Advent in Worship
Advent at Home
Hancock Church 2013

hope
feasting
peace
homecoming
joy and singing
PEACE
feasting
HOPE
GIVING AND RECEIVING
Love
“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas,”

the song goes, and it’s true. All the trappings of the season are emerging even now, in the middle of November: evergreen boughs and branches, sleighs and reindeer, bells and balls, and garlands.

And to the sights are added the sounds: familiar carols, sung in slightly different arrangements, by musicians and voices that don’t ordinarily suggest anything religious or spiritual.

And to the sights and sounds are added the smells: freshly cut pine trees and newly woven wreaths, Christmas cookies and mulling cider, grandmother’s cakes and pies, turkey and stuffing.

The advertisers clamor for our attention, hoping to turn our interest and intrigue into sales and profits; and the countdown begins, measuring the days on which we can still shop and ship and be sure to please everyone on our list with the perfect gift.

And the only thing that keeps us from sliding headlong into full-bore Christmas mode is that in the church we have a pesky little tradition called Advent. Four Sundays intended to slow us down, to make us mindful of watching, and waiting, delaying our immediate gratification through cultivating more spiritual gifts: anticipation, hope, expectation, promise, and fulfillment.

This year during Advent at Hancock we’re encouraging you to bring the ordinary sights and sounds and smells into harmony with the extraordinary spiritual gifts of watching and waiting. We’re encouraging you to bring Advent alive in your homes, not just with Advent wreaths and candles, but with thoughtfulness of the sights and sounds and smells of the season. And we’re encouraging you to make a home for Christ in your own home, as you await reunion with loved ones who may be traveling from afar.

In worship on the four Sundays, we’ll light again the traditional Advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, and our preaching and our music and our praying will remind us of the essential nature of these gifts. In addition, this brochure will help provide you with ways to reflect upon and celebrate some of the great sights and sounds and smells of home.

-Rev. Paul Shupe
December 1 The First Sunday of Advent will celebrate hope in worship, and the place and role of food in our celebrations.

December 8 The Second Sunday of Advent will celebrate peace in worship, and the giving of gifts through our annual Manger Sunday procession. At home, we’ll help you think about giving and receiving gifts that sustain and bring joy.

December 9 Monday evening at 7:30, we’ll create a worship space and time for those who are grieving or whose lives seem filled with pain or confusion. Our annual Blue Christmas worship reminds us that even in the midst of our pain, even if we are not ready to sing and celebrate, still the Good News of God’s love for us at Christmas is real and powerful.

December 15 The Third Sunday of Advent will celebrate joy in worship and the sounds of the season. We’ll bring the great music of the season to life in your home through carols.

December 22 The Fourth Sunday of Advent will celebrate love in worship and the importance of love at home. Whether through physical gathering, or the blessings of memories of ones who are distant, or who have died; we await our reunion with loved ones.

December 24 Christmas Eve, we’ll worship with lessons and carols at Hancock, and share in the sights and sounds and smells of Christmas at home. Rejoicing in that the gifts Jesus brings are not abstract or theoretical—but as concrete as a shared meal, a song sung well, and a home for all.

Advent Blessings and Merry Christmas from your staff at Hancock!
REFLECTION... The smell of fresh baked cookies, hot cocoa with marshmallows, pumpkin pie on the table, and cranberry popcorn garlands with pine bows on the sill, remind me that the season is upon us. A time to savor moments with family and friends and a time to open ourselves to retelling our journey to Christmas.

-Pam Cochrane, Director of Children’s Ministries

AT HANCOCK...

Morning Worship
Becca Lockwood
Matthew 24:36-44

Worship @the Well
Becca Lockwood

Children’s Coffee Hour
Come enjoy the tasty sweetness of sugar cookies, frosting and sprinkles, made with love and care, for all to share.

Advent Wreath Making in Clark Hall
The smell of fresh greens and berries is sure to draw everyone to the Advent Wreath Making Workshop in Clark Hall after worship. The Advent wreath is a living symbol of our journey to Christmas Eve. The four candles lit each Sunday of Advent mark our pilgrimage of hope, peace, joy, and love. The white candle in the center is the Christ candle to light on Christmas Eve or Day. The circle of evergreens reminds us of God’s everlasting love for us.

Save the Dates for the New Year
February 1 Progressive Dinner hosted by Parish Life. To RSVP or Host contact Loretta Porter at lorettaporter@comcast.net.

March 30 HYG Auction in Clark Hall after morning worship. To volunteer or donate items, contact Lori Bliss Tambone at ltambone@tambone.com or Susan Navia at navia@rcn.com.
AT HOME...

Have friends or family over for a cookie swap: make your favorites and share cookies all around, as you’re invited to give and receive.

Create a special place at home for your Advent Wreath. Each Sunday light a candle. This first Sunday light the candle of Hope and share a passage from Matthew’s Gospel Story of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem or sing the Light One Candle Song or share a favorite Christmas story.

Matthew’s Gospel Story of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem or sing the Light One Candle Song or share a favorite Christmas story.

