



ELMWOOD NEW CHURCH (SWEDENBORGIAN)

24 West Street
Elmwood, MA 02337
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Rev. Dr. Donna Keane, Minister

Founded in 1831, The Elmwood New church has been a spiritual home for those people seeking a broader vision of Christianity through the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg. Our church offers a vision of God as infinitely loving, within each of us at the core of our being. We believe that spiritual growth is like "spiritual rebirthing", growing in our conscious contact with God through our willingness to turn away from the bad in ourselves (repent) and turn to the good (reformation). As a result, we are regenerated to live a life useful to all people and the community at large. Only through an active, useful, and loving life on earth can we be regenerated and brought to knowledge of the Divine.

Worship Service

December 29, 2019
Elmwood New Church

We Gather to Worship

PRELUDE.....Paul Huberdeau

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 187

OPENING OF THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

RESPONSIVE INVOCATION:

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart.

I will tell of all your marvelous works

I will be glad and rejoice in you, I will sing your praises

It is the Lord who rules the world with righteousness

Rise up, O Lord, lift up your hand to give us blessings.

We are grateful unto him and bless his name.

For the Lord hears the prayers of the faithful

And his mercy endures forever.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Come, let us worship and celebrate with thanksgiving before the Lord,
our maker.

(Unison):

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.
Give thanks to Him who does great wonders, who made the heavens
and earth and the great lights, who has redeemed us and who gives
food to all people through his power and grace. In all we do we give
thanks, and accept with joy the salvation of our Lord for us. AMEN

PRAYER BY THE MINISTER

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

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

We Hear the Good News

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 42: 1-9

ANTHEM

NEW TESTAMENT: John 1: 9-14

SONG OF PRAISE *(sung in unison without announcement)*

Glory be to the Lord, the heavenly King, Father and Savior Jesus Christ; whom alone the heavens and all the earth shall worship and adore, world without end. AMEN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

We worship the one God, the Lord, the Savior Jesus Christ,, the Redeemer of the world, the Creator of all things and the Savior of humankind, in whom is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Bible, or Holy Scripture, is his work and reveals his will. We put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, remembering that he gives us the power to do right while with us rests the choice between good and evil. We search his Word that we may know his will and make his teachings the law of our lives everyday. AMEN

We Worship Through Giving – Our Offerings

DOXOLOGY: Praise Christ the Source of life and birth, Praise Christ the Word who came to earth. Praise Christ the Spirit, Holy Flame. All glory, honor to God's name. AMEN

HYMN 208

CLOSING PRAYER *(in unison)*

O Lord, we thank you for the blessing of life itself. Help us each day to give to others the same blessings you give to us: respect, kindness, encouragement, love and wisdom. Keep us all in your grace and your love until we are together again. AMEN

BENEDICTION

(sung in unison without announcement)

The Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another.

**CLOSING OF THE WORD
POSTLUDE**

We Go Out to Serve

Please stay for coffee and fellowship after the service

Jan 5 – Sunday Communion Service

What's old is new again!

"He will teach us his ways, that we may walk in his path."