

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**All Are Welcome Here:** For your comfort, listening devices are available by the front doors of the church. Large print bulletins are available at both entrances. Please see a Deacon if you need assistance.

**Thanks to Diane Taylor** for her gift of music at today's service.

After service all are welcome downstairs for an **Advent Luncheon and tree decorating workshop**. There will also be an opportunity to write Christmas cards to homebound members, and people we miss seeing in church. Cards, stamps, and address are provided.

Get in the holiday spirit at the annual **Christmas Concert, Sunday Dec 8** at 4:00 PM. The Christmas Choir and Village Ringers will present a free program including classic holiday favorites and some new songs.

On **December 14th and 15th Malikzada Pottery is having a showroom sale** in the basement of the Parish House. Our church has access 30 minutes earlier than the general public at 11:30, on Sunday the 15th. Please plan on stopping by after coffee hour!

*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”*



**December 1, 2024**

### WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES

### PRELUDE

*Angels' Carol/John Rutter*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the place and this is the time. Here and now God waits to break into our experience --

**People: to change our minds, to change our lives, to change our ways;**

Leader: to make us see the world and life in a new light;

**People: to fill us with hope, joy and certainty for the future.**

Leader: This is the place. This is the time. Here and now God waits to break into our experience.

**All: God's people have gathered. Let us worship God together.**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### GLORIA PATRI\*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen, Amen.*

### The First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00 am - 12:00 PM

(860) 354-8232 Voicemail Available 24/7

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<b>Today's Service</b>		
Deacon on Duty	Cary Westfall	
Trustee on Duty	Bill Jackson	
Ushers	Deacons	
Scripture Readers	Deacons	
Advent Readers	Johnson Family	
Acolytes	Freya Jones & Ryan Simmons	

**HYMN\*** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #119*

**LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE** *The Johnson Family*

**INVOCATION & LORD’S PRAYER**

**Living God, the wind is bracing. And in this season of Advent, we gather to worship you. We remember your gift –the birth of a child in Bethlehem. There we see most clearly the love you have had for us from the beginning of all creation. Help us to open our hearts to you and to be more caring with others. Help us to pass on the love you have shown to us. This morning may we worship you with gratitude and humility. We ask this in Jesus’ name who taught us to pray:**

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Choral Response

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 9:2b-7

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

Call to Offering

Offertory *I Saw Three Ships/arr. Lloyd Larson Diane Taylor, Flute*

**Song of Presentation\***

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Offering Prayer\***

**Gracious God, you give many gifts to your children. We are happy that we can return these gifts to you. Use them for your work through this church. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**INVITATION AND PEACE**

Leader: Beloved, this is the joyful feast of the people of God.

**People: The children of God come from east and west, and from north and south and sit at the table in the realm of God.**

Leader: Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity.

**SHARING THE ELEMENTS**

*The Deacons will serve communion. Gluten free crackers are in the center cup. Please hold the bread and juice until we partake as a group.*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Thanks be to you, O God, for your presence and your purpose, for your loving kindness and your steadfast spirit. May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith, increase our generosity, and unify our hearts, for we pray in the name of Jesus, the risen one. Amen.**

**HYMN**

*Once in Royal David’s City #165*

Church School children will process to the Parish House during the second verse.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Galatians 4:4-5 Ephesians 1: 9-11

Choral Response

**SERMON**

*Christmas is the Fullness of Time*

Choral Response

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**BLESSING OF THE CRECHES** (see insert)

**HYMN\***

*Blessed Be the God of Israel #135*

**BENEDICTION\*** - spoken and sung.

**POSTLUDE** *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come/Johann Pachelbel*

*\*All are invited to stand in body or spirit*