

January 4, 2026 (Year A: Christmas, Week 2)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prelude "Adagio" Mozart

Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle Lisa Urso

Introit "Old Christmas Song" Liszt

Call to Worship

One: Arise! Shine! For your light has come.

Many: The glory of the Lord rests on all of us!

One: So today we stand up as we praise the Lord.

Many: Look! Our hearts rejoice as we stand before God.

One: Together, we come to praise the Creator of light!

**All: Let our lives show God's light to the world
beginning here and now.!**

* Passing the Peace

* **Hymn** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #277

* Gathering Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* **Gloria Patri** #813

*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.*

Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:41-52

One: The Word of God for the people of God. | **All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "New Beginnings" Susan James

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **Hymn of Response** "In the Midst of New Beginnings" Insert

Joys and Concerns

One: God, in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer.

Song Cares Chorus (seated) #627

I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet. And anytime that I don't know what to do, I will cast all my cares upon you.

Pastoral Prayer

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, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Affirmation #247

Let's worship and adore him. Let's worship and adore him.

Let's worship and adore him, Christ the Lord.

Offering

Invitation

Offertory "March of the Three Holy Kings" Liszt

Doxology #815

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Dedication

Announcements

Stewardship Moment

Hymn of Preparation "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" #279

Communion

* **Closing Hymn** "The Lord's Prayer" #631

* Benediction

Postlude "Allegro" Mozart

Welcoming Deacons: Lina Vior and Lenny Brown

Reading Deacon: Justine Hart

Ushers: Bonnie and Jane Palmer

Flowers: Given by Arlene Wilson in loving memory of church members, Ellie Bartlett and Diana Dixey

All are warmly invited to enjoy fellowship after the service.

* **Please rise in body or spirit.**

Prayers

All prayer concerns will be listed for four weeks. After that time, let us know if you want your request to remain on our list.

*Please pray for:

Ken Nichols

Lina Vior and family

Nate Chapin

Mark, friend of Susan

James

Margie

Matt Heard, friend's

son of Martha & Jeff Yardis

Craig, friend of Pastor

Daniel

John, brother of Joyce

Pillion

Linda, daughter of Paul and Jane DiMauro

Ann, friend of Corrine Sternberg

Austin, Cousin's son of

Corrine Sternberg

Cory, friend of Third

Church

Linda Rec

WELCOME: Third Church welcomes you to worship on this Sunday morning. If you are visiting with us, please fill out an information card and place it in the offering plate. Please join us for Coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

Don't forget the outreach box. Bring a can of food to church each Sunday. Our collection goes to help meet the needs of the food shelves of Amazing Grace. We are also collecting cans of gravy for the Middletown Thanksgiving Project.

1/4/26 History of Christianity 8:30 am

Music Meeting 11:30 am

Pack 43 Meeting 2:00pm

Troop 16 Meeting 4:00 pm

1/6/26 Endowment Meeting 7:00 pm

1/7/26 Bible Study 10:00 am

Narcotics Anonymous 5:45 pm

Flywheelers 7:30 pm

1/8/26 Choir Practice 6:00 pm

1/10/26 Bible Study 10:00 am

Birthdays: I. Goodfield 1/7, R. Czesak 1/9, A. Baron 1/9

Congregational Care

If you know of any concern or a member or friend who needs a visit, please contact the office via email or note.

If you would like special prayers for anyone, please contact Lori Albert.

Prayer shawls can be like hugs from God from all the prayers that go with them as they are knitted, with a blessing added by the pastor when completed. If you would like a shawl or know anyone who would like one, please reach out to a deacon or Pastor Daniel. Recipients need not be a member of Third Church to receive this token of love.

Remember our shut-ins with prayer: Lynda Andrew and Janet Manthay.

Third Congregational Church

Established 1773

Building on 250 years as a vibrant community of Christian Fellowship and service in our modern New England neighborhood...



January 4, 2026
"New Beginnings"

Ministers: All God's People

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Daniel Schlorff

3rd@schlorff.com | (203) 803-3540

Youth Minister: Collin Kennedy

Organist/Director of Music: Corbin Beisner

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