

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 28, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Hancock United Church of Christ, Congregational • 1912 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, MA

## Vision, Mission, and Values

#### **OUR VISION:**

Inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus, we are changing the world through love, compassion, and courage.

#### **OUR MISSION:**

In the revolutionary spirit of our Christian faith, we invite you to join us as we

- worship God with all our hearts and minds
- walk our spiritual paths together
- cherish one another
- build community in a diverse world
- protect the earth
- work for the common good



#### **OUR VALUES:**

faithfulness inclusion compassion gratitude integrity generosity humility vulnerability courage

## WELCOME TO HANCOCK

We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this Sunday and are strengthened by your participation in our service! If you would like to watch us virtually, you can visit our youtube page via youtube.com/hancockchurch.



Given the continuing decline of covid cases, masks will no longer be required in any areas of the building or services. Individuals are always encouraged and supported in their decisions to wear masks as they need to given their own situation.

**Infant and toddler care** is available each Sunday. Today, it will begin at 9:30am in the nursery and toddler room and will be available through today's January Meeting.

Cover art: River-baptism by Elizabeth Steele Halstead. Reprinted by permission from Visuals for Worship, c2006, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

www.hancockchurch.org

#### MOMENT FOR REFLECTION Gratitude by Andrea Cohen

How fortunate, having fallen, to fall in with a ladder made of light. How inviting ideas are: climbing into bigger, into better bright. I tried and tried, but couldn't, on two rungs, hold fast. Panicked, I was, until recalling the Alpinist slipped

inside the crevasse, a man, who, frostbit, exhausted, unable to climb up, willed himself to slip down more. One goes, sometimes, that deep into an icy self and finds therein an eyelet of light, an opening, and ghostlike, from some ancient glacier stumbles.

PRELUDE
WORDS OF WELCOME
JANUARY CELEBRATIONS
CALL TO WORSHIPThe Lord Is My Light Taizé chant by Jacques Berthier
The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust.
PRAYERS OF INVOCATION
*OPENING HYMN Come, Thou Almighty King#9
INTRODUCTION TO THE PROCLAMATION Katie Brown-Bright

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD . . . . . . . . . . David C Clark & Katie Brown-Bright Mark 4:1-20

Jesus went out again to teach by the Sea of Galilee. When the crowd became unmanageable, He climbed aboard a boat and sat down to teach the people listening on the shore by telling them parables. One of His teachings went like this:

Listen! A farmer went out and sowed his seed. As he scattered it, one seed fell along the hardened path, and a bird flapped down and snapped it up. One seed fell onto rocky places where the soil was thin, so it sprang up quickly. But when the hot sun scorched the fragile stems and leaves, the seedling withered because its roots didn't go deep in the soil. One of the seeds fell among the weeds and thorns, which crowded the seedling out of producing a crop. And the rest of the seeds fell in good, rich soil. When they sprouted, the plants grew and produced a crop 30, 60, even 100 times larger than expected for every seed that the farmer had sown.

All who have ears to hear, let them listen.

When they were alone, the twelve and others close to Him asked why He always taught in parables instead of explaining His teachings clearly.

God has let you in on the inside story regarding the workings of the Kingdom—the hidden meanings. But the crowds—I teach them in parables as the prophet Isaiah predicted,

So that when they look, they see and yet do not understand.

When they hear, they listen and yet do not comprehend.

Otherwise, they might really turn and be forgiven.

This makes the disciples scratch their heads. Why would He want to hide the truth from some people? His teachings are hard enough without putting them into parables.

Do you mean to say that you didn't understand My parable of the sower? That was the key parable. If you don't see what I was trying to teach there, how will you be able to understand any of the others?

The seed the farmer is sowing is the good news, God's word. Some people are the seed thrown onto the path, and the tempter snaps up the word before it can even take root. Others are the seed thrown among the rocks. Those people hear the word and receive it immediately with joy and enthusiasm; but without deep roots, doubt, trouble, or persecution instantly withers their faith. Still others are the seed tossed among weeds and brambles. The word has reached them, but the things of this life—the worries, the drive for more and more, the desire for other things—those things cluster around close and choke the life of God out of them until they cannot produce. But those last seeds—those sown into good soil? Those people hear the word, accept it, meditate on it, act on it, and bear fruit—a crop 30, 60, or 100 times larger than the farmer dropped to earth.

