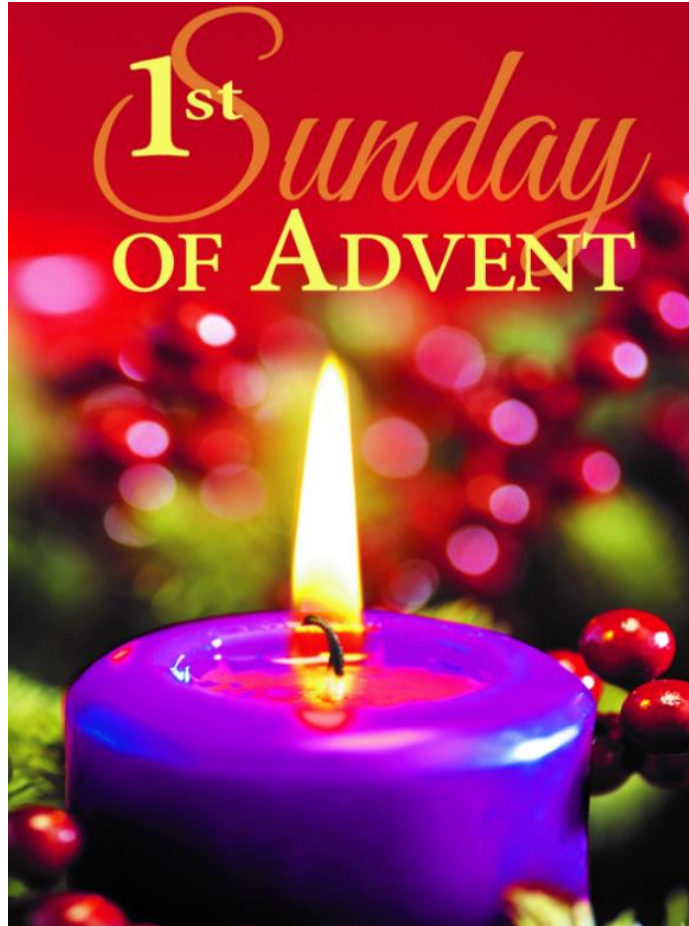


First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road, East Derry, NH Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**November 28, 2021**  
**Advent 1 – Hope**



**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)

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

**The Friendly Beasts (#138 Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good)**

Jesus, our brother, strong and good, was humbly  
Born in a stable rude, and the friendly beasts  
Around him stood, Jesus our brother, strong and good.

## **The First Nowell**

The first Nowell, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, Born in a manger, Emmanuel.

## **Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

Angels, from the realms of glory of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
As you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

## **Mary, Did You Know**

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?  
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?  
Did you know that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?  
When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?

The blind will see. The deaf will hear. The dead will live again.  
The lame will leap. The dumb will speak The praises of The Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?  
The sleeping Child you're holding is the Great, I Am.

## **What Child is This**

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this, the angels sing, is Christ, God's holy offering;  
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!

## **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show and help us in that way to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

## WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP and LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE – HOPE

(Led by Lay Reader)

One: We call upon You, Lord of hosts as we come to pray

**Many: As You promised, we search for You, knowing that we will find You.**

One: You are the God of restoration and renewal.

**Many: You will restore us and bring us back from any exile we are feeling.**

One: With the help of the God of all ages our hope can grow in the darkness.

**Many: Whatever darkness we are feeling, may we discover Advent hope.**

(The first candle – the candle of HOPE – is lit.)

### INVOCATION (Led by Lay Reader)

In compassion and trust, we approach you, God of the Covenant. Day by day, your promises are fulfilled among us. Help us to prepare ourselves and our community of faith for Christ's coming. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

**SCRIPTURE:** Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 (NRSV)

**29** These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

<sup>4</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup> Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. <sup>7</sup> But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. <sup>8</sup> For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, <sup>9</sup> for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup> Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup> I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and

gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

**SERMON:** "Surely, I know the Plans"

HYMN #609 Now Is the Time Approaching

1. Now is the time approaching, By prophets long foretold,  
When all shall dwell together, One Shepherd and one fold.  
Let war be learned no longer, Let strife and tumult cease,  
All earth one blessed kingdom, The Lord and Prince of Peace.
2. Let all that now divides us Remove and pass away,  
Like shadows of the morning Before the blaze of day.  
Let all that now unites us More sweet and lasting prove,  
A closer bond of union, In a blest land of love.