Looking Ahead...

MANGER SUNDAY
Bring Gifts to place in the Manger

Come lift your spirits and embrace the Advent season by participating in a beloved Hancock tradition: Manger Sunday. During morning worship on December 8, we will process to the manger with gifts for those less fortunate. Hancock, along with 40 other churches and groups in the greater-Boston area, delivers the gifts to City Mission Society’s Christmas Shop distribution center in Winchester. For a full list of what families need contact the Church Offices (781) 862-4220.

Volunteers are needed to help deliver the gifts to Winchester after the service on Sunday, December 8 from 12:30pm-1:30pm, and to help sort items at the Christmas Shop at future dates. Please contact April Julich Perez (aprilpomme@yahoo.com) for information or if you would like to help.

HANCOCK HOLIDAY FAIR

Plan on shopping at our 13th annual Hancock Holiday Fair on Sunday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for unique and beautiful hand-crafted items benefitting many charities, including Heifer International, Rosie’s, Sharing, Basic Needs, Aruna Designs, Thread of Hope, and many others. For a complete list of vendors and organizations, go to our website www.hancockchurch.org. Bring your friends to one of Hancock’s most joyous events! For information, email sj.shaw@verizon.net.
REFLECTION...“Awww...for ME...thank you!” One of the reasons we either love or hate gift-giving is the element of surprise and wonder. What’s inside that big, beautifully wrapped box under the Christmas tree? What does the tiny box tucked in my stocking hold? Does Santa have everything I wanted in his sack?

But believe it or not, there is more to Advent than buying, wrapping, and opening gifts. If we choose to, there are different, deeper wonders to behold in these days.

Advent is the season of unexpected surprises, when the tables are turned, and everything is flipped upside down. God comes into our midst, not as a king in a castle, but as a baby born in a barn. The prophet, John the Baptist, is born, not to young fertile woman, but to an elderly barren couple. A word of hope comes not from the great city of Jerusalem, but instead from the no-name village of Bethlehem.

If all this is true, who knows what’s possible for our life! In this season of waiting and expectation, let us wonder and pray: what surprises await us? What unexpected gifts might we be called to unwrap?

-Rev. Dana Allen Walsh
The Second Sunday of Advent… continued

AT HANCOCK...

Morning Worship
Dana Allen Walsh
Matthew 3:1-12
Manger Sunday and Special Musical Procession with Brass and Tympani

Worship @the Well
Dana Allen Walsh

Purchase gifts at the Hancock Holiday Fair. Buy your grandchildren a “chicken” from Heifer, or jewelry that supports Rosie’s Place, or chocolate from Belize for Sustainable Harvest International.

Volunteer at the City Mission Society Christmas Shop at First Church in Winchester

Bring a coat, hat, gloves, or toy to place in the manger on December 8th

AT HOME...

Buy gift cards (or Charlie Cards) and give one to the next homeless person you see in Boston.

Ask your children to help you make fudge or hot cocoa mix or cookies to give as gifts to their friends or teachers.

Help your children or grandchildren donate some of their old toys after Christmas.

Challenge your family to only spend $100 on Christmas this year.

Here are some ideas:
Write out all your favorite recipes and put them in a booklet
Make a card game of family trivia
Pass along a piece of jewelry that has an important connection
Make a calendar of personal photos of special events from the past year
Give a coupon booklet of free back rubs, chores, hikes, etc.

Reminder: Help support “Change for Charlie,” JYO project to raise funds to buy Charlie Cards for the Outdoor Church of Cambridge.
REFLECTION...Music is connected to the Christmas season like no other time or event in our culture. Whether it’s the sacred carols or the secular songs, the music pervades our life from at least Thanksgiving through Christmas.

Carols originated in France in the middle ages but we now enjoy a truly multicultural body of work spanning centuries that we think of as carols, whether it’s the German Silent Night, the American Joy to the World, the French Angels We Have Heard on High, or the African American Go Tell It On the Mountain.

We can become overwhelmed with the pervasiveness of Christmas music and very quickly begin to tune it out. It fills ears everywhere we go. But this Advent and Christmas season, let’s see whether we can recapture this glorious and wondrous body of music from the advertisers and marketers and return it to its proper place in our hearts and minds.

-Mark Morgan
Here’s some ideas of how to make Christmas music an intentional part of your Advent and Christmas season:

**Sing the carols at home** with your family. The words and tune scan easily be found online if you don’t own a hymnal (try hymnary.org to start with). Maybe make it part of your dinner routine to sing a carol beforehand or afterwards. If you have children, this is an ideal time to teach them this great music. You don’t have to be a great singer or read music—sing along with a good recording!

**Seek out some Christmas carols that are bit off the beaten path—you might find some new ones that become beloved favorites in years to come!** There are many CD’s by excellent choirs and ensembles that go beyond the “top 20”.

If you have small children, try **making singing Silent Night** a part of your bedtime routine. There are scores of Christmas concerts every weekend in December. This communal act of music making, whether as performer or as active audience, is a great way to share the music of the season. There’s something to engage people of all ages and tastes.

