

## Today's Worship

Kent is leading the worship today. The elements for communion have been prepared and provided by Barbara Holliday. Carly Parker is assisting with communion. Dan Brandl is pianist.

The flowers on the altar today are in memory of the Rose Gledhill Nichols family and Harold Williams family from Sheila Williams.

### Happy Birthday

Dec. 9 Michael Miller

### Events this week at First UMC

Mon., Dec. 4	Office Closed	
Tues., Dec. 5	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Office
	10 a.m.	AIAnon
Wed., Dec. 6	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Office
	7 p.m.	Open Meditation Class
Thurs., Dec. 7	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Office
Fri., Dec. 8	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Office
	9:30 a.m.	OA

### Coming Events

Sat., Dec. 16	9:30 a.m.	SPRC meets with D.S.
	10:30 a.m.	Annual Church Conference
Sun., Dec. 24	4 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship Service
Mon., Dec. 25	<i>Merry Christmas</i>	



### Ministers The Congregation

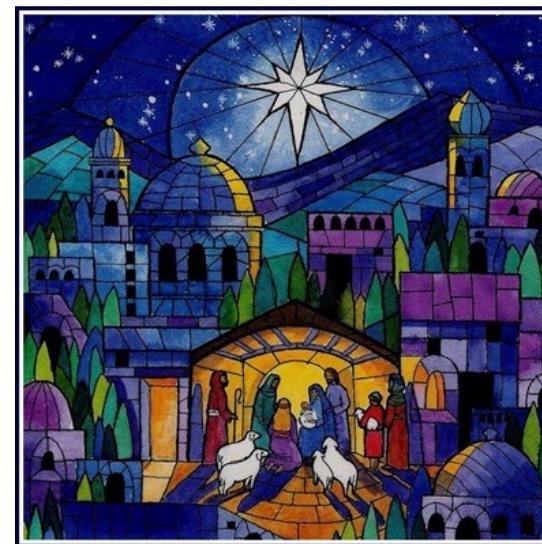
**Pastor** Rev. Dr. Kent Richards   **Organist** Dan Brandl  
**Adm. Asst.** Anita Parker   **Ushers** Phil Jeckel, Don McKay

Link to First UMC Worship: <http://firstumcmystic.org/podcasts.html>

First United Methodist Church Mystic   e-mail: [office@firstumcmystic.org](mailto:office@firstumcmystic.org) // (860) 536 3394  
website: <https://firstumcmystic.org>



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
23 Willow Street, Mystic, CT 06355



*Welcome to First United Methodist Church.*

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT COMMUNION SUNDAY

DECEMBER 3, 2017  
10 a.m. Worship



*First United Methodist Church (FUMC) Mystic intends to be an inclusive community. The families who do or have attended FUMC, who believe in the Christian message, are welcome to be married, baptized, and have funerals for their family members on the church property with the church's pastor. They are all equal and wanted. All who worship in this church can serve the congregation with their God given gifts in any capacity.*

*Welcome*

Welcome to the Seasons of Advent and Christmas. We greet you in the name of Christ Jesus. The love that descended to Bethlehem is a burning fire whose light chases away every shadow, floods every corner, and turns midnight into noon. Help us light up the world with Prayer, Scripture, and Song. Thanks for coming together. Thanks be to God!

We ask that everyone put their phones on mute during worship, thanks.

Congregation reads bold print throughout the order of worship

\*Please stand, if you are able, at these points

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

**Of that day or hour, no one knows.**

Be alert! Keep awake!

The time is drawing near:

**The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

\*HYMN – UM Hymnal 196

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Cliff & Chris Sebastianelli and Sidney Arzamarski

We light this candle as a symbol of the HOPE we have in the promise of the Lord’s coming to us and for all people.

The Lord will fulfill the promise to the house of Israel and Judah. A righteous branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in all lands.

**Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

SILENT REFLECTION FROM NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

God’s table is open to all who wish to participate in Holy Communion. All are invited to kneel at the altar (if you are able) and to receive the bread and cup by dipping the bread in the cup. All may return to their seats after a blessing.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Let us pray

**Eternal God, we give thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN – UM Hymnal 206

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE and BENEDECTION

Beware.

**Keep alert.**

Keep awake.

**God is doing awesome things we do not expect.**

And Christ is coming near with great power and glory, and with tenderness.

May God strengthen us to the end;

Christ draw near to our very gates;

and the Holy Spirit awaken our spirits;

until, with eager longing,

we greet the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

***Our life together continues with conversation.***

## *Holy Communion*

God's table is open to all who wish to participate in Holy Communion. All are invited to kneel at the altar (if you are able) and to receive the bread and cup by dipping the bread in the cup. All may return to their seats after a blessing.

Jesus said, "Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Let us pray:

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden;  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may truly  
love you and worthily praise your holy name:  
through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord is here.

**God's spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, always and everywhere,

to give thanks to you, the true and living God, through Jesus Christ.

You are the source of life for all creation and you made us in your own image.

In your love for us you sent your Son to be our Savior.

He suffered death on the cross for us.

You raised him in triumph and exalted him in glory.

Through him you send your Holy Spirit upon us and make us your people.

We proclaim your glory as we say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night before he died,

your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;

he gave thanks and broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

'Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.

Do this to remember me'.

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them saying:

'Drink this all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant.

Do this to remember me'.

## OPENING PRAYERS

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away,  
our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done.  
Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship.**

**We keep busy schedules; we rush about.**

**Captivated by lights other than your light,**

**seduced by the lure of consumer goods,**

**we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world.**

**Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively.**

**Awaken us to your surprising power, glory, and peace;**

**so we do not miss how near you are to our very own doors.**

**Be gracious toward us, we pray,**

**until we are gathered, from the ends of earth to the ends of heaven, into your embrace.**

**We pray in the name of Christ,**

**who comes anew and is always present. Amen.**

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us so that we may be blameless.

**Thanks be to God, who is faithful**

**and has called us into the fellowship of the Son,**

**Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Let us continue to pray

**God of unexpected power,**

**you will not perform according to our wants and whims.**

**Instead you come like the sound of sheer silence.**

**Instead you are born among us as an infant.**

**Instead you show us how love is made perfect in weakness.**

**So we will stay alert, or at least we will try,**

**because we are your people**

**and there is no other God besides you. Amen.**

## RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 80 (selected verses)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Stir up your might,

and come to save us!

**Restore us, O God;**

**let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

You brought a vine out of Egypt;

you drove out the nations and planted it.  
You cleared the ground for it;  
it took deep root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches;  
it sent out its branches to the sea,  
and its shoots to the River.**

Turn again, O God of hosts;  
look down from heaven, and see.

**Have regard for this vine,  
the stock that your right hand planted.**

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong.

Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.

**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is  
now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Gracious God,  
heaven and earth will pass away, but your words do not disappear:  
Your words stand ever present.  
May our generation be attentive so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we remember your ways and gladly do right,  
meeting you wherever and whenever you appear.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

READING

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
**When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,**

Isaiah 64:1–9

**you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.**

From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
**no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait.**

**You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.**

But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

**We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.**

There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

**Yet, O LORD, you are our Creator;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.**

**Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.**

HYMN – UM Hymnal 211

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

READING

Mark 13:32-37 (NT 48; 62)

SERMON

“Undivided Attention”

COMMUNAL AND PASTORAL PRAYERS

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

HYMN – UM Hymnal 620

“One Bread, One Body”