

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 3, 2017 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Welcome! We're glad you're here today! For more information about our church, please see our brochure in your pew. You are invited to return the enclosed information card to share your contact information and/or your pastoral needs; and you are welcome to sign our guestbook at the rear of the sanctuary. Infant/toddler care is in the Nursery/Room 1 from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.

MEDITATION: *Advent is a season for having our gaze gently but firmly redirected. A time to abandon all the shiny distractions that have turned our heads. A call to give our undivided attention to the one who is arriving any minute now, the one who has something vitally important to communicate to us, the one who will not be ignored.*

~ Vince Amlin from Watch - 2017 Advent Devotional by the Stillspeaking Writers' Group.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

PRELUDE *Partita on "O come, Emmanuel" (J. Woodman)*

GREETINGS and CHURCH LIFE

Rev. Ann Aaberg

One: This is the day our God has made!

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: Prepare the way of the Lord!

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

INTROIT (10:00 am) *Creator of the Stars of Night* Senior & Youth Choirs

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We call upon the God of justice, peace and righteousness to come into our midst.

All: We call upon the Spirit to breathe its breath of prophecy, energy and enlivening imagination upon us.

One: To wake us up and open our eyes and unplug our ears that we might hear and see and dream.

All: That we might follow the ways of God's extraordinary kingdom.

Unison: Come, let us worship the One who will show us the way!

LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLE

The CANDLE of HOPE

Advent Candle Lighters (8:00 am) Art & Peggy Miller

Advent Candle Lighters (10:00 am) Carly Pratt & Bailey McCarney

God, we thank you for the hope you have given us through your son Jesus Christ. We were people who walked in darkness, but we have seen a great light. Break through all that keeps us from you. Prepare our hearts this Advent to receive the gift of your everlasting love. Amen.

***HYMN #110** (Red Hymnal) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

***ADVENT PRAYER of CONFESSION**

Holy God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you. Our world worships the power that acts quickly through force; how difficult it is for us to wait for the power of your rule which comes slowly through love. We admit that while claiming to desire your reign of peace and justice, we take part in the ways of war, hatred, and injustice. We leave little room for you to act in our lives. We turn now to you in repentance and openness to your Spirit. Forgive us, and show us how to clear a path for you. Come to us in your Christ, and reveal your reign on earth. Amen.

***ASSURANCE of PARDON**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI #35** (Blue Hymnal)

Glory be to the Father (Creator) and to the Son (Christ) and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the Beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Prayer cards are provided in your pew if you would like to make a prayer request. They will be collected during the silent portion of the prayer. Please pass your card toward the center aisle for collection. If unable to pass your prayer card, you may raise it to ensure visibility and the pastor or a deacon will collect it.

SUNG RESPONSE to PRAYER #127 (Blue)

Creator of the Stars of Night (Verse 1)

**Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.**

PROCLAIMING the GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 64:1-9 (Pew Bible, O.T. page 694)

INTERLUDE (8:00 am)

ANTHEM (10:00 am) *Sleepers, wake! (F. Mendelssohn)* Senior & Youth Choirs

SCRIPTURE Mark 13:24-37 (Pew Bible, N.T. page 50) Rev. Ann Aaberg

COMMUNION REFLECTION "DELAYED" Rev. Ann Aaberg

MOMENT of SILENT REFLECTION

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

CALL to GIVE OUR TITHES and OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #46** (Blue Hymnal)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him (God) all creatures here below; Praise Him (God) above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father (Creator), Son (Christ), and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER of DEDICATION**

HYMN of PREPARATION #399 (Blue) *O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near*

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

(Participation in the sacrament of Holy Communion is open to all. We serve the congregation the elements in the pews. We invite you to take the bread and wait until all are served, signifying our unity as One Body of Christ. We invite you to take the cup when you are ready, signifying your personal relationship with Christ. It is the custom at this church to use unfermented grape juice in the cup.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that through your presence at this holy meal, you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name and serve the good of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #136** (Blue Hymnal) *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming*

***OUR COMMON COMMISSION**

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL AMEN #316** (Blue Hymnal)

***POSTLUDE** *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (J.S. Bach)*

*All who are able, please stand.



Flowers

In memory of our grandparents Arlene & Leonard McLaughlin, and our mother Susan Humphrey, from her children & the McLaughlin Family



Please join us immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service for refreshments and fellowship in our Parish Hall. All are welcome!

Advent Potluck Dinner 2017

Join us on **Saturday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m.** for culinary delight and carol sing. Please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name; but parents of young children, please bring food you know they will enjoy. The Council will provide cider, ham and turkey.

A – I = main dish. J – O = salad. P – Z = dessert

The WAY of JESUS

"Our spiritual growth begins with gratitude! Our growth in the Spirit inspires us to serve! Our service deepens our faith and leads us to share our gifts and the good news! It is the grace of God that keeps us giving and growing: inward, outward and closer to God! Thanks be to the Source of Life and Love and Power!"
~ Call to Worship printed in the November 19, 2017 MCC Sunday Bulletin

This passage reminds us that our love of Christ inspires us to serve and share our gifts and the good news. Your pledges provide a means for us to meet our spiritual and outreach goals.

Thank you to all who have returned their 2018 Pledge Card. If you have not yet returned your pledge, please either place it in the Sunday offering plate or return it to the church office.

Your Stewardship Committee,

Carole Callahan, Fred Deichmann, Tod Schaefer,

Jan Schuster, and Sue Skogsho

CHURCH GIVING TO DATE

As of 11/26/2017, our church has received \$310,305

or 91.9% of the \$337,788 budget for 2017.

