

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 11, 2016

Third 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)

December 11, 2016

Third 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: Joy

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...

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...

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!

*HYMN #104

"We Hail You God's Anointed"

*INVOCATION

Mighty One, we rejoice that you strengthen our weak hands and make firm our feeble knees. You open our eyes and unstop our ears. You meet our hungers with good things. We have assembled to worship you. Awaken the gladness that comes when we recognize your presence. We long to know you in this hour. 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

"Away in an 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

Katie Cobban

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.)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE WITH MISSION

HYMN #119

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

MISSION MOMENT

Christmas Fund

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 35:1-10

(O.T. p. 735)

GOSPEL

Luke 1:47-55

(N.T. p. 58)

SERMON

Joyful Praise

Guest Preacher

The Rev. Dr. Valencia Jackson

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Redeemer"

Arr, Bryson

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHOIR RESPONSE

"Come to Me"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God continues to lift up the lowly and to topple the powerful from their thrones. God judges us, not by worldly standards of greatness but according to the genuineness of our compassion and the extent of our faithfulness. Our offerings are one measure of our priorities.

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

Majestic God, thank you for inviting us to share the blessings you pour out on us. We want to extend the healing ministry of Jesus who gave sight to those who were blind and new insight to some who only pretended to see. Use our resources to heal attitudes as well as bodies, to bring wholeness, not just cures. Help us to address the inequities of the earth that leave so many without food or shelter or hope. Lead us into your realm in the midst of our daily living. Amen.

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

*HYMN #110

"Now Bless the God of Israel"

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

Steve Davis

Stanley and Holly Gorgol, Tom and
Andrea Cooper, and Michael Bryan

Becky Fleury

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Jeff DeLangie

Hannah Collier

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