Jesus' teaching often includes parables: stories that explain the truth about the Kingdom with examples from everyday life. Considering that most of His listeners know about farming, it's no wonder most of Jesus' parables are based on agricultural realities.

Parables like this force Jesus' listeners to think about the kingdom of God differently. He challenges their ideas, and He also knows they are unlikely to forget it. When they see farmers broadcasting their seeds, they will remember this parable and ponder the mysteries of the Kingdom. It never seems to bother Him that people are confused by His teaching. He doesn't expect them to understand everything; He wants them to wrestle with His teachings so His words will sit in their hearts and germinate—much like the seed sitting in good soil that eventually grows to bear fruit.

One: The Word of God, for the People of God.

Many: Thanks be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE. . Alleulia, God Is Still Speaking. . . by Mark Morgan





PASSING OF THE PEACE ...... David C Clark

One: The Peace of Christ be with you Many: And also with you!

GATHERING SONG......Guide My Feet

Guide my feet, while I run this race (3 times)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.
Hold my hand, while I run this race (3 times)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

CHILDREN'S TIME...... Katie Brown-Bright

THE MORNING OFFERING......Bruce Neumann, President of LexRAP This week our offering will go to Lexington Refugee Assistance Program (LexRAP). To learn more, visit LexRAP.org. For more information about how to give, please see page 9.

OFFERTORY . . . . . . . . Praise God With Heart and Voice . . . . . . by Cary Ratcliff Chancel Choir Praise God with heart and voice, Praise him whose universe burst bright with Come before him with thanksgiving, quiet meaning, In him let us rejoice, Whose wounded world he gives light for its To him grateful spirits bring: redeeming; His hand by faith is seen guiding all our days, Whose Word has come to us, spoken in Praise God, his goodness sing. our flesh: Whose mercies our lives refresh. Earth shouts the praise of God; Heavens hum God's hidden wisdom; Hurl high our joy in him, Life sings his eye's detail, Sing deep our fresh found gladness. Distant oceans sound his power; Wing words of grateful span, Stars storm the void with voice: Tell his lovingkindness. Speak creations rhymes; Thanksgiving we shall bring, Time dances the plans of God. Hymns of beauty raise, Praise God through all our days. Hurl high our fresh found gladness. Sing deep our joy in Him. \*DOXOLOGY . . . . . . . . . . . . From North and South and East and West From north and south and east and west May God's eternal name be blessed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Till everywhere beneath the sun Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! PRAYER OF DEDICATION David C Clark TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

<sup>\*</sup>Congregation standing—some may wish to remain seated

#### THE 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

> Beloved God, beyond the mountains, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kin-dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav'n.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors And lead us not into temptation. Deliver us, we pray, from evil, For Thine is the kin-dom, the pow'r of morning, The sunset glory, Now and forever, and forevermore. Amen.

#### FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Anne Bergey by Ted, James, and Kimberly Bergey.

### We Love Your Realm, O God

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5 Be-yond our bro-ken-ness, we seek to know your ways Of deep com-mu-nion, sol-emn vows, and hymns of love and praise.

This poem by Lavon Bayler, a United Church of Christ minister, was inspired by and modeled after the oldest commonly used American hymn, "I Love Thy Kingdom" by Timothy Dwight.

We know your truth will last.
We trust your reign is sure.
E-quip us for those dai-ly tasks
that help your world en-dure.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M. Williams' New Universal Psalmodist, 1770

## Worship God With All Our Hearts And Mind

#### MORNING OFFERING

Each week at Hancock we accept an offering of gifts for two purposes:

Mission Partner of the Week: Each Sunday we accept gifts for one of our mission partners, a select organization doing God's work in the world. Many are local or regional organizations with whom we've worked with for years. All are effective organizations making a difference in people's lives. These donations are passed directly to the organization in addition to the donations included in Hancock's budget.

**Sustaining Hancock's Vision:** Gifts are also welcome in the Sunday offering plate for Hancock Church that support our staff, our building, community outreach, and all of the worship and programs at Hancock.

