

***Second Congregational Church of Attleboro  
United Church of Christ  
January 12, 2025***



***50 Park Street, Attleboro, MA 02703 (508) 222-4677***  
***www.attleborosecondchurch.org office@attleborosecondchurch.org***  
***Find us on Facebook***

***The Reverend Dr. S. William Sencabaugh — Pastor***  
***William A. MacPherson, PhD — Director of Music***  
***Katrina Lay — Executive Director, Jack and Jill School***  
***Michele Anderson — Administrative Assistant***  
***Jack Baptist — Sexton***

***We are an Open and Affirming Congregation***  
**BULLETIN AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT**

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*Second Congregational Church of Attleboro*  
*United Church of Christ*  
*January 12, 2025*

**Prelude**

*Preludes on CRANHAM*  
("In the Bleak Midwinter")

Pamela Decker  
Aaron Shows

**Welcome & Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Michael Touloumtzis, Liturgist

Liturgist: The voice of the Almighty is powerful.

**People: The voice of the Sovereign One is full of majesty.**

Liturgist: The Holy One is in this place.

**People: Praise be to God.**

Liturgist: Draw your strength from God.

**People: And may God bless creation with the gift of shalom.**

**\*Hymn**

"Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above"

No. 46

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

Liturgist: Let us pray together.

**All: Holy God, John the Baptist promised that you would bring fire, and it is with fire that we ask you now to come. Come with fire to enliven our weakened spirits and our dimmed hopes. Come with fire to light the path to your truth. Come with fire to burn away all in our world and in us that stands in the way of your Word. Come with fire to warm hearts grown cold and to comfort those against whom the stormy winds have blown. Come with fire to draw us into the holiness of your life, to empower us with your Spirit, and to send us with zeal into the world you love. We ask this in the name of your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Response**

*"Gloria Patri" No. 734*

**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.**

**Anthem**

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Gustav Holst, arr. Craig Courtney

**Sunday School Dismissal**

**Awarding of Honorary Deacon to Jack Baptist**

Charlie Oliver

## Pastoral Prayer

### Prayers of Joys and Concerns of the People

#### Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray as Christ our savior has taught us.

**All: 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.**

#### Offertory

**\*Doxology** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" No. 34

#### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn** "When John Baptized by Jordan's River" vs. 1 & 2 No. 239

**Scripture** Luke 3:15-17 and 21-22 NT pg. 60

**Sermon** "We're Pretty, Pretty, Pretty Good" Rev. Dr Will Sencabaugh

**\*Hymn** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" No. 48

#### **\*Benediction**

**Response** "Savior, Again to Your Dear Name" No. 711, vs. 1

Savior, again to your dear name we raise  
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
we give you thanks before our worship cease,  
and now departing, wait your word of peace.

#### **Postlude**

*Prelude on ST. DENIO* Matthew Corl  
(*"Immortal, Invisible"*)

*If you are leaving the sanctuary during the postlude, please do so quietly.*

*Throughout the bulletin, when you see an \* you are invited to stand if you are able.*

# Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above 46

1 Praise the Lord who reigns a - bove and keeps his court be - low;  
 2 Cel - e - brate th'e - ter - nal God with harp and psal - ter - y.  
 3 God. in whom they move and live, let ev - ery crea - ture sing,

praise the ho - ly God of love, and all his great-ness show:  
 tim - brels soft and cym - bals loud in this high praise a - grec:  
 glo - ry to their Mak - er give, and hom - age to their King.

praise him for his no - ble deeds, praise him for his match - less power:  
 praise him, ev - ery tune - ful string; all the reach of heav - en - ly art.  
 Hallow - ed be his name be - neath, as in heaven on earth a - dored;

him from whom all good pro - ceeds let earth and heaven a - dore.  
 all the powers of mu - sic bring, the mu - sic of the heart.  
 praise the Lord in ev - ery breath, let all things praise the Lord.

# 239 When John Baptized by Jordan's River

1 When John bap-tized by Jor-dan's riv - er in faith and hope the  
 2 There as the Lord, bap-tized and pray - ing, rose from the stream the  
 3 O Son of Man, our na - ture shar - ing, in whose o - be-dience

peo - ple came, that John and Jor - dan might de - liv - er  
 sin - less One, a voice was heard from heav - en say - ing,  
 all are blest, Sav - ior, our sins and sor - rows bear - ing,

their trou-bled souls from sin and shame. They came to seek a new be -  
 "This is my own be - lov - ed Son." There as the Fa - ther's word was  
 hear us and grant us this re - quest: dai - ly to grow, by grace de -

gin - ning, the hu - man spir - it's age - less quest, re - pent-ance  
 spo - ken, not in the power of wind and flame, but of his  
 fend - ed, filled with the Spir - it from a - bove: in Christ bap -

and an end of sin - ning, re - nounce-ing ev - ery wrong con-fessed.  
 love and peace the to - ken. seen as a dove, the Spir - it came.  
 tized, be - loved, be - friend - ed, chil - dren of God in peace and love.

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 48

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise.  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light.  
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
 all praise we would ren - der, O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

The **Lead Deacon** this month is Karen Slawson assisted by Deb Hawes.

### Meetings and Activities

Sunday 12th	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:15 am	Worship / Sunday School <b>Stewardship Luncheon</b> New Members Meeting Christian Education Comte. Meeting
Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Book Study
Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	“The Chosen” Discussion Group Cub Scout Pack 33 Meeting
Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Board of Deacons Virtual Meeting Bell Choir Rehearsal Scout Troop 34 Meeting Adult Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm 4:30 pm	Women’s Fellowship Potluck & Meeting Jack & Jill Supper & Bingo
Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Worship / Sunday School
Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry Facilities Committee Meeting
Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Book Study Administration Committee Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup>	5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	“The Chosen” Discussion Group Cub Scout Pack 33 Meeting PFLAG Meeting

There will be a **New Members Meeting** after the service today. If you are interested in joining the Church, please consider attending one of these meetings. A member of the Board of Deacons will be on hand to provide information and answer any questions that you may have. We will meet in the Ladies Parlor.

The **Outreach & Missions** Committee wants to thank everyone for their generous donations of warm mittens, hats, and gloves. The need at this time is for warm winter socks (think wool or thick boot socks) for men and women. If you are able, more donations would be appreciated. We will continue to collect in the entrance area of the church.

**Women’s Fellowship:** Sandy Saunders invites you to her house on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 2:00 pm, for a Potluck Women’s Fellowship Meeting and appreciation for volunteers. Come enjoy fellowship! Please let her know if you can come 508-699-2738 or email [sandrasaunders99@gmail.com](mailto:sandrasaunders99@gmail.com). Thank you for your service.

**Chair to Donate?** We are in immediate need of an additional electric lift chair in good condition. The chair donation would be for a deserving, long time church congregant. If you know of anyone - friend, relative, or organization who no longer has need for such a piece of furniture or collects such pieces to pass to others with an immediate need, please reach out to Karen at 774-203-6938. Thank you for your consideration.