part of our lives.

All: *He sent His Son to be one of us: to live as we live, to feel love the same way we do.*

One: Jesus is our Emmanuel; “God with us.” How wonderful to know Jesus loves us and God cares for us so lovingly.

All: *We love because You first loved us. Help us to remember that the love we share is a gift from our loving God.*

***HYMN** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” blue hymnal No. 148

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE The Ingraham Family

RESPONSE “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” blue hymnal No. 134

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Like the shepherds, it is difficult for us to wait. We also want to see God’s great surprise for ourselves right away. God’s surprises do come in a hurry, and we must be ready to share the Good News. The wait is almost over! Soon, we will be able to celebrate Jesus’ birth – just as those speedy shepherds once did. God, make us ready to share your great surprises at a moment’s notice. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

PAGEANT The Twelve Prayers of Christmas by Candy Shand

Mary	The Second Wise Man
The Donkey	The Third Wise Man
The Innkeeper	The Angel
Joseph	The Shepherd
The Star	The Lamb
The First Wise Man	Jesus

HYMN “*Away in a Manger*” blue hymnal No. 147

OFFERING/OFFERTORY “*In the Bleak Midwinter*” arr. Archer

God, as we give our tithes and offerings today, we want to do it with all the trust and simplicity of a child. After all, your Son Jesus told us that we would enter the Kingdom of Heaven only if we could receive it with the humility of a child. And so, on this Sunday of Advent, we remember the old children’s carol and make it our humble prayer today:

What shall I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part.

Yet what I can I give him, I give him my heart.

***DOXOLOGY (blue hymnal No. 46)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O God, whose bounty we have all received, accept this offering, and so follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among your people and advance the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

As Mary held her baby tenderly in her arms, she thought of all God had done for her and through her. The Child she holds is the Son of God – the answer to God’s promise long ago. God’s gift, so lovingly given, is the gift of family through the birth of Jesus. God claims us all as His children once again! How beautiful to know that we are surrounded by God’s love. Amen.