

Kids on Sunday: Our nursery is always open for infants and toddlers. Ask an usher to show you where the little ones hang out. PreK - 6th start in worship and go to classes after the Children's Message except for Communion Sundays when they start in their classrooms. Ask any usher for help in finding the right resource for your child.

Visiting? Thanks for joining us for worship today. We hope you enjoy the service and that it hits a chord deep in your soul. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex by the front door and join us following the service for refreshments and fellowship. If you would like more information about the church or to hear from our pastor please let a deacon or usher know. They will be glad to help answer any and all questions.

Chancel Altar Flowers:

In loving memory of our grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. Young and Mr. and Mrs. Carleton E. Brown, and our father Eugene H., Winston, Jr., and our friend Mr. John (Jack) Ott, from Stephanie Roosa, Pamela Cartier, Gregory and Wayne Winston.

(The Altar/Flower Chair for December is Beverly Nightingale)

Lighting the Steeple – A Beacon of Faith

(To light the steeple please see Carolee Wentworth at coffee hour.)



Large print bulletins, and a hearing assistance system (see an usher) are available. Handicap parking is in the rear parking lot and off of Route 28 and Pilgrim Rd. Access ramps from all parking areas are available. An accessible unisex restroom is off the hallway at the right front of the sanctuary.

P. O. Box 2347, 533 Route 28, Harwich Port, MA 02646

Tel. #508-432-1668

Email: Carol@pilgrimchurchharwichport.org

Website: www.pilgrimchurchharwichport.org

Like us on: [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Pilgrim Congregational Church United Church of Christ



December 24, 2015

Christmas Eve

Pilgrim Church Mission Statement

The mission of this Church is to provide a warm, safe, non-judgmental, and welcoming environment for all who wish to worship God; to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to celebrate the sacraments; to experience Christian fellowship and unity with all members of this Church family and the greater community; to render loving service toward all humankind; and to strive for righteousness, peace, and justice in the world. (Church Council Nov 2011)



Christmas Eve December 24, 2015 - 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Greeting

Introit *Rise Up Shepherd, and Follow* American Spiritual

Advent Wreath Lighting

Unison Prayer: God of all creation, spark of life in every birth, and midwife of the promise that waits to be born in each of us, we give thanks for the one who comes to us this night. Light our hearts like these candles so we may become beacons of your love. This we pray in the name of the holy child of the living God, Jesus Christ. Amen.

+**Opening Hymn** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Pilgrim #132

Unison Prayer: God of guiding stars, as we arrive at the stable help us to enter humbly; help us discover the gifts it holds for us. Then, filled with the grace of deep commitment to your son, guide us onto his path. Grant that we might be faithful to him every day. In his name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Gifts and Tithes

Offertory *Wexford Carol* (Maeve McNamara, soprano)

+ **Response:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Christ all creatures here below.

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter.

One Triune God whom we adore.

Lessons and Carols

Please remain seated for the hymns

First Lesson *Foretelling the Savior's Birth* Isaiah 9....
Reader: Beverly Nightingale

Carol *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* Pilgrim #131

Second Lesson *The Peace of Christ Foreshown* Isaiah 11....
Reader: Roy Terwilliger

Carol *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Pilgrim Choir

Third Lesson *The Angel Greets Mary* Luke 1....
Reader: Linda Cacciapouti

Carol *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates vv 1-3* Pilgrim #114

Fourth Lesson *The Birth of Jesus* Luke 2....
Reader: Al Eaton

Carol *Away in a Manger* Pilgrim #137

Fifth Lesson *The Shepherds Go to Find Him* Luke 2....
Reader: Sally Hayes

Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing vv 1&2* Pilgrim #120

Sixth Lesson *The Magi Follow the Star* Matthew 2....
Reader: Bruce Wellnitz

Carol *We Three Kings of Orient Are vv 1&5* Pilgrim #143

Seventh Lesson *The Future Unfolded* John 1....
Reader: Rev. O'Connor

Refrain *Gloria in excelsis Deo...Gloria in excelsis Deo*

Homily Rev. Peggy O'Connor

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard On High* Pilgrim #116

Christmas Prayer

Lighting the Christmas Candles (remain seated) As the lights dim, deacons will light the candles of those seated on the aisles. Please dip your unlit candle into the flame of your neighbor's burning one. When the candles are lit we will sing Silent Night. Please put your extinguished candles in the boxes as you leave.

Silent Night, Holy Night

*Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!*

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.*

+Hymn *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come* Pilgrim #103

A Christmas Blessing

Postlude *How Great Our Joy* arr. Mary McDonald

A Blessed Christmas to You and Yours

*The minister and deacons of the church send you
their very best wishes for a blessed Christmas.*

Interim Minister: Rev. Peggy O'Connor

Music Director/Organist: Fred Drifmeyer