

In Our Prayers

Our country, our leaders, and leaders elect**Jeni Busta (waiting for transplants)**Lisa Marie Stern (recovering from surgery)**Lori Parisi and Kathy Graham (cancer diagnosis)**Oaklynn (3 year old granddaughter of Tina Caldwell)** Those impacted by nature's fury**Michael Savenelli **Beth Piascy**Linda Syphers (friend of Gail Berlepsch)**Louis Pasierello Jr. (friend of Mike and Pam Savenelli)**Jeff Clay (progressive throat cancer, (Tina Caldwell's brother in law)**Carolyn Keehan (in Hospice)**Bob Kaden (having neck surgery)**Andrew (brain cancer)** Friends of Cynthia Bruestche** Healing for Justin Weekes, son of Sandy Weekes**Tina Caldwell**Sally Coleman** Megan Perkowski ** Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)** Tim Keogh** Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony's great-niece)**Tom Jastermsky** Gabe and Jude Heidenis (Bernie and Tony's grandsons)**Jack Grotti (friend of Sally Coleman)** Wendy Riddle, sister of Sandy Weekes ** Cathy Kovi** Sandy McCume** Betsy-Sue Eisenman**Janice Frey**David Lick**Those around the world who live in areas of conflict and war.



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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Church telephone: (203) 265-1691

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To make a gift to First Church



At the First Congregational Church, UCC of Wallingford, CT, we have discerned the following vision and mission for our faith lives together:

Vision

Our faith – rooted in the compassion and teachings of Jesus Christ – is the foundation of our love for one another and service to the world around us.

We offer a home for those seeking deeper meaning or purpose in their lives through the exploration of Jesus Christ's teachings. The love and compassion found in those teachings commit us to up lift each individual and celebrate our shared humanity.

Mission

We will foster spiritual growth, loving communication, and mutual care, thereby empowering us to confront issues that impact our community and the world, including poverty, isolation, and exclusion.

We commit to developing a nurturing environment where all are loved, valued, and inspired to meaningful participation in the life of the church. Through our Christian faith, compassion, and service, we will dedicate ourselves to making a positive impact on the lives of people in our community and beyond.

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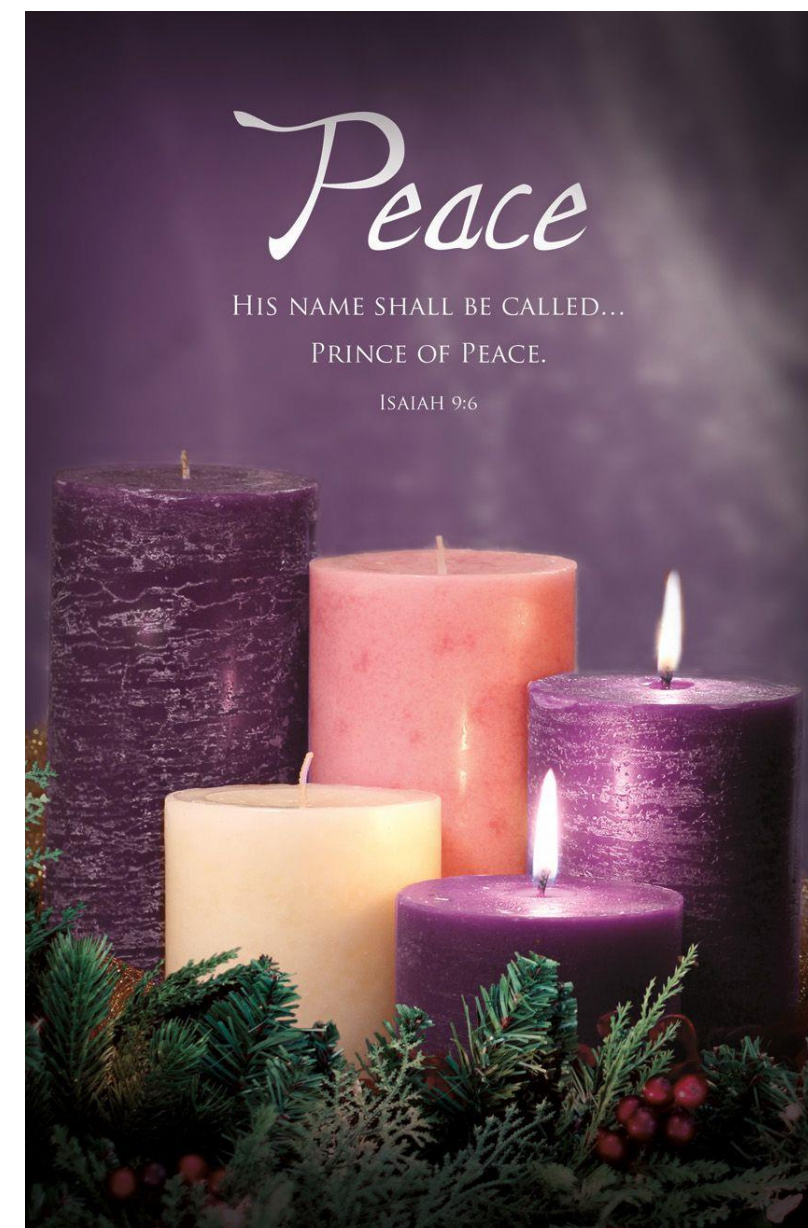
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First Congregational Church