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### AT HANCOCK...

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**3 pm Caroling Party**

**Worship @the Well**

Paul Shupe

*Full special music listings on page 15*
REFLECTION… So far this Advent we have talked about sharing food, sharing gifts, and sharing music/singing. As we approach Christmas and our anticipation for the birth of Jesus builds, there is one more bit of sharing I’d like us to think about. On that amazing night, Mary and Joseph were turned away, again and again. No one opened their door to share their home with this expectant family in need.

Sharing our home! Most of us spend at least part of the Christmas season opening our home for celebration. Often though, we limit our welcome to the homecoming of our own, our family and perhaps our dear friends. I’m wondering, though, what would it be like for you to open your home to Mary and Joseph? Is there someone you know who needs a place to be, a meal, a gift of kindness, or a welcome home?

When Mike and I were in the Air Force, our Christmas table was often surrounded by an eclectic mix of friends and family who came together to celebrate with joy. It has been years since we have done that, forgetting that there are friends and strangers in our community who need a place to “come home to”.

Since our family traditions will be changing a bit this year, we’re going to seize this time of change to open our hearts and home. You never know who may come knocking! Hope, peace, joy, and this week, love. May the love of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

-Nancy Rottman, Seminarian
AT HANCOCK...

Morning Worship
Dana Allen Walsh
Matthew 1:18-25

2 pm Holiday Handbell Concert

Worship @the Well
Alex Shea Will
Celtic Christmas Music

Invite someone from the community to join your family in attending our special Celtic Christmas at Worship @the Well, any one of our Christmas Eve Services, or our Cantata Sunday Service.

AT HOME...

Invite a neighbor, whether 20 something or senior citizen, to join in part of your Christmas celebration: Christmas Eve dessert after worship, Christmas morning brunch, etc. Or have a Cocoa and Christmas Story Hour, watch a Christmas Movie and string popcorn. Start a new tradition!

Invite a young family to your neighborhood Christmas caroling. Offer to push the stroller or be the one who takes the little ones inside when they are too cold.

Take your “home” on the road: bring a plate of Christmas dinner to a shut-in and stay for a visit or offer to take them on a drive to see the Christmas lights.

Bake a little extra and share with neighbors you haven’t gotten around to meeting yet.
December 24
Christmas Eve

Join us in the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve Services with traditional candlelighting, music, and storytelling.

Christmas Eve Service Schedule:

5 pm Lessons and carols with brass and our Christmas tableau.

8 pm Lessons and carols with choir and brass.

11 pm Christmas tableau, Communion, contemporary stories, and songs of the season led by our Youth.

Luke 2:1-20

December 29 First Sunday After Christmas
Nancy Rottman preaching on Psalm 148/No Worship @the Well

January 5 Epiphany Sunday

Dana Allen Walsh preaching
Communion and Cantata Sunday
(see next page for more details)

Worship @the Well
Jazz Epiphany
MUSIC AT HANCOCK...

Saturday, Dec. 7th at 7:30 p.m
Hancock’s A Joyful Noyse presents Charpentier’s Mass for 8 voices, 8 strings, and flutes in the sanctuary. Admission is free.

Sunday, Dec. 8th at 10:00 a.m.
Our annual Manger Sunday celebration will feature brass, tympani, and the choir as they lead us in our annual procession of carols and the premiere of a brand new one!

Sunday, Dec. 15th at 3:30 p.m.
Come sing with our annual Christmas caroling party. All ages are invited. We meet at the church and then divide up into groups to sing for shut in members in the area. We then return to the church for a pizza party prior to The Well.

Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 2:00 p.m.
Holiday Handbell Concert with all of Hancock’s bell choirs

Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 6:15 p.m.
Celtic Christmas at The Well. Internationally recognized Celtic musicians Shannon and Matt Heaton join our River Rock Band for a night of beautiful and haunting music for the season.

Christmas Eve
Jubilant and intimate carols by the choir: uplifting brass, organ, and tympani will fill the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve Services.

Sunday, Jan. 5th at 10:00 a.m.
Our annual Christmas Cantata will take place during morning worship with our choir singing original carols and traditional carol settings by composer Stephen Paulus, accompanied by harp, oboe, and flute.

Sunday, Jan. 5th at 6:15 pm.
Jazz Epiphany at the Well. We close out the Christmas season with jazz settings of our favorite carols by the River Rock Band and special guest musicians.
I WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO DELIVER

NUMBER OF PLANTS

Please write what you would like printed in the bulletin

These poinsettias are given in honor/memory of

name printed in bulletin. These poinsettias are given by

Your Email and Phone Number

Your First Name

Your Last Name

Checks made out to Hancock Church can be mailed or left in the church office. The suggested donation for each plant is $10.

Hancock dedicates a poinsettia to a loved one in your family by submitting this form no later than Monday, December 9th. Hancock is filled with beautiful poinsettias in memory of those loved by members of the congregation at

Every year the sanctuary is filled with beautiful poinsettias in honor of those loved by members of the congregation at

POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM 2013