

First Congregational Church of Natick

United Church of Christ

January 10, 2021

First Sunday After Epiphany



An Open and Affirming Congregation



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

An Open and Affirming Congregation

JANUARY 10, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

**WE WELCOME REV. DR. JOHN WEAGRAFF AS OUR GUEST
WORSHIP LEADER THIS MORNING.**

We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Dr. John Weagraff to our pulpit once again! John has been a member of FCC since 1984 and has served as outreach minister for over a decade. His present outreach ministries include teaching ethics at area universities (Northeastern and Assumption), serving as staff chaplain at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, MA, and working with children and families in distress through Children's Charter, a child and family trauma clinic, and providing consultation in child protective cases.

“We shall not weary, we shall not rest, as we stand guard at the entrance gates and the exit gates of life, and at every step along way of life, bearing witness in word and deed to the dignity of the human person-of every human person.”
~ Richard John Neuhaus

WELCOME TO OUR DIGITAL WORSHIP!

In this church we focus on the things that matter. It doesn't matter to us if you grew up in a church or never set foot in one before. You matter to us. We welcome you as you are, because we believe that we are all embraced by God's inclusive and extravagant love.

We invite you to “check in” on the social media of your choice, let them know that you are doing church, even in these uncertain times, ask your networks for prayer requests, or otherwise bring your online self into God’s presence today.

SHARING YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS

Because of a few minutes broadcast delay, prayer concerns and celebrations to be shared during worship can be emailed to prayers@firstchurchnatick.org at any time before or during the worship service up to the Reflection.

PRELUDE

5th Prelude from L'art de toucher le clavecin
Thomas Foster, piano

François Couperin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Following the Announcements, we invite you to have a candle available to light as your worship leaders light the Christ Candle)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO CELEBRATION

We worship today in the presence of the God beyond knowing;

Yet whom we know.

We worship the God who is beyond understanding;

Yet who understands us.

We worship the God whose thoughts are not our thoughts and whose ways are not our ways;

Yet who has been revealed to us in grace and truth through Jesus Christ.

In the presence of the Unknown and the Known,

the Incomprehensible and the Comprehending,

let us worship our God!

OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)

God of Wisdom, you knew our need to see you in human form,

to feel your love through a human heart,

to know your will and purposes through a human life.

And you came to be among us in Jesus, to live and love,

suffer and die, and rise again that we may know we will rise.

Illumine our minds by the light of your presence as we worship this day,

that we may more fully know you and the deeper truths that you offer,

and more faithfully serve you.

Amen.

HYMN NO. 258

Morning Has Broken

Beth Canterbury, soprano

Morning has broken like the first morning,

blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from haven,

like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,

sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!

Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw Play!

Praise with elation, praise every morning,

God's recreation of the new day!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(Reach your hands out in a gesture of blessing or place your hands together over your heart and bow in a sign of Namaste. Once worship is concluded, consider being in touch with someone you know to share Christ's peace.)

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*French Suite No. 6 in E major,
BWV 817: Sarabande*

J.S. Bach

SONG OF PRAISE

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, all heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:25-40

REFLECTION

“Growing into Epiphany”

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (TOGETHER)

*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.*

HYMN No. 304

Jesus Calls Us, O’er the Tumult
Beth Canterbury, soprano

*Jesus calls us, o’er the tumult of our life’s wild, relentless sea;
day by day his voice still calls us, saying “Christian follow me.”*

*As of old, Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus’ sake.*

*Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world’s golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying “Christian, love me more.”*

*In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these.”*

*Jesus calls us; by your mercies, Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.*

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*French Suite No. 6 in E major,
BWV 817: Gavotte*

J.S. Bach

Livestreamed & Recorded Worship

In consideration of the safety of our worship leaders and to demonstrate that everyone should avoid going out into public unless absolutely necessary our worship leaders will continue leading worship from their homes for the foreseeable future. ***During this time, livestreamed and local access cable broadcasting of worship at the usual Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship time will continue as usual.***

Worship is at the very center of our life together as a congregation, as well as being at the heart of our call to proclaim and embody the good news of Jesus in the world. Church leaders remain committed to ensuring that we can do that well. Thanks in advance for your patience and understanding as we seek to do what is best for our worship leaders and right for our community while remaining a church that gives high priority to worship together as the Body of Christ. If you have feedback for our worship leaders please contact Jonathan at pastor@firstchurchnatick.org. We appreciate your input!

Post Worship Fellowship

11:30AM – 12:30 PM, on Zoom following livestream worship

Join us for an informal virtual gathering where we can greet one another, and – if the spirit strikes us – talk about the day’s worship experience.

Join Zoom Meeting

Follow this link for the videocall:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82063038700?pwd=OEpWSlpmZ2w5cmp1bG85NHRhZWZjZz09>

or,

Meeting ID: 820 6303 8700

Passcode: 777188

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,82063038700#,,,,*777188# US (New York)

+13017158592,,82063038700#,,,,*777188# US (Washington D.C)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jonathan will be on vacation from December 28, 2020 – January 11, 2021. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact the office at [508-653-0591](tel:508-653-0591)/admin@firstchurchnatick.org or contact Sarallyn Keller [508-740-3134](tel:508-740-3134)/sarallyn@firstchurchnatick.org.

