



*God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
**No matter who you are or where you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome here!***

**Guilford Community Church is a safe place
for all people to worship regardless of race, creed,
age, cultural background or sexual orientation**

Rev. Lise Sparrow, Pastor
Peter Amidon & Andy Davis, Choir Directors
Patty Meyer, organist

Pastor's Phone: (802) 257-2776
Pastor's e-mail: gccucc@sover.net
Administrator's/Kitchen Phone: (802) 257-0994
Administrator's e-mail: gccsecy@sover.net
website: www.guilfordchurch.org
Or Like us on Facebook at Guilford Community
Church, United Church of Christ



Administrative Office Hours: Closed Mon
Tues-Fri 9am-3pm
Pastor's Office Hours: By Appointment

Bulletin Notices: Please notify the office by Thursday
at noon if you would like something added to the
bulletin.

Hospital Visits: If you or a loved one are in the
hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Lise Sparrow
or one of the Deacons, please leave a message at
257-2776 with the name and room number of the
person. Hospital confidentiality regulations prevent
visits without this information.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Feast of Epiphany
January 5, 2020

Everyone is welcome to join us after church as we visit the display of nativities from all around the world at Shirley Squires' house. We make the visit in support of the Brattleboro AIDS Project.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A complete list of announcements can be found in the insert or in our weekly e-news. Please fill out the cards in the pews to be added to our mailings.

Birthday Song:

*Happy Birthday, happy birthday, we love you
Happy Birthday and may all your dreams come true
When you blow out the candles one light stays aglow
It's the love light in your eyes, where'er you go.*

SILENT MEDITATION & THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRAYER AND CANDLE LIGHTING FOR THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE *Note: The pastor search committee meets every week and is thoughtfully taking steps to find a new pastor to replace Lise after her retirement in June.*

OPENING ANTHEM: "Over the Hill, Over the Dale"
(Tony Barrand, Fred Breunig and Andy Davis)

CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 60:1-6
Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;**
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
**Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;

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Let us show forth your praise
as we worship joyfully together and

as we serve you gladly in our lives.
In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

*THE CLOSING HYMN: #168 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

SENDING FORTH THE LIGHT

BENEDICTION

*THREEFOLD AMEN: Hymn #291

**invites the congregation to stand*

***RPB=Red Pew Bible ***LPB=Large Print Bible

**We wish you a warm welcome this morning and
hope you will feel very much at home and among
friends. Please plan to stay and join us after the service
for a time of fellowship and refreshment.
Everyone is welcome!**



Today we especially thank the following volunteers
who make this worship service
and the reception after possible.

Service Coordinator for today is Fred Ashworth
Greeters: Lucy Spahr-Blazej & Helen Merena
Flowers: Margaret Dale Barrand

NEXT WEEK: Sunday, January 12

**Capital Campaign Celebration
after Church... Potluck lunch.
Cake and beverages will be provided.
Come see and celebrate the wonderful things
that have been accomplished
and share a friendly meal.**



We hear in Matthew 26: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

People: His bread is Life to us.

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the Covenant, which is poured out for the healing of hearts, the forgiveness of sins and the reconciliation of all peoples and Creation.

People: His cup is strength and hope to us.

Pastor: Let Us Pray...
Loving God, who in Jesus Christ gives us our salvation,
Consecrate by your Holy Spirit,
these elements of Holy Communion.
Bless us as we receive them this day
that we may be your faithful people.
In our Risen Savior's name we pray.

All: Amen.

All come forward to receive the bread and wine.
Please note the cut-up bread in the center of the plate is gluten free. The cup is all grape juice, not wine.
When the server shall say: "The body of Christ" or "the blood of Christ", please respond, "Amen".

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

All:
We thank you God for this most amazing gift
that you have brought us together at this table
in your loving presence and with each other.
We thank you for your abiding love and for the
promise of your sacrifice to us. We ask that you
strengthen our faith and increase our love
toward one another.

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**your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.**
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
**because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.**

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
**They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

OPENING HYMN: #167 "Arise Your Light Has Come!"

UNISON PREPARATION FOR CONFESSION

Pastor: 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.**

Pastor: 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.**

Pastor: 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.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: To each of us who knows that
we have lost sight of the promise,
or lost the way of our God, or lost hope,
God has a promise: "I am with you."
God gives a holy presence, and forgiveness,
and new hope, in the Christ.

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All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

ANTHEM: "Star of Bethlehem" by Fisher Boyce

Chorus:
Beautiful star of Bethlehem
Shine upon us until the glory dawns.
Give us the light to light the way

Unto the land of perfect day,
Beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on.

CHILDREN'S STORY: *Arriving at Epiphany*
PRAYER

CHILDREN'S HYMN: #170 "Wise Men Seeking Jesus"
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn: #617
"Write These Words in Our Hearts ..."

CONTEMPORARY READING (John O' Donohue)

The weight deadens
on your shoulders
and you stumble,
may the clay dance
to balance you.
And when your eyes
freeze behind
the grey window
and the ghost of loss
gets in to you,
may a flock of colours,
indigo, red, green,
and azure blue
come to awaken in you
a meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays
in the currach of thought
and a stain of ocean
blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight
to bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,

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may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak
to mind your life.

SCRIPTURE READING (*Larry Crockett*)

Matthew 2:1-12 ***RPB P.1 ***LPB p.1

SERMON

ANTHEM: "March of the Kings"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(It is our custom to join hands for the Lord's Prayer.)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Hymn #278

"Hear our Prayer, Oh Lord..."