You may make a gift for either in one of three ways:

- Through our website. Go to www. hancockchurch.org, click on the Give button in the upper right, and follow the instructions to make a gift by credit or debit card, or ACH bank transfer. Be sure to indicate in the dropdown menu whether the gift is for "Mission Partner" or "Hancock Church."
- Send a check. Make it payable to Hancock UCC, and note on the memo line either "Mission Partner" or "Hancock." Our address is 1912 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA 02421.
- Text to give. From your smart phone or tablet, text the dollar amount along with "Mission" or "Hancock" to 781-386-0866 and tap the link to enter your credit card information.

#### THE WEEKLY OFFERING

Our Mission Partner offering for this week is for LexRAP, the Lexington Refugee Assistance Program. LexRAP is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization of volunteers that offers support and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers and helps them become members of our communities in Lexington, Concord, Bedford, Medford, and Winchester.

LexRAP partners with refugee resettlement agencies to support and assist refugees and asylum seekers with housing, food, clothing, transportation, health care, education (especially English), employment, and socialization. Beneficiaries of this assistance must have received (or be legally seeking) permission to live in the U.S., either temporarily or permanently.

LexRap enjoys wide community support, with volunteers from faith-based and town organizations. It is currently helping to support over 100 individuals.

#### **Mission Partner Update:**

**12/24/23 10 am:** UCC-Christmas Fund \$175 **12/24/23** Christmas Eve: Hancock Church \$7, 264.50

**12/31/23:** Habitat for Humanity \$589

#### **Upcoming Offerings:**

2/4/24: Women's Lunch Place 2/11/24: LGBT Asylum Task Force

Thank you for your continued support of these important organizations.



Please join us for the Installation Service of

Rev. David C. Clark

as Associate Minister of Hanock Church of Christ, Congregational  $\label{eq:church}$ 

at 1912 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA 02421

on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 3:00 PM

A reception hosted by the Parish Life Committee will immediately follow the service.

Please RSVP to Office@HancockChurch.org.

## Walk Our Spiritual Paths Together

#### WORSHIP AT THE WELL

Worship at the Well is Hancock's Sunday evening service at 5:00pm in Clark Hall. Communion is celebrated each week, and joys and concerns are shared. Music, provided by the River Rock Band, is diverse and ranges from roots/acoustic to jazz, gospel, Celtic, world, and more.

#### TODAY, HELP WITH MEAL AT PLACE OF PROMISE

On Sunday, January 28, Hancock members are serving and sharing the midday meal with the residents of Place of Promise. Place of Promise has 25 residents—half men, half women—in four group homes right next to each other in Lowell. Most of the residents come there following stays in detox or in prison—some residents are younger, some older, some more educated, some less. The time commitment is 12:00-4:00pm. Please contact Mike Bundy at LongLifeAutoRepair@yahoo.com or 617-308-5288 or anyone on the Mission & Justice team at Mission.Justice.Team@HancockChurch.org if you would like to participate.

#### MUSIC ADMIN HELP NEEDED!

**An Hour or Every So Often**--Our music program needs some help with basic admin needs like filing. If you have an hour, a few hours, or an hour every few weeks, we could use you! Please contact Mark Morgan at **Mark@HancockChurch.org**.

#### FEB. 11, YOUTH GROUP MARDI GRAS PARTY

On February 11, Hancock youth will be hosting a Mardi Gras party with nearby UCC youth groups. There will be mask decorating, games, snacks and, of course, a King Cake. For more info email **Katie@HancockChurch.org**.

#### LEXINGTON FOOD PANTRY NEEDS DONATIONS

For January/February, we are requesting donations of whole or 2% shelf-stable milk, such as Parmalat. Refugees who are being housed at the Element and Aloft hotels in Lexington are now accessing the food pantry. It is a good thing that the pantry can lend them support. Food pantry volunteers are grateful for any help you can provide in making this support possible.

Food donations are being collected at the front and back of the church. Please note that expired dates are not accepted.

To get more information, or to volunteer, you can contact Carolyn Wortman via email at Carolyn Wortman@icloud.com.

#### **Work for the Common Good**

#### Feb. 4, GIRL SCOUT COOKIES!!!

To celebrate Scout Sunday, February 4, Troop #62580 will be hosting a Girl Scout cookie sale immediately after the service. Prepaid orders will be taken on February 4 for delivery the following Sunday, February 11. On February 11, immediately after the service, our Girl Scouts will also host a cookie booth for anyone who was unable to order the previous week.