With our Annual Meeting coming up on Sunday, January 31, we feel it is important for you to know more about the church’s financial life as we look to 2021. We invite you to an online informational session via Zoom on Monday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m. [Click here to connect to Zoom.](#)

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 10, 2021 - JANUARY 17, 2021

- Sunday, January 10** 10:30 AM Virtual Worship will be live streamed on Pegasus.
11:30 AM Post Worship Fellowship via Zoom
2:00 PM Virtual Worship service will be available on the church website.
- Monday, January 11** 7:00 PM Information Session via Zoom
- Tuesday, January 12** 5:00 PM Children in grades 5/6
- Wednesday, January 13** 12:00 PM Mid-week Connection via Zoom
7:00 PM Council Meeting via Zoom
- Friday, January 15** Annual Reports Due
- Sunday, January 17** 10:30 AM Virtual Worship will be live streamed on Pegasus
11:30 AM Post Worship Fellowship via Zoom
2:00 PM Virtual Worship service will be available on the church website.

Together, We're Making A Difference!

Our church is responding to the current health crisis in innovative ways, by continuing to gather on Sundays in live-streamed worship, and being in fellowship and shared ministry through videoconferencing. Now we're also exploring how to further live into our identity as Natick's *Digital* Front Porch. Far from putting our mission on hold, this is the time when Spirit-led people can tend the spirits of others in our community feeling anxious and isolated. There's never been a more important time to proclaim and embody the Good News of God's abiding love given to us by Jesus!

We need your generous support of our shared ministry during this time when the offering plate isn't being passed during in-person worship. The average congregation receives only 16% of its household contributions from mailed, online, or auto-bill paid giving. Most comes through the offering plate. We're pleased that 63% of our giving is now coming in alternative ways. But, while this is a terrific shift, it still means that we're only seeing about two-thirds of our regular giving from church members and friends. If you haven't done so already, here's how you can shift your in-person offering plate giving to other giving means:

- Mailing in donations to: 2 East Central Street, Natick, MA, 01760.
- Making one-time or recurring gifts online through our church website and its secure giving platform: <http://firstchurchnatick.org/give-online>.
- Setting up auto-bill pay with your bank (usually be done online), just the same way you would for paying utility bills.

The world needs what FCC Natick can be and do, particularly in this time that is challenging all of us in unprecedented ways. Thanks for doing your part to make sure we can keep our unique and vibrant ministry going at just the moment it's needed most!

PRAYER LIST

Abby Robbins	Friends & Family of John Van Ness	Alice Bridinger
Andi	Friends & Family of Pat Hanks	Amanda Sinesi
Anna Hayes	Friends & Family of Don O'Meara	Barbara Bidwell
Aphrodite Hoge	Friends & Family of Hannah Nickerson	Barbara Dickson
Becky Sherman	Family & Friends of Nadena Wonkka	Beverly Newell
Canasta	Family & Friends of Gregor and Kelsey	Bobby Pelletier
Solidaria	The Rodriguez Cruz family	Brad Stickley
Carole	Peter Sinesi & his family	Carolyn Aycock
Chris Gobron	Sara Hull & her family	Cheryl Gowdy
Connie Sullivan	Michelle, Catherine & Noah	Carolyn Sarbello
Don Peterson	Jen M. & family	Chris Starks
Grandma Pat	Shirley & her family	Donna Shermerhorn
Hailey	Evelyn & her family	Ed Kinley
Ian	Jose Yadira and family	Faye Bishop
Jamie Polk	Katie and her family	Federico Perea
Jane Hall	Jean & Paul Joyce	Grace Osgood
Jenna Hayes	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey	Gerry Granfors
Joe	Sari, Andrew & Tyler	Heidi Burger
John	Marcy Bailey-Adams	Jayne Hayes
John Swaney	Sibyl Waterman Haley	Joan Hayes
Karen	John & Kay Hartman	Josh Stackhouse
Kiara	Char & Tommy Hannon	Keith Jennings
Liam Schmitt	Bonnie & George	Lynne Parker
Margarita Ralios	Kenny and Ann Hoffman	Mary Cerreto
Mark & Patty	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja	Mickey Nieman
Mark Crouch	All those struggling with substances	Natalie Friend
Miriam's Mom	All those waiting at the border	Pam Dotter
Nicholas	Health Care Workers	Paul Ladd
Oliver	Minimum Wage Workers	Peter Cho
Patrick	People feeling Isolated and Separated	Peter McKinney
Randall D.	People living at home in Difficult Situations	Richard Keller
Ronnie	People searching for a Place to Live	Tiffany Spigarolo
Stephan Gordon	The families and loved ones who have passed due to the pandemic	Tim Porter
Susan	Prayers for all those affected by the fires.	
	Prayers for college students back at school and facing many challenges.	
	Praying for wisdom for teachers as they engage in difficult shares or conversations with their students.	

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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