

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 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent – Year A



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 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education. In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others. In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

WELCOME TO ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG followed by WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS;
SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Lighting of the Advent Candle: First Sunday of Advent: Hope

One: Advent season reminds us that we live by hope.

All: Hope in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah -

One: The promised one who comes from God to bring good news of salvation...

All: The expected one who will establish justice for all who are in need...

One: The liberator who will free us from our estrangement...

All: For the Messiah will bring a new day for all God's people. We await the day of salvation, of justice and of liberation. We await the day where all people will proclaim God's goodness and will know the fulfillment of God's will for all the creation.

*HYMN #103

"Watcher, Tell Us of the Night"

*INVOCATION

You have wakened us from sleep and led us to this place, wondrous God. Now let us feel your presence with us as we encounter your Word. You have drawn us together and bound us firmly to one another. In this season we remember your unexpected appearance among us in the birth of a child. You make yourself known to us again and again. May we know you now! Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #125

Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Gloria in Excelsis Deo

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

At this time, all children are invited to come forward for the children's offering, and children's time. An offering is not required for participation. All are welcome, especially first time visitors.

CHILDREN'S OFFERING *"Come as a Child"*

Come as a child, when He calls you to follow. Just come as a child, for His love is untold. Come as a child, when you seek His communion, For then, all His blessings unfold.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

Ken Williams

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 are excused to go to their classes at this time.)

HYMN #122

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE WITH STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Ryan Lehoullier

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 2:1-5

(O.T. p. 700)

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

(N.T. p. 28)

SERMON

"We're Expecting"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Awake and Be Watchful"

Bach, arr. Simonds

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHOIR RESPONSE

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We are stewards of God's household, managers of the earth's treasures for a little while. This time of offering gives us opportunities to invest in causes consistent with God's will for us, to offer the light of God's love to sisters and brothers living in despair.

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**

Thank you, God, for the privilege of sharing your bounty with those in need. We seek to walk in your light and follow the pathways where you lead. We want to share the good news of salvation not only through these gifts but also by the way we live. May all your people be made ready for Christ's coming. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

***HYMN #102**

"O How Shall I Receive You"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Members of the Congregation

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Diaconate

LAY READER

Reni Harnden

USHERS

Ken Gould, Diane Breeden, Dee Deranian,

Shirley Dickason, and Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

Mark Pingree and Nancy Magee

PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Susan Handy

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

Jeff DeLangie

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Hannah Collier

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Our website www.fpc-ucc.org Find us and 'friend us' on Facebook www.facebook.com/fpcucc

