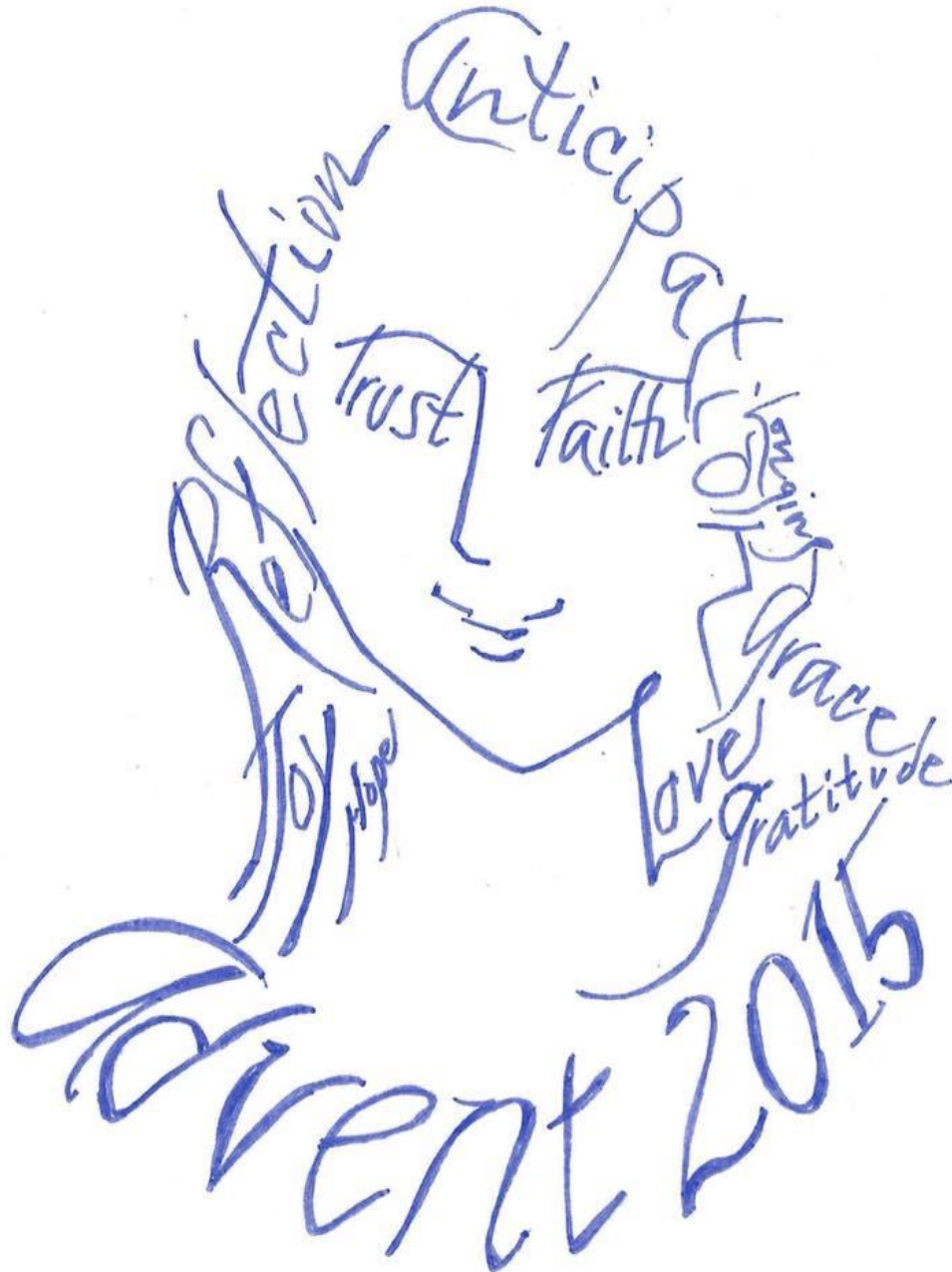


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

December 13, 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)

December 13, 2015 Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

*HYMN NO. 104

"We Hail You, God's Anointed"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rejoice, give thanks; call on God's name;

All: How good it is to come home to God's house!

