Words of Welcome

Call to Worship  (adapted from Spill the Beans)

One: We search for light in times of darkness
Many: Consolation in times of struggle
One: We celebrate in times of joy
Many: We rejoice in God’s presence
One: In the fullness of our lives and the wonder of creation.
Many: In the fragility and vulnerability of being human
One: Let us worship God
Many: the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty and Everlasting Prince of Peace.

*Hymn  We Gather Together  (All rights reserved. One license # 707872)

We gather together to ask for God’s blessing,
To turn to a wisdom surpassing our own;
The pow’rs that oppress us now cease to distress us.
O God, be present with us, and make your will known.

Beside us to guide us, O God, we perceive you
Ordaining, maintaining the power of life.
Yes, yours be the glory; let all tell the story.
Our God, be ever with us, in glad ness and strife.

May all sing your praises, Redeemer triumphant,
Defend us, befriend us, whatever may be.
May your congregation escape tribulation.
Your name be praised forever, O God, make us free!

*Unison Prayer of the Day  (adapted from Julie Gvilie revgalpals.org)

Sovereign God, in the midst of chaos, you are calm; in the center of unrest, you are peace, in the darkness and struggle you are light. Quiet our spirits and focus our attention when the pain feels too great and we cannot catch our breath. Shine your light into the darkness. Birth new hope in places of grief and pain. Spirit of Wisdom, breathe empathy into hearts. Teach us how to dismantle systems of injustice in the world, but also in your church, and to be the church in the world, facilitating the process that leads to new life by following the path of Jesus who taught us to pray.
*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 that 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.

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia

A Story for All Ages

Anthem

Joys, Concerns and Prayers for the World

Our prayer list: Kip, Tyler Rachel, Irene, Don and all living with chronic disease; Les and Kay; The ongoing impacts of COVID – jobs, stability, division, health. Bob, Dominique, Bill, Diane, Mel, Dick, Beanie and all living with cancer;

Your prayer requests can be sent to Rev. Joan or the office email at office@main-street-church.org

Hymn

Blowin in the Wind

How many roads must a man walk down
Before you call him a man?
How many seas must a white dove sail
Before she sleeps in the sand?
Yes, and how many times must the cannonballs fly
Before they're forever banned?
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, and how many years must a mountain exist
Before it is washed to the sea?
And how many years can some people exist
Before they're allowed to be free?
Yes, and how many times can a man turn his head
And pretend that he just doesn't see?
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, and how many times must a man look up
Before he can see the sky?
And how many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?
Yes, and how many deaths will it take 'til he knows
That too many people have died?
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind
Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 9:1-7

Sermon

Rev. Joan MacPherson

Musical and Financial Offerings

(you can donate at www.main-street-church.org or mail checks to 145 Main Street Amesbury)

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye Heavenly host
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost

Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation

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Commissioning and Benediction

Benediction Response
Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, confused and torn.
Hold out your candle, for all to see it
Take your candle, go light your world
Take your candle, go light your world.

Participating in Worship Today: Deacon Shirley Maynard Technology Anne Bourbeau

Announcements

Communion Offering for November ~ Discretionary Fund

Pictures and Stories From the Border Immersion Team

Today Sunday November 21st at 5:00 pm.

All are Welcome to come hear the stories from the travelers and share in conversation.
Please let Joan know if you plan to attend

Stewardship Ministry

Thank you to all those who have submitted their pledges for 2022. If you haven’t already done so, the Stewardship team would appreciate hearing from you this week. You can email your pledge for 2022 to Kay at kaynweiner@gmail.com. If you are unable to email, please call the church office for assistance.

Advent Happenings

Saturday November 27th 10:00 Family Advent Gathering in Vestry
Come, join the fun with crafts, music and motion, spiritual moments, and fellowship
Sunday November 28th 5:00 pm Outdoor Advent Candle Lighting and Prayer Service on Front Lawn

Lights in the Darkness

This year in addition to poinsettias and wreaths in the sanctuary, we are replicating last year’s outside display of lights during Advent and Christmas. Tributes are welcome in memory or honor of those you love. A $25.00 contribution for your tribute is suggested. As we have done in the past, there will be a listing shared so we know in whose memory/honor your donation is given. Please indicate Lights in the Darkness on the memo line of your check and send it to Main Street Church or drop it in the collection plate. Send donor name and tribute information to Jen Moughan at jmpm4mscc@gmail.com

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No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey….Come
experience God's love….Go,
Serve God's world