2017 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS To order a memorial poinsettia for the church sanctuary, please complete an order form (available in the office, November issue of *The Anchor*, or on the sanctuary entrance tables). **Deadline: December 18, 2017 (Monday).** Cost: \$25.00 per plant. Submit completed forms to the church office with appropriate memorial wording and payment check made out to "Mystic Congregational Church" (with "Poinsettia Memorial" in the note/memo line).

WARM CHILDREN'S CLOTHES NEEDED When you sort through your children's coats, hats, mittens, boots, and sweaters in preparation for the cold days ahead, please bring gently-worn outgrown items to hand on the red tree outside of the Children's Ministries door. Sizes 3T-children's Size 7 are the primary target. Kathleen O'Beirne will deliver the first collection to Riverfront Children's Center after Sunday, **December 11**, and thereafter as necessary.

MINI-BAZAAR For all of who have last-minute shopping to do (or for those who have yet to begin!), the Mini-Bazaar will be open at the December 9th Advent Dinner and after both services on December 10th. Please bring cash or checks to pay for your truly locally-made unique purchases.





(Apocalypse, Belgium ca. 1313)

KEEP AWAKE!

"Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." ~ Mark 13:35-37

Advent and Christmas 2017

Sunday, December 3, 2017 (First Sunday of Advent)

8:00 & 10:00 am Worship & Communion Services

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Downtown Mystic Holiday Stroll

6:00-7:30 pm

Join MCC members of all ages to toast s'mores and sing carols around the fire pit in front of the church!

Thursday, December 7, 2017

Candlelight Prayer Service

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

A time for silent centering prayer

During this season of waiting and watching

Saturday, December 9, 2017

Annual Advent Potluck Supper

5:30 pm in the Parish Hall

following Children's Nativity Rehearsal in the sanctuary at 4:30 pm

Sunday, December 10, 2017 (Second Sunday of Advent)

8:00 am – Worship Service

10:00 am – Children's Nativity

Sunday, December 17, 2017 (Third Sunday of Advent)

8:00 & 10:00 am Worship Services

Annual Christmas Fund Offering

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Blue Christmas Service

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

For those who struggle during the holidays

Sunday, December 24, 2017 - Morning

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Worship Service - ONLY

Featuring Music from the Choir and Guests

Sunday, December 24, 2017 - Evening

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – Service for All Ages

10:00 pm—Lessons & Carols in Candlelight

MORNING MINISTRY

Ministers: All Members of the Church
 Pastor: Rev. Ann M. Aaberg
 Associate Pastor: Rev. Christa D. Swenson
 Director of Music: Andrew Howell
 Director of Children's Ministries: Genviève Spitale
 Parish Care Coordinators: Jane Donnel & Karin Stuart
 Nursery: Kathy Graham, Alexis Dempsey
 Flowers: Karin Stuart
 Hospitality: Merin Troutman
 Deacon: Jim Battaglia
 Scripture Reader 8:00 am: Doug Aaberg
 Scripture Reader 10:00 am: Fiona Kennedy
 Ushers: Jim Battaglia, Dave Benvenuti, Pam McGee, Don Parker
 Trustees: Ted Abbott, Jack Leary

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday, 12/03 **First Sunday of Advent**
8:00 & 10:00 am - Worship & Communion Services
 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 9:45 am - Nursery Care (Room 1)
 11:00 am - Nativity Music Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 11:00 am - HS Youth Group & Mission Trip Info Session (Youth Space)
 12:30 pm - HS Seniors' Lunch (Dog Watch Mystic)

Monday, 12/04 Meals on Wheels
 6:30-9:00 pm - AA (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, 12/05 9:30 am - Women's Fellowship Board (Library)
 6:00-7:30 pm - Annual Mystic Downtown Stroll (Front of Church)

Wednesday, 12/06 10:00 am - Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)
 7:00 pm - Council (Library)
 7:00 pm - Mystic Historical Society (Parish Hall)
 7:00 pm - Tutoring (Church of the City, New London)

Thursday, 12/07
 6:00 pm - Bell Choir (Music Room)
 7:00 pm - Senior Choir (Music Room)
7:00 pm - Advent Candlelight Service
 7:00-9:30 pm - AA (Youth Space)

Friday, 12/08 Meals on Wheels

Saturday, 12/09 9:30 am - Confirmation Class & Mentors (New London Urban Outreach)
 4:30 pm - Nativity Rehearsal (Parish Hall, Sanctuary)
 5:30 pm - Advent Potluck Dinner & Mini-Bazaar (Parish Hall)

Sunday, 12/10 **DEADLINE for JANUARY 2018 ISSUE of THE ANCHOR**
Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 & 10:00 am - Worship Services
 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 9:45 am - Nursery Care (Room 1)
 10:00 am - Children's Nativity (Sanctuary)
 10:00 am - Baptism of Jaxson Nikolai Enquist
 11:00 am - Youth Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
 2:00 pm - Jones Violin Recital (Sanctuary)

Mystic Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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 Website: www.mysticucc.org
www.youtube.com/mysticcongregational

MYSTIC CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

Organized in 1852 at Mystic, Connecticut



"And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."
 ~ Mark 13:37

KEEP AWAKE!

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Our Mission Statement: To joyfully bring the Christian principles of faith, hope and love to all through quality worship, education, fellowship and outreach.

ALL ARE WELCOME
An Open and Affirming Church