One: Sing aloud! Exult with all your heart;

All: Let us offer up our anxieties, seeking God's peace.

One: Let us shout our praise and express our joy!

All: God's love is renewing us in these moments.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**God of our baptism, renew in us today the gifts of your Holy Spirit and fire.
We have come together, eager for good news. Fill us with your love that
we may pass it on. Amen.**

*SONG OF PRAISE #759 – **Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,
Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

*Lighting of the Advent Candle: Third Sunday of Advent: Joy
- with help from Cyndi Gray and her family*

One: Hope is a light given by God to every Child of God.

All: We light the candle of Hope as we remember Christ's gift.

(Light the candle of Hope)

One: The flame of Peace, just as the Peace of Christ, is the true order of life.

All: We light the candle of Peace as we remember to live in Christ's Peace.

(Light the candle of Peace)

One: Joy is the celebration given by God through the light of the world.

All: Joy is the celebration given by God at the birth of the Christ Child.

One: Joy is the celebration when the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest!"

All: Let us dance and sing and shout for joy. Christ is coming again!

(Light the candle of Joy)

A WORD ABOUT OUR SACRED SPACE

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

"Away in a Manger"

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

Marge Palmer

RECEIVING THE PEACE LIGHT OF BETHLEHEM FROM BOY SCOUT TROUP 405

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 K-5th grade (5th graders optional) may now go to their classes in the Noyes Building.)

*HYMN NO. 121

"All Earth is Waiting"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 12:2-6

(O.T. p. 711)

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

(N.T. p. 61-62)

SERMON

"Values to Teach our Children, according to John the Baptist"

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Come, Emmanuel!"

Pepper Choplin

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Come to Me"

Bell

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Whether we face plenty or hunger, abundance or want, we are in debt to God for all we have and all we are. In these moments of thankfulness, we remember how God has blessed us. Let us give with joy because we trust the God of our salvation.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

We rejoice, O God of peace, in the privilege of giving without fear. You come to us daily with blessings too numerous to count. Through our offerings, we express our gratitude. As we give of ourselves, we respond to your call to bear fruit and to make your name known among the nations. Thank you for accepting all we offer. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 110

"Now Bless the God of Israel"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Christ Be Our Light"

POSTLUDE

FLOWERS – Offered by Rod and Suzanne Hunt in memory of family loved ones

**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
Fred Merrill and Julie Turner
Sarah Keller
Dee Deranian, Beth Hunter
Tom and Andrea Cooper
Michael Bryan
Becky Fleury
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath
Rev. Chester R. Ham
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Lindsey Roman

First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, December 13

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Sunday School ~ John
11:15am Children's Choir ~ Music Room
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~ MacGregor
11:45 Advent Workshop ~ Currier/Kitchen

Monday, December 14

6:30pm Mother Support Group ~ Cook
7:00pm Troop 405 ~ Currier/AB/Nursery

Tuesday, December 15

9:30am Nutfield Gym ~ Currier
4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke
6:30pm AA ~ Library
6:30pm Mother Support Group ~ Currier
7:00pm Faith Formation ~ Cook
7:00pm Blue Christmas ~ Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 16

12:30pm K.I.T. ~ MacGregor
6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke
7:00pm Council ~ Cook
7:00pm AA 12 Step Workshop ~ A/B

Thursday, December 17

4:30pm Daisy Troop 11080 ~ John
6:30pm BSA Venture Crew 570 ~
MacGregor
6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~
Currier/Luke/John/AB
7:00pm Sr Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room

Friday, December 18

5:00pm Spaghetti Supper ~ Currier/Kitchen
7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B

Saturday, December 19

7:30pm AA ~ Currier

Sunday, December 20

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
8:00am Historic Preservation ~ Archive
8:00am Youth Ministry ~ A/B
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Sunday School ~ John
11:15am Children's Choir ~ Music Room
11:30am Mission ~ A/B
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~ MacGregor

Scriptures – December 13

Isaiah 12.2-6

² Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say on that day:

Give thanks to the LORD,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;

let this be known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Luke 3.7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ ¹¹ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ ¹² Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ ¹³ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.