DECEMBER 8, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE

WELCOME *Antiphon III, Op. 18, No. 3* Marcel Dupre

The Shadows Are Falling Hermann Schroeder

CENTERING MUSIC *Larghetto Op.21* Charles Tournemire

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In a world that is lonely, we will save a seat for you.

P: In a world that is anxious, we will light candles against the gloom.

L: In a world that is weary,

P: we will sing songs of joy and truth.

L: I am not alone.

P: We are not alone.

L: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

P: Light the candles! Sing with joy!

We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

+HYMN Come, O Come Emmanuel! (insert)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

I have tried to make my own way.

I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith.

I have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if I am fine on my own.

But the days are long and I am forgetful.

I need your help. Can you remind me?

We will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

Now we need your help.

We, too, have tried to make our own way.

We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths.

We have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if we are fine on our own.

But the days are long and we are forgetful.

We need your help. Can you remind us?

I will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone. Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe. Alleluia! Amen.

PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Churma Family

MUSICAL RESPONSE (insert)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Ruth and Ecclesiastes

ANTHEM *Long Ago Prophets Knew* Joel Raney

THE MESSAGE

CALL TO PRAYER Weave (insert) HTL #378

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY Creation Will Be at Peace Anna Laura Page

+DOXOLOGY (melody: In the Bleak Midwinter)

Praise the one creator, praise the living Christ.

Praise the Holy Spirit, praise both day and night.

Praise when you are weary, praise and times of joy.

Praise my soul, with all your strength and your heart and voice.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN God We Thank You for Our People (insert) HTL #378

RESPONSE *Advent Benediction* Traditional
Sephardic/arr. J. Gross

POSTLUDE *Toccata on Hyfrydol*
Rowland Prichard/arr. Joel Raney

Announcements

Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Wallingford! If you are visiting with us this morning, we extend a special welcome and greeting to you. First Church is a part of the United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of my son, Steven's birthday by Marilyn Colandrea.

Serving the church today: Michael May, Heidi Bonassar, Greg Whitehouse, Ushers. Bob Westervelt, Liturgist. Bernie Annunziata, Chimes. The Churma Family, Advent Candle Lighters.

*As expressed in our church's **Open and Affirming (ONA) Covenant**, "Jesus' teachings of love and compassion call us to uplift each individual and celebrate our shared humanity, both within the sanctuary of this church and throughout the community in which we live and serve."*

To live into Jesus' teachings, the ONA Team is meeting to discuss ways to promote the fair and equitable treatment of all. If you'd like to join our team or have ideas you'd like to share, please speak with any ONA Team member (Dawn Charron, Kathy Filkins, Cathy Knight, Nancy Tipping, Steve Knight, Sandy McKenna, Jolene Pope, Pam Walker, and Erica Haddad), or email us at ona.fccw@gmail.com.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O Come, O come Emmanuel,
And with your people sweetly dwell
Who long to see your human face
And know in flesh God's word of grace.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! The story tell:
To us shall come Emmanuel.

O come, O wisdom from on high,
And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! The story tell:
To us shall come Emmanuel.

Melody: Veni Emmanuel Words adapted: Mary Luti

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Weave

Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together, together in love.

Melody: Weave Words: Rosemary Crow

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music
Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton
Ms. Maddie Torre, Coordinator Sunday School
and Youth Ministries

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