If your daughter is a Girl Scout and would like to participate, please email Sadie's mom, Kendra Martin, **KendraMartin9@icloud.com**. If you would like to purchase delicious Girl Scout cookies, get your checkbooks ready! We will accept checks, Venmo, credit cards, and cash. If you would like to help out, but not bring home a package of cookies, we also accept donations which will be used to purchase boxes of cookies to donate to Arlington Eats. Cookies are \$6 per package this year.

#### MAR. 16, SAVE THE DATE FOR ALL CHURCH POT LUCK

Please save the date for an All Church Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. This event is hosted by the Welcoming Committee. Mark your calendars now!

#### SUNDAY MORNING ONLINE CHAT REACTIVATED

Become a Virtual Greeter! For all you folks that watch our Sunday Worship service from home, we're happy to report that the chat has been reactivated and we have recruited some new virtual greeters. Now you can use the online chat to once again be in touch with our church family.

We are delighted to have folks willing to help with this job and would welcome additional volunteers to be virtual greeters. This is an important ministry to keep our Hancock members and friends connected to the life of our church community. If you are a regular online viewer (or even an occasional viewer) and are willing to help, please contact CeCe Potter at Hannah. Potter@verizon.net or call at 781-812-8534 to learn more about what is involved in being a virtual greeter.

#### Wednesdays, Pastor's Class Bible Study

Every Wednesday, Pastor's Class reads and discusses the scripture passage for the following Sunday. It is led by the week's preacher and there's no homework or extra reading required! This class meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 1:00pm.

Wednesday, Jan. 31, we will discuss Mark 5:1-20 Wednesday, Feb. 7, we wil discuss Mark 7:1-23

#### **Work for the Common Good**

#### UPDATE FROM THE ANNUAL GIVING COMMITTEE

Thanks to so many of you, the annual gifts that fund all of our good work and worship for the coming year are flowing in. And, for that, thank you so much from the Giving Committee!

The bar chart, below, captures commitment data as of Dec. 29, 2023. The numbers are good, but we are hoping for better. You will see that for 2024 we are lagging behind 2023 and 2022, both in the number of gifts and the amounts committed in each year. The goal we need to meet this year is \$725,000, and we are currently about \$221,000 short of that.

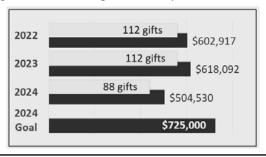
If you intend to give, and we very much hope you will, we would greatly appreciate your letting the church know of your plans for 2024. Your commitments make a huge difference in the church's ability to plan for the good work ahead. And, please remember that in addition to the good work you help fund within Hancock, these gifts also help support our mission partners beyond these walls throughout the year.

We recognize that for some it may be difficult to make a commitment of the size you might wish, and we understand that. We also understand that circumstances change through the year, and, if needed, adjustments can be made. Right now, in asking for your plans, we simply ask for you to place your financial gifts where your heart is in the good work, ministry and community of Hancock Church. If you are fortunate enough to be able to consider increasing your gift, that would be greatly appreciated.

As we wrap up the annual appeal next month, we ask you to let the church know of your giving plans for 2024 by selecting one of the following three giving options:

- on Hancock's website, click "give" and complete the 2024 commitment form
- or drop your completed 2024 commitment card in the secure box outside of Suzie Barry's office (commitment cards are available in the narthex)
- or email Financial.Administrator@HancockChurch.org

Together we are changing the world through love, compassion, and courage. Thank you!



# **LENT 2024**

## 開版CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD

#### HancockChurch.org/Lent-2024

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

FEB **GENEROSITY SUNDAY** 

18 Be the generosity you wish to see in the world

FEB MERCY SUNDAY

25 Be the mercy you wish to see in the world

MAR FAITHFULNESS SUNDAY

O3 Be the faithfulness you wish to see in the world

MAR COMPASSION SUNDAY

Be the compassion you wish to see in the world

MAR COURAGE SUNDAY

Be the courage you wish to see in the world

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE TBA

#### ASH WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

#### **DRIVE-THRU ASHES**

6:30 - 7:30am 12:00 - 1:00pm

Drive around the back of the church to the exit driveway to receive ashes and blessing from a minister.

#### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:00 PM

Attend Ash Wednesday service in the chapel or virtually via pre-recorded broadcast. The service includes readings, a brief reflection, and an opportunity to receive a blessing.

#### Mondays Starts February 19, 2024

## MONDAY MORNING PRAYER ZOOM 7:30 - 7:45am

Join Pastor David on zoom each Monday morning of Lent from 7:30-7:45am for a time of prayer and centering before the week begins. You are welcome to join with your camera and microphone off or on as David shares prayer and a short devotional to start the work week well.

#### MONDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUP VIA ZOOM

Join a small discussion group on the Gospel of Mark with videos by scholar Amy-jill Levine. This group is led by Barbara and David.

## WEDNESDAYS STARTS FEBRUARY 21, 2024 LENT NOONTIME CONCERT SERIES

Wednesdays at noon, enjoy a free, 30-minute concert in the sanctuary. Each week features a different musician in our community. Bring your lunch and enjoy the music!

## The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

9:30am Infant and Toddler Care Available

9:40am Prayers with Choir

10:00am Morning Worship & Livestream

10:15am Church School

11:00am Fellowship Hour

11:15am Children's Choir

11:45am Junior Youth Organization

12:00pm Place of Promise Lunch

3:30pm Band Rehearsal

5:00pm Worship at the Well

Monday, January 29

Offices Closed on Mondays

11:00am LABBB Program

12:00pm Hancock Bulletin & Weekly Submission

Deadline

5:30pm Spanish Academy

6:30pm LCE: Zumba

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

9:00am Moderators Meeting

9:15am Iyengar Yoga with Mary Wixted

10:15am Staff Meeting

11:00am LABBB Program

11:00am Gentle Yoga with Mary Wixted

11:30am Staff Lenten Planning

4:30pm Spanish Academy

7:00pm Lexington Pops Chorus

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

12:00pm Hancock Weekly Sent Out

1:00pm Pastor's Class

6:30pm LCE: Belly Dance

7:00pm Hancock Carillon Rehearsal

7:00pm Scout Troop HAT Meeting

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:30am Security Team Meeting

6:30pm Scout Troop Merit Badges

6:30pm Pack 137 Meeting

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm Scout Troop Meeting

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

9:30am Morning Glory Rehearsal

10:00am LCE: Joyful Yoga

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

10:00am AA Meeting in Dining Room

1:00pm AA Meeting in Dining Room

2:00pm Plaster Posaunes Brass Group

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

SCOUT SUNDAY

7:30am The Outdoor Church - lunch provisions

pickup

9:00am Hancock Newcomer Coffee

9:30am Infant and Toddler Care Available

9:40am Prayers with Choir

10:00am Morning Worship & Livestream

10:15am Church School

11:00am Fellowship Hour

11:15am Junior Youth Organization

11:15am Children's Choir

11:15am Lay Ministers Meeting

3:00pm Installation of Rev. David C Clark

4:00pm Reception for Installation

5:00pm No Worship at the Well

7:30pm LUSC Board Meeting

## HANCOCK WEEKLY

Stay updated on Hancock news, events, and volunteer opportunities! Visit hancockchurch.org or scan the <u>QR Code</u> to sign up!



## Hancock Covenant of Welcome

We welcome all who seek to know God.

We believe that, although we are many members, we are one body in Christ.

We have been called as well as challenged by God to respect and reconcile our differences.

We recognize and love each individual as a child of God.

We welcome, respect, support, and lovingly encourage people of every race, ethnicity, creed, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical and mental ability to join us on our journey of faith.

The faith journey indeed calls Hancock Members not to be silent in the face of prejudice, injustice, and exclusion, but to express our faith, in word and deed, for justice and inclusiveness for all humanity.

As Paul wrote in Galatians, "In Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one..."

www.hancockchurch.org

Barbara Callaghan (she/her) Senior Minister

Senior Minister barbara@hancockchurch.org

David C Clark (he/him) Associate Minister david@hancockchurch.org

Katie Brown-Bright (she/her) Student Minister for Children & Families katie@hancockchurch.org



Mark Morgan (he/him)
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> Ian Watson (he/him) Organist ian@hancockchurch.org

Suzie Barry (she/her) Director of Operations suzie@hancockchurch.org

Jane Park (she/her) Church Administrator jane@hancockchurch.org

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