

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 18, 2016

Fourth 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 18, 2016

Fourth 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: Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love

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

One: Love is the wick given by God that is central to the life itself.

All: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.

One: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

All: These are the universal laws given by Jesus the Christ.

*HYMN #126

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

*INVOCATION

Shepherding God, whose signs are everywhere, restore in us your light that we may discern what you are about. Shine upon this assembly to give life to our tired routines. Fill our longing hearts with quiet confidence. Awaken the child in us to experience your revelation. By your presence with us, deepen the prayers we utter, and turn our fears to eager anticipation. Touch us to lend strength and confidence as we reach out to one another for help and healing. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #125 Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Gloria in Excelsis Deo

HANDCHIMES CHOIR

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Susan Geschke

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

Susan Handy

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 #123

"Mary, Woman of the Promise"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 7:14

(O.T. p. 705)

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 1:1-6

(N.T.p.158)

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

(N.T. p. 1)

SERMON

"Be With Me Now"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Breath of Heaven"

Amy Grant

Soloist: Hilary Gorgol

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHOIR RESPONSE

"Come to Me"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

In thanks for all God's gifts, and in response to the tears of so many of God's children, we now gather all that we have brought to share, praying that these resources will accomplish much good among us and far beyond our individual reach.

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

Loving God, you have granted us life with such abundant possibilities that we can never do enough to express our gratitude. You have honored us by calling us saints and apostles. Therefore we offer ourselves and our abundance in the confidence that you will continue to provide for us in whatever circumstances we face. Use us as ministers of your grace. Amen.

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

*HYMN #129

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

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

Pat Plouff

USHERS

Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell, Sue Hunt and Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

Beth Hunter

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

