

December 4, 2016

Second 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: Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

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 #108

"Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old"

*INVOCATION

Come, Spirit of God. Come into this congregation to enliven our worship, to immerse us in righteousness, to prompt our faithfulness. Rain on us your hope and joy and peace, filling the whole earth with your glory. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #125

Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Gloria in Excelsis Deo

*CONFESSION

We, who have neglected the instruction of the Scriptures, are called to repent, for God's realm is at hand. Let us confess all that isolates us from the source of life

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Awesome God, we have failed to inquire after all your will for us. We have ignored the needy, defended our advantages, and neglected our prayers. We value our prosperity more than the harmony you envision for your people. O God, often deliver us, we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Remember your baptism! Feel again the refreshing waters that cleanse and make whole. Anticipate the baptism of the Spirit, the unquenchable fire that burns away the chaff. Receive these gifts and bear fruit worthy of repentance.

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 "Away in a Manger"

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

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 #109

"With Joy Draw Water"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE with the PRAYER of CONSECRATION

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Come & Feast"

Lee Dengler

OUR SACRED STORY

SHARING the MEAL

*We celebrate Communion this morning by Intinction (dipping your bread into the cup). All of the bread we use for Communion is now **gluten free**. You are invited to come forward where you will be invited to receive a morsel of bread and dip it into the grape juice. Your children are invited to participate and we trust that you will teach them the sacred meaning of this holy meal.*

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING (in unison)

Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus:

For gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die,

For peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends,

For the glory of creation, for the mission of justice you have made our own.

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 11:1-10

(O.T. p. 710)

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

(N.T. p. 3)

SERMON

"Peace: A Fire that Can't Be Put Out"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

"The Promise"

Russell Nagy

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHOIR RESPONSE "Come To Me"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

As we join our voices in prayer and praise, so, too, we bring together the symbols of our life investment; money we have earned, the hours we have before us, the abilities that are ours alone. Let us give ourselves with joy.

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 #116 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

GREETER(s)

PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Diaconate

Malyssa Deranian

Diaconate and Michael Bryan

Verna Elwell and Shirley Dickason

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Jeff DeLangie

Hannah Collier

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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