THE OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: #320 "Here, O My God, I See.."

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

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

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

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

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 come in adoration!**

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CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Need a ride to church? Please call Patty Meyer
at 257-0994 by Friday noon.

***Want to receive our weekly e-news and quarterly
newsletters?*** Please fill out one of the cards in the pews and
place it on the offering plate.

BCTV: Many of our services have been filmed and can be
found on BCTV, Channel 8 Wednesday morning at 7am and

Sunday mornings at 8am or anytime online at
www.brattleborotv.org

Audio-recordings of services are available through
Patty
in the office.

AA MEETINGS take place on Tuesdays and Fridays in
the Houghton Room. Tuesdays at 6:00 pm is an OPEN
AA MEETING for men and women. Friday's meeting is at
5:30 pm and is a closed AA meeting, for women only.

SECOND SUNDAY STEP STUDY – An Al- Anon Family
Step Work Group. This group meets the 2nd and 4th
Sunday of the month, 2- 4pm in the Houghton Room.
The next meeting is Sunday, January .

LIVING STRONG Classes for strength and balance meet
at the church Mon/Wed at 5:30–6:30pm, Tuesday -
Friday 10-11am. Speak to Lise (257-2776) or Lucy (380-
3695) for more information or check out the Facebook
page: Guilford Living Strong.

TAI CHI FOR MATURE BODIES – Mondays 11-12 for all
levels. For more information contact Patty at 257-0994.

**Guilford Community Church
United Church of Christ**

2020 CALENDAR



Today January 5, 10 am
FEAST OF EPIPHANY
Visit to the nativities after church

Sunday, January 12
Installation of New Officers
Potluck Lunch

Sunday, January 19
10 am Rev. Lise Sparrow

Monday, January 20
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
Centre Congregational Church
Celebration 4 pm

“Be Still and Know that I Am God”

CENTERING PRAYER
*every Wednesday
everyone welcome*

OPEN MEDITATION
4:15-4:50pm in the Sanctuary

BOOK DISCUSSION:
“The Way of Centering Prayer” by David Frenette
Chapter 6

CLOSING MEDITATION 5:20-5:30pm

JANUARY IS HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

AND

January 15 is Homelessness Awareness Day

*Join us at Pliny Park at 4:30 for a short program and
remembrance for those who have passed away.*

SEASONAL OVERFLOW SHELTER (SOS) MEAL TONIGHT

We are one of over twenty faith-based communities who, along with a few community organizations work together to be sure everyone has a warm bed and meal each night. Rob and Jill Harnish have again stepped forward to lead the preparation and serve meals the first Sunday of each month. Your help is needed and welcomed in all aspects of the task. Please let them know if you can provide part of a meal and/or

help with serving the meal each month. Rob's number is (508) 808-1373 or email: rharn92636@gmail.com. **Our next meal is TONIGHT**

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DONATIONS OF FOOD: The Drop In Center on South Main Street is open every day as a place of warmth and always welcomes food donations to serve people who drop in. Consider this if you have leftover food to share and drop it off at the South Main Street location any day. We are also collecting: mugs, coffee, laundry detergent, toiletries, hats, gloves, boots and jackets for adults.

DONATIONS FOR MORNINGSIDE SHELTER

The longer term shelter can always use sheets, towels and toiletries.

PROJECT FEED THE THOUSANDS/GUILFORD CARES

Cereal (non-sugar coated)	Pasta (Assorted)
Tuna Fish	Brown Rice (one pound)
Spaghetti Sauce	Canned Chicken
Canned Vegetables	Fruit in Natural Juices
Peanut Butter	Jelly
Soup (Assorted Low/No Salt)	Mayonnaise
Cheese	Pancake Mix
Sugar Free Apple Sauce	Crackers
Dried Fruit (no sugar added)	Whole Grain Crackers
Baby Formula	Baby Food

ALL Donations can be left in the baskets downstairs and we will be sure to deliver them.

PRAYERS AT GUILFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Our faith teaches us that prayer is a unique and powerful force for healing. Within our community, we believe it is also important to respect confidentiality. We trust the people listed below have been consulted and are glad to be included.

If you would like a loved one added to these prayers, please leave a prayer request in the prayer triangle at the back of the Sanctuary, or call the Pastor's phone line (257-2776). They will be included for three weeks unless other requests are made.

GCC Search Committee
Family and Friends of Michael Vose
Family and Friends of Charlene Churchill

Joy Hayes	Joan Seymour	Doris Spahr
Anne Janeway	Elaine Petrie	Carol Jaenson
Theodore Koehler	Julie Peterson	Herb Meyer
Trudy McNulty	Grace Wahlberg	Carole Crompton
Jay Falk	Diana MacInnes	Angela Daprato
Lois & Chaz Freeman	Mary Grove	Elizabeth Israel
Abby Jacobson	Nan	Eileen Lantzas
Victoria Conroy	Jacob	Mary Ellen Koehler
Ina Schaeffer	Justin	Lori Shriner
Russell Provost	William Murray	Peggy Bowler
Carmella Vellela		Barry Levitt

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY meets Mondays at 3pm.

Everyone is welcome. The knitters provide beautiful hand knit or crocheted shawls for those in need of the comfort the shawls offer. There is a good supply of yarn and patterns for those who wish to fashion a shawl. If you would like a shawl blessed to give to someone please speak to Lise, Pat Haine or Ellen Crockett. If you would like yarn to make one please contact Pat (257-0626). And, if you donate a shawl, please put your name on it so we will know who made this gift!