Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday — November 22, 2026
Worship Service at WCUMC & via Zoom — 9:30 AM

Prelude – "Blessed Assurance" — arr. Ham

Greeting
This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Hymn – "Now Thank We All Our God"

Call to Worship
Let us shout for joy and break out in song!
Yet, even in the silence, God hears our praise.
In the mornings and evenings,
We praise God's name in jubilant song and quiet prayer.
Our thankfulness can never outweigh God's abundance.
Let us give thanks for all God has given. Praise the Lord!

Handbell Introit – "We Gather Together" — arr. Callahan

Opening Prayer
Eternal One, we praise you for the lavish love you provide us. Love experienced through the abundance of the earth, meets our every need. As we gather this morning in worship, hear the thanks in our hearts and on our lips. We praise your almighty name. Amen.

Passing of Peace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Lord's Prayer

Organ Dedication in Honor of Karen Leonard's Ministry — Kathy Ha

Anthem – "The First Song of Isaiah" (see attachment for refrain) — White

Offertory Reflection — Holly Cerullo

Offertory – "First in My Heart" — Morris

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication
God of abundant blessings, you provide for us in countless ways: through the life-giving gifts of water and nourishment, through the beauty of creation, and through the shelter and care we need each day. Out of your love, you sustain all creation. May they reflect our commitment to follow Christ, serving not only with our words but through lives shaped by generosity and love. In Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn – "Give Thanks"

Scripture Reading – Acts 2:42–47**

Sermon – "A Life Worth Sharing: The Blue Zones and the Power of Community"

Closing Hymn – "Count Your Blessings" (see attachment) — Oatman

Announcements

Benediction
And God's people say: **Amen.**

Benediction Response – "May You Run and Not Be Weary" — Murakami/Hanson

Postlude – "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" — arr. Lowe

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**After the scripture readings, please respond, "Thanks be to God."

We extend a warm greeting to all who are attending our worship service this morning in person, on Zoom, or watching later via a video link.

Today – Festival Ringers and Senior Choir
Acolyte – Estelle Loiselle
Lay Reader – Emily Weirich
Pastor – Rev. Geisa Matos
Guest Musician – John Churchwell
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THIS WEEK AT WEST CHELMSFORD UMC

Sunday, November 22nd, Christ the King Sunday & Thanksgiving
9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person and via Zoom
10:00 AM, Sunday School in the Education Wing
10:30 AM, Coffee Hour in the Vestry
1:30 PM, MVR Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
2:00 PM, Cub Scout Pack 70 Wolf Den Mtg. in the Education Wing, Classroom 1
3:00 PM, Cub Scout Pack 70 Lion in the Education Wing, Classroom 1

Monday – **7:30 PM, Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal in the Sanctuary**

Tuesday – **6:30 PM, Advent Book Study via Zoom**
7:00 PM, Christian Ed Committee Meeting via Zoom
7:30 PM, Senior Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Thursday – Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, November 29th, 1st Sunday of Advent
9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person and via Zoom

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- For all who are grieving, especially within our congregation and community, that they may find comfort, strength, and hope.
- For unity among all people and peace throughout the world.
- For those experiencing poverty, injustice, and discrimination, that they may find dignity, justice, and compassion.

Article Submission Due Dates

- Articles for the **mid-week email** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM on Monday.**
- Articles for the **church bulletin insert** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM on Tuesday.**

Worship Resources: Scifres, Mary; Beu, B.J.. *Abingdon Worship Annual 2026*

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

Advent Can Still Change the World - Join us for this remarkable study that will help us understand our present-day challenges as we examine the world at the time of Jesus' birth. We'll look at the themes of power vs. promise and empire vs. empathy. Author Josh Scott (Pastor of Grace Pointe Church) will help us understand that the birth of Christ still offers the assurance that God is right here with us, and the hope that Advent can still change the world.

Lorraine Macpherson will lead this book study with video segments for each session. We will offer each session twice per week:

- Via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM, November 24th - December 15th. Click here for the Zoom link.
- In-person after church in Classroom 1 beginning Sunday, November 29th – December 20th.

Choose whichever time works best for you. The book is now available at the church office for $22.99, or you can order it on Amazon, Kindle, and Apple Books.

The sign-up sheet for the St. Paul's Meal is now online. To volunteer, please click on the link below. The St. Paul's Meal will be served on **Wednesday, November 25, 2026**.

Each year on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving, WCUMC serves a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner (Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, and Squash) that is prepared by the Princeton Station Restaurant in Chelmsford. This year, WCUMC will provide traditional apple and pumpkin pies for dessert. We will need milk, 15 pies (apple or pumpkin only), and 8-10 servers for the meal. The pies should serve 8 people and be pre-baked, but DO NOT SLICE the pies.

