

The ORDER of WORSHIP
January 6, 2019 – 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. Please return the enclosed card to share your contact information and/or your pastoral needs. Infant/toddler care is in the Nursery/Room 1 from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m. All children will remain in worship today.

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

MEDITATION: *As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way. ~ Mary Anne Radmacher, 21st century*

PRELUDE *Partita on "Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern" (J. Woodman)*

GREETINGS and CHURCH LIFE Rev. Christa Swenson

One: This is the day our God has made!

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT (10:00 am)

Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come (printed here)

CALL to WORSHIP

One: Arise! Shine! Your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

Right: **We have seen the star in the east, and we are following.**

Left: **We have remembered God's wonder and promise, and we are worshipping.**

All: **We have come not to get presents, but to give them!**

One: Lift up your eyes and look around; God's people now gather together to open our hearts and sing out our praise.

All: **The mystery of God's wonder and grace is here: Come, let us adore!**

HYMN #144 (Red Hymnal) *What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

One: We remember the Magi, who set out with singular focus on the promise of the heavens.

All: **And we remember the ways that we have lost sight of you, God, as the bright guide for our lives.**

One: We remember that they stayed determined on their journey, not even swayed by Herod's power and promises.

All: **And we remember that often we have started out well, but strayed from your path, detoured by our fleeting fears and desires.**

One: We remember the wise ones who adored the child: wisdom and wealth falling to their knees before a poor infant.

All: **And we remember that too often we have given our adoration to wealth or wisdom, not seeing the Christ in our midst.**

ASSURANCE of PARDON

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:00 am)

PROCLAIMING the GOOD NEWS
in WORD and SACRAMENT

One: Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

All: **Our hearts and minds are open.**

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-6 (Pew Bible, O.T., page 690)

INTERLUDE (8:00 am)

ANTHEM (10:00 am) *Tres Magi de Gentibus (C.S. Lang)*

Senior Choir

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 (Pew Bible, N.T. page 2)

SERMON "Hopeful Light"

STAR SHOWER

***HYMN** *Arise, Your Light Is Come (printed here)*

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

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 #414** (Blue Hymnal) *Eat This Bread*

Eat this bread, drink this cup. Come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread, drink this cup. Trust in me and you will not thirst.

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

(Participation in the Sacrament of Communion is open to all. We serve the congregation the elements in the pew. 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

God of majesty and light, we give you thanks for this meal that strengthens us as we seek your light and follow your star, sustains us as we work, and nourishes us as we worship. We give you thanks for this community that supports us in our struggles, uplifts us in our joys and walks with us on our journey. We give you thanks for your abundant grace and love that is being made manifest in this sacred food we share. Send us forth into the world with courage and hope, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

***HYMN #176** (Blue Hymnal) *Sing of God Made Manifest*

***OUR COMMON COMMISSION** (unison)

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**



2019 Pledge Drive Update: Thanks to all of you who have returned your 2019 pledge cards. As of Monday, December 31, we have received pledges totaling \$336,327. That leaves a balance of \$21,673 needed to meet our total monetary goal of \$358,000. If you have not yet returned your pledge, please either place it in the Sunday offering plate or return it to the church office. An alphabetical listing of those who have pledged to date is now posted in the hallway. Thank you for your support!

Your Stewardship Committee,
Barbara Heuer, Sue Skogerboe, Tod Schaefer, Bill Jackson & Frank Davis

Mystic Congregational Church Notice of Church Meeting

Members of the Mystic Congregational Church are hereby called to attend the **Annual Budget Meeting** to be held in the **Sanctuary, 43 East Main Street, TODAY, January 6, 2019, at 11:00 a.m.** (Child care is available.)

The business to come before the meeting will be:

1. Action on the proposed 2019 Church Budget which will be available in the sanctuary or by email or paper copy from the Church office after December 29, 2018.
2. Any other business to properly come before this meeting.

Stacey Herrman, Clerk for Church Council

NOTES of PARISH LIFE

HEARING ASSISTANCE

Those with hearing aids so equipped may switch to the "T" setting on their aids to use our Hearing Loop system. Individual units are also available

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP On Tuesday, January 8th we will start off the New Year with a *Mandalas Workshop*. Led by Laurie Blefeld, a spiritual director, counselor, retreat facilitator and author, we will learn of her work with the women at York Prison designed to develop tools for spiritual and emotional healing. Using guided meditation, poetry and mandalas, participants are reminded that our lives are laced with grace. Creating mandalas has been used by many religions over the ages to encourage self-awareness and an understanding of the universe. Come at 9:15 am for good food and good fellowship and bring friends and family members to join this creative workshop. There will be a Bazaar Wrap-up meeting following the program. Bazaar Basket Table wants your elegant holiday baskets (& celsior) plus any gifts that you would like to re-gift. Also, as you are putting away Christmas decorations, if you'd like to downsize any good-looking balls or ornaments, please contact either co-chair (Kathleen O'Beirne or Lisa Hilliard). You may put them in the WF closet.

CONTACTING PASTOR CHRISTA SWENSON

Confidential Voice Mail at any time: (860)536-4259 Extension 112

Email: christa@mysticucc.org

Pastoral Emergency: (XXX)XXX-XXXX

PARISH CARE CONTACT NUMBERS Co-chair Karin Stuart, XXX-XXX-XXXX(H) or XXX-XXX-XXXX(C); Transportation Coordinator Jane Fitzpatrick, XXX-XXX-XXXX(C); Meal Coordinator Sue Johnson, XXX-XXX-XXXX(H). Please call them if you have any needs.



OPEN and AFFIRMING COVENANT

(Adopted on May 22, 2016)

We, the Members of Mystic Congregational Church, in the spirit of our commitment to honor all persons, declare ourselves to be a welcoming, Open and Affirming church. Following the commandment of Christ to love one another and with God's grace, we seek to be a faith community that invites into its midst all persons regardless of opinions, age, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, family structure, marital status, economic abilities and conditions, as well as mental, emotional and physical capacities. We welcome all to fully share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our congregation.

This means that you are welcome, no matter who you are, no matter where you are on the journey of life, for each one of you is a beloved child of God, and this household of God was not complete until you arrived.

MORNING MINISTRY

Ministers: All Members of the Church
Senior Pastor: Rev. Christa D. Swenson
Director of Music: Andrew Howell
Parish Care Coordinators: Jane Donnel & Karin Stuart
Nursery: Kathy Graham, Haley DelMonaco
Flowers: Sue Johnson
Hospitality: Christian Mission Committee
Deacon: Dave Benvenuti
Scripture Reader 8:00 am: Bob Haberman
Scripture Reader 10:00 am: Laurel Butler
Ushers: Sue Barker, Dave Benvenuti, Laurel Butler, Bob Haberman
Trustees: Ted Abbott, Kay Tower

CHURCH CALENDAR f THIS WEEK

Sunday, 1/06	8:00 & 10:00 am - Worship & Communion Services 9:45 am - Nursery Care (Room 1) 11:00 am - Annual Budget Meeting (Sanctuary)
Monday, 1/07	Meals on Wheels 11:00 am - Caregivers' Support Group (Library) 2:00-4:00 pm - Pastor's Community Office Hours (Bartleby's) 6:30-9:00 pm - AA (Parish Hall)
Tuesday, 1/08	9:15 am - Women's Fellowship (Parish Hall) 5:00 pm - Lectio Divina (Library)
Wednesday, 1/09	10:00 am - Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office) 1:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Crochet Crusade (Library) 4:00 pm - Parish Care (Library) 6:00 pm - Trustees (Conference Room)
Thursday, 1/10	6:00 pm - Bell Choir (Music Room) 7:00 pm - Senior Choir (Music Room) 7:00-9:30 pm - AA (Youth Space)
Friday, 1/11	Meals on Wheels
Saturday, 1/12	10:30 am - Virginia Beggs' Memorial Service (StoneRidge)
Sunday, 1/13	8:00 & 10:00 am - Worship Services 9:45 am - Nursery Care (Room 1) 10:15 am - Children's Annual Budget Meeting (Parish Hall) 11:00 am - Cong'l Conversation with Karen Ziel (Parish Hall) 11:00 am - Youth Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) 5:00 pm - HS Youth 2 nd Sunday Suppers (Pastor Christa's Res.)

Mystic Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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