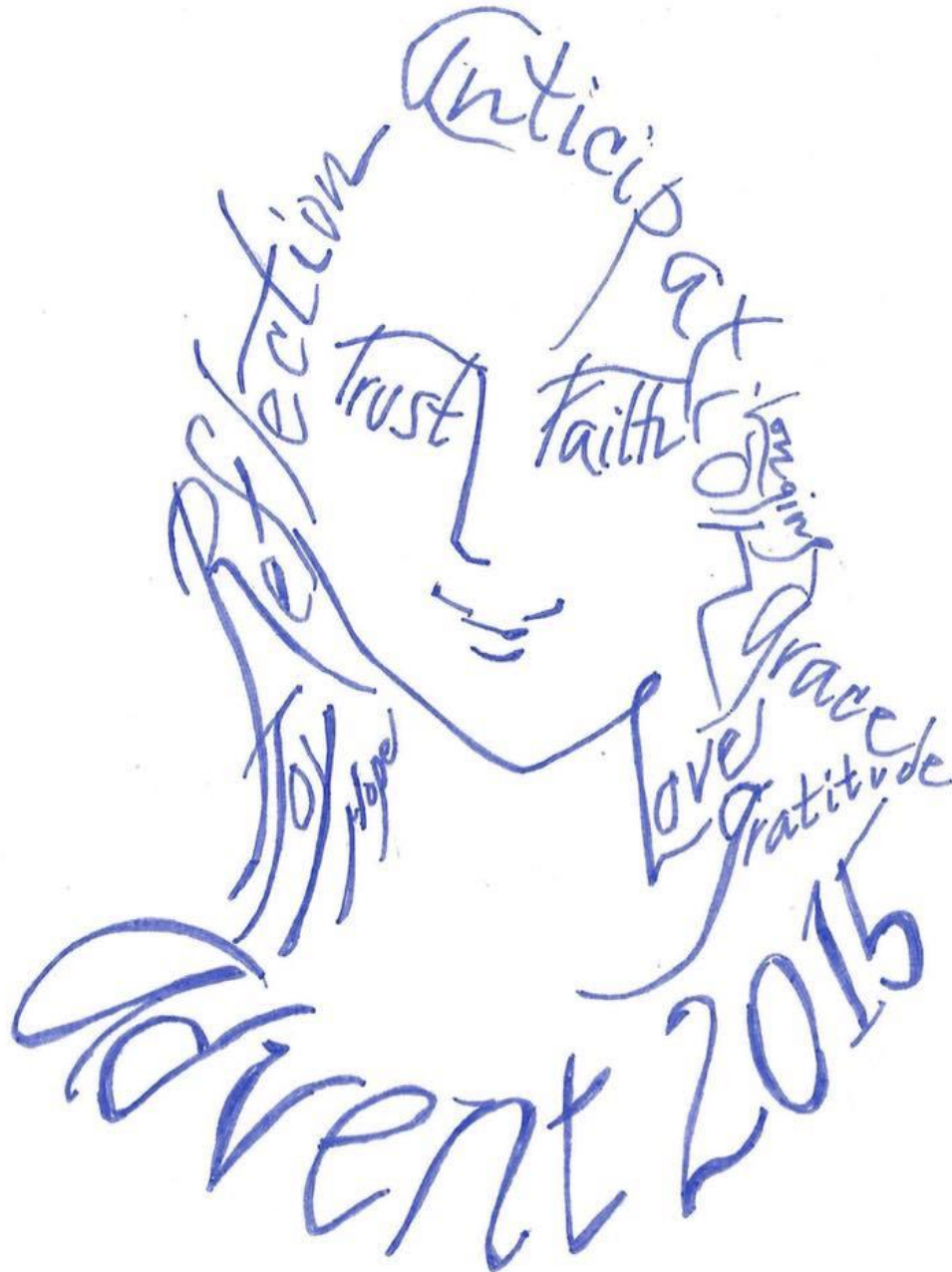


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

November 29, 2015 Advent Year C



ALL ARE WELCOME

*“Friend, you enter this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God.
Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks upon your lips,
and offer God today your love and your service.”*

(Adapted from a 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England)

November 29, 2015 First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Jesus said: ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and **you gave me food**, I was thirsty and **you gave me something to drink**, I was a stranger and **you welcomed me**, I was naked and **you gave me clothing**, I was sick and **you took care of me**, I was in prison and **you visited me.**’ (Matthew 25:34-36)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Lighting of the Advent Candle: First Sunday of Advent: Hope (liturgy adapted from a hymn by Carolyn Gillette) – with help from Inger, Emma, and Anna Arnott

One: The candle of hope we light in this hour...