Please review the available slots, make your selection, and thank you for your support of this important mission.

Thank you.

David Troughton

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-67202417-november

Holiday Fair – Calling all elves! We need to start planning for our Holiday Fair on **Saturday, December 5th, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**.

- **Plants** – Please let Holly know if you have a plant to donate to the Fair. Accepting 4"-6" pots of well-developed plants. A poster for Swag orders will be up soon.

- Ladies, please look through your **jewelry boxes** and donate what you can. Box is in the Vestry.
- Please go through your Christmas decorations/items and consider donating them to the **White Elephant table**. We donated last year's things, so we need items!
- **Start crafting**. Please let Lori know what you're making so we can have ample tables to display them all.
- **Christmas Trees** – Fresh Christmas Trees from VT will be on sale again this year. If you would like to guarantee your tree, please email or text Abbey Ciardi at abbeyandrj@yahoo.com or 802-345-8893.

Upcoming MYF Events – Please mark your calendars for the following events:

- I have been asked by Parents and kids if we can do the Journey to Bethlehem tour again this year. I have ordered tickets for **December 6th with the first tour starting at 6:15pm**. Please let me know if you or your child is interested in going. The tickets are free and I will need some help from parents to carpool. Please go online to the Journey to Bethlehem, at the Faith Evangelical Free church in Acton MA for details.
- The Christian Ed committee will be having the Santa Parade on **December 13th from 12:00 to 3:00 PM**. I would like to take the MYF kids with us because at each stop, we will be singing Christmas Carols. If you and your child would like to join us, please let me know. I will also need some help from parents with carpooling. While Santa is getting ready for the parade, I was going to order pizza for the Kids and adult helpers before we leave. If you know someone who would like a visit from Santa, please sign up on the sign-up sheets located in the vestry and the education wing lobby.

If your child has any food allergies, please let me know. Also, the MYF is open to all kids who would like to participate. If you have never attended an MYF event, please come join us and have a good time. A parent or guardian must pick up all kids at the end of the event. If you have any questions, please call me.

Harry Johnson, 617-784-3776

Santa Parade - The Christian Education Committee has been working with Santa's Secretary to schedule Santa and his elves for a drive-by parade on **Sunday, December 13th, between 1:30 and 3:30 PM!** We would like to invite those who are interested in participating, either by joining the parade or scheduling a visit, please contact Kathy Clark at 978-857-1651 or kathysbiz@verizon.net.

Poinsettias – Keep an eye out for the Christmas Poinsettia sign-up list. Flowers have been preordered for our December 20th worship service. You can choose between a white or red poinsettia. Please indicate if you'd like to take it and enjoy it for the holidays, or give it to a sick or shut-in to make their holidays cheery and colorful. The cost is $14.00 each. Please make your check payable to the church and note it for Christmas Poinsettias. If you have any questions, please contact Diana Bard at 978-692-7668.

2027 Flower Calendar – The 2027 Flower Calendar is posted on the wall in the entryway. Select a favorite date, write your name and phone number on the calendar. Each Sunday flower arrangement is $30.00. Make your check payable to the church and note it for the altar flowers. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Diana Bard at 978-692-7668.

Help Wanted – If you would like to learn what an Acolyte or Lay Reader does on a Sunday morning, please let Rev. Geisa, Holly, or Roberta know.

Prayer Shawls – The supply of prayer shawls is getting low. If you crochet, knit, or both, I can use your help. I have the basic prayer shawl pattern if you need it. Books with more advanced patterns are available, and Ravelry (www.ravelry.com) is a good place to look for prayer shawl patterns.

If you have any questions, please see me in the church office, call me, or send me an email.

Roberta Stratton

Lost and Found – If you are missing a pair of black reading glasses, stop by the office and pick them up.

4 Ways to Give to WCUMC

- Mobile Giving – Download the Tithely app. Fill out the Tithely secure donation transfer form. Enter donation and fee coverage (if desired)
- QR Giving – Using your phone's photo app, click the link after hovering over the QR code (see below). Fill out the Tithely secure donation transfer form. Enter donation and fee coverage (if desired)
- Go to www.wcumc.us and click on "Give" or "Donate". Fill out the secure donation transfer form for PayPal. Enter the donation amount. Please use the WCUMC website link to donate through PayPal Charitable. Otherwise, there is a fee deducted from the total amount of your donation.
- Go to www.wcumc.us and click on "Give" or Donate". Fill out the secure donation "Tithely". The code number assigned is also for future logins. Enter donation and fee coverage (if desired).
- Cash or Check – Place in the offering plate during the Worship Service or send your donation via the US Postal Service to WCUMC, 242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863.

QR Giving Code: