

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MONTAGUE,
TRINITARIAN, MONTAGUE, MA
December 31, 2023 1st Sunday after Christmas
Bold italics indicate the work of the people.
**Indicates the people shall stand if able.*

The Hymnal for this morning is the Black Hymnal.

PRELUDE & PROCESSIONAL
ANNOUNCEMENTS
A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

The splendor of God has been revealed among us.

A child has come to change our ways.

We who have walked in shadows have seen a great light.

We cast aside the unnecessary burdens we have carried.

Worship the one who breaks our chains and frees us.

Let the heaven's be glad and let the earth rejoice!

*HYMN #132 "Joy to the World"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Eternal God, we praise you for your work of redemption in sending us the gift of Jesus, born in our midst. Disperse every cloud of gloom and fill our hearts with the radiance of the Christ Child, that his perfect love may live in and through us now and forevermore. Amen

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, the year is in the books and we confess that we spent a lot of time on things that don't matter, while many things that do matter were never acted on. Inspire us to make new beginnings that will draw us closer to fulfilling in us your divine and saving purposes..

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God offers a fresh beginning and salvation to all who seek it with sincere hearts.

All: Thanks be to God!

*A Gloria

From all that dwells below the skies, Let the Creator's praise arise!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
Let God the Spirit loose each tongue!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SPECIAL MUSIC

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL READINGS

Responsive Reading of Psalm 148	(see insert)
Hebrew Scriptures Isaiah 61:10- 62:3	(OTp. 651)
Epistle Reading Galatians 4:4-7	(NTp. 167)
Gospel Reading Luke 2:22-40	(NTp. 51)

SERMON "New Beginnings"

HYMN #448 "Take My Life, God, Let it Be"

PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession (see insert)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever Amen.

Prayer Response

*DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Praise God, the Source of life and birth.

Praise God, the Word, who came to earth.

Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame.

All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.

(sung to the tune of Old 100th)

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

With gratitude for all that you provide, dear God, and to the service of the world you love so much, we dedicate these gifts and our lives to you, in Jesus name. Amen

*HYMN #129 “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

***BENEDICTION**

Response

As we leave this quiet place, the light of Christ will guide us. As we share His truth and grace, our Lord will walk beside us. May the peace of God be with us as we live and serve in faith. May the love of Christ within us show in all we do and say. Amen. Amen

POSTLUDE

(Please remain seated until the postlude has been concluded).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The deacon this morning is Janet Andrews
Worship for the winter will be held downstairs beginning Sunday, Jan 14th
Rev. Koyama’s office hours are on Tuesday’s from 9:30-12:30pm. Please call ahead at 808-282-6711.

PRAYER GARDEN