Many: Proclaims that Jesus is coming in power...

One: We come seeking renewed hope.

Many: We wait for a future now hidden from view...

Many: In which God is coming to make all things new!

*HYMN NO. 117

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”

*CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSE

One: Make straight the way of the Lord!

Many: The day of the Lord is drawing near.

One: Create a new world in this Advent time,

Many: For Christ is coming to change everything.

One: Get ready as you wrap presents and put up trees,

Many: For God is doing a new thing.

One: Prepare as you celebrate with family and friends,

Many: For the Holy Spirit is moving all around us.

One: The Advent of our Lord has come,

Many: Let us prepare for the coming of Christ’s hope.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

God, you are eternally faithful. As we watch and wait, housed here in the wonders of your world, we are struck again and again by how remarkable this faith is. You have given us all we can see, taste, and feel, and still, it is not enough – still, you give us more. You listen when we call out to you, our mouths dry and dusty with the dirt of many hard roads we travel. You speak to us with holy breath; you guide us into the arms of those who can care for us. You are truly our most steadfast friend. We await the coming of your incarnate love with the spark of hope in our hearts. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #236 – Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.

Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

"Jesus Loves Me"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Dear God, we offer you our gifts with thanks and praise, be with us and guide us all of our days. Teach us how to love each other, and to shine your light into the world. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Heidi

Followed by 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen. (Children and youth may now go to their classes in the Noyes Building.)

*HYMN NO. 611

"O Day of God, Draw Near"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 33:14-16

(O.T. p. 821)

NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 21:25-36

(N.T. p. 87-88)

SERMON

Advent Apocalypse

Pastor Heidi Carrington Heath

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Come Jesus, Holy Son of God"

Handel, arr. Hopson

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Take, O Take Me As I Am"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

As we await God's coming in hope, let us give generously some of what God has given to us toward the hope of this community of faith. Don't give until it hurts, give until it feels good. Surely, that will make God smile.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #785

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

Lord, richly bless and multiply these offerings of gratitude, that all whose lives they touch may know the grace and power of your love.

WE ARE SENT OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

HYMN NO. 102

"O How Shall I Receive You"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Dona Nobis Pacem"

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH
DEACONS OF THE MONTH
LAY READER
USHERS

GREETER(s)
SENIOR PASTOR
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
AFFILIATE PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation
Steve Davis and Reni Harnden
Malyssa Deranian
Ken Gould, Diane Breeden
Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason
Michael Bryan
Mark Pingree and Nancy Magee
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
Pastor Heidi Carrington Heath
Rev. Chester R. Ham
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Lindsey Roman

First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, November 29

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~
Music Room
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Sunday School ~ John
11:15am Children's Choir ~ Music Room
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~ MacGregor

Monday, November 30

6:30pm Membership Committee ~ John
7:00pm Troop 405 ~
Currier/AB/Nursery

Tuesday, December 1

9:30am Nutfield Gym ~ Currier
4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke
6:30pm AA ~ Library
7:00pm Faith Formation ~ Cook
7:00pm OA ~ A/B

Wednesday, December 2

6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke
6:30pm Deacons ~ Cook
7:00pm AA 12 Step Workshop ~ A/B

Thursday, December 3

10:00am Nutfield School Pictures ~ A/B
4:30pm Daisy Troop 11080 ~ John
6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~Currier/John/Luke/AB
6:30pm BSA Venture Crew 570 ~MacGregor
7:00pm Christian Ed ~ Nursery
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room
7:00pm Stewardship ~ Cook

Friday, December 4

6:00pm First Friday – Game Night ~ Currier
7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B

Saturday, December 5

7:30pm AA ~ MacGregor

Sunday, December 6

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~
Music Room
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Sunday School ~ John
11:15am Children's Choir ~ Music Room
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~ MacGregor
3:00pm Pastor Heidi's Ordination ~
Old South Church, Boston

Scriptures – November 29

Jeremiah 33:14-16

14 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

Luke 21.25-36

25 ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

29 Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees;³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 ‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’