### **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

As our love for one another thrives and increases, so does our generosity. The circle of our concern widens. Our passion for justice expands. Our desire to join in Christ's redeeming work extends to the whole human family. What a privilege to have so much to share!

If you are joining us virtually, please use the next few moments to share joys and concerns in the chat. Our services are recorded. Please use first names. God knows who you mean.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: ANGEL TREE

DOXOLOGY: #785      We Give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Led by lay reader, please join in)

We give You thanks oh, God, for this family of faith. Our lives are enriched through our covenant with You and Your Presence in our lives. Thank you for helping us to reach outside ourselves. We are grateful that you show us ways to lift the burdens of our sisters and brothers. May our offerings further this ministry among us and beyond our community. Amen.

### **WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE AND PRAYER**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS, 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.

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

### **FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **HYMN # 562 Take My Gifts**

1 Take my gifts and let me love You, God who first of all loved me,  
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free.  
Now because Your love has touched me, I have love to give away,  
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply.

3 Take whatever I can offer-- gifts that I have yet to find,  
skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,  
things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:  
take my gifts and let me love You, God who first of all loved me.

### **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

Please visit our Facebook page or our website for recent videos of services and moments of Christian Faith Formation and inspiration.

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

LAY READER – Beth Hunter

NOVEMBER GREETERS – Sue Brown, Sue Lindemann (Remote)

MUSICIAN – Jonathan Cote

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier

OFFICE MANAGER - Michelle Guerrin

AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann with Brian Williams and Mike Schroeder

*Glass Garden Totems in Currier Hall: We have no place to store these  
BEAUTIFUL ONE-OF-A-KIND CREATIONS.*

*Please take one for yourself or gift it to a neighbor or friend.  
Make a donation – IF YOU ARE ABLE but PLEASE take one!*

## ***IN OUR PRAYERS - November 28, 2021***

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

“Card Angels” – Pastor Deborah delivered over 90 cards of appreciation and gratitude to the staff of Parkland Medical Center. They were overwhelmed by this loving gesture!

Sugar Plum Angels – thanks to organizers and worker bees – one and all!

Church Wifi was upgraded – with joy and appreciation to Paul and Dani

New Walkway on the west side of the connector! Thanks to Bill and Fred!

Beautiful flooring and fresh paint – inside and out!!! Gratitude to Facilities and to the BAC for their hard work!

Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church has been in touch with us  
Gratitude for in-person worship and everyone’s willingness to follow safety protocol.  
Gratitude for members and friends in Georgia, Zimbabwe, and Northern Ireland.

### **PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION**

For family and friends of Brian, especially Wendy W. & Jeff S.  
Families of the **770,691** people who have died in the US due to COVID.

### **PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING**

Jenny, friends of Jeff S; Davida, Jo’s friend, suffering from migraines after surgery.  
Nancy’s friend Erin H.- Prayers that her medical condition will improve enough that her boys will be able to return to live with her  
Benjamin Plouff, Dick’s brother, suffering from cardiac issues, breathing now difficult  
Jim, Jeff S.’s father, for prayers of confidence and healing

**For those with covid:** Mary L.; Aleigha; jENNIE

**For those with cancer:** Bruce with stage 4 colon cancer; Janice P needs another round of chemo; Priscilla with colon cancer; Tracey with aggressive cancer who has 3 children/ only 46 years old; Liza D’s husband’s Uncle Walt has Stage 4 cancer; Martha, close friend of Pat and Dick P, recurring leukemia; BB Dinan (friend of the Bob and Karen); Danny with stage 4 cancer, brother of Mary Jane (friend of Rachel and Alec.)

### **SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS**

Law Enforcement, fire fighters and other protectors of our safety and democracy;  
especially all first responders, active troops, and National Guard Military.  
Prayers for peaceful resolution to conflict situations around the world  
Parkland Hospital personnel, and all nurses and doctors, Hospice workers and  
Southern NH Family Promise; Sonshine Soup Kitchen; Marion Gerrish; Upper Room  
United Theological College in Zimbabwe, as well as our friend Kennedy Gondongwe  
Tim B – Health & strength and Bonnie H, friend of Tim B  
Friends of the Meetinghouse Board of Directors