

THE BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE "WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING" Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Flowers given in loving memory of family from Norman and Anne Monks.

Welcome Guests! We're glad you're here. You can learn more about us via the brochure in your pew back or at FirstParishYork.net. You're invited to enjoy refreshments at "coffee hour" in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

Hearing Assistance: Devices are available. Please ask a greeter to provide one.

Nursery Care: Nursery care provided downstairs for children 4 years old and under.

Pastoral Care: If you'd like to meet with a pastor, please call the office at 363-3758 Monday – Friday 9am-2pm. For emergency pastoral care after office hours and on weekends, you may reach one of the pastors by calling 207-358-9776. The pastors are available to make hospital visits and we invite you to let us know if you or a family member would like a visit. Due to hospital confidentiality regulations, the hospital will not inform us unless you ask them to do so.

Photos and Video: We regularly take photos and video for use in media. If you would prefer your/your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

Restrooms: Restrooms are located on the lower level of this building. Handicap accessible restrooms are across the way in Fellowship Hall. For access during the worship service, please see a Deacon.

Sunday School: All youth ages 4 through 7th grade are welcome to attend Sunday School. After the Children's Message, youth meet up with their teachers in the church foyer. Together, students and teachers make their way to the Fellowship Hall classrooms. After worship, parents are asked to sign out and pick up children in their classrooms. Guests are welcome to attend Sunday School and we ask that parents/guardians fill out a registration form on the first visit; our Deacons will be happy to connect you with someone from Sunday School before the youth make their way over.



First Parish Church Congregational United Church of Christ



Vision

Following the way of Jesus, we aspire to *authentically invite, courageously include, and generously serve* all with compassion and grace.

Mission

Following the way of Jesus, we celebrate *inspirational worship*; create *life-changing experiences* for children, youth, families, and individuals; and practice *meaningful congregational care*.

While *respecting our diversity*, we *courageously advocate* for *justice and mercy*, and *intentionally respond* to the needs of our *community and the world*.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019 ~ 9:30AM WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CANDLE OF PEACE)**

** Please stand if you are able. All people are invited to read bold face liturgy.*

9:15AM CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

THE INVITATION God's grace, mercy, and peace be with you. Pastor Dan Hollis
And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

(Candles will be lit as a sign of Christ's light in the world.)

Prelude on "VENI, EMMANUEL" Gordon Young (1919-1998)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsive)*

Rev. Estelle Margarones

We come before a God at work:

A God who clears a holy space for us, in our churches and in our lives.

God labors for a world where hurt and destruction have no place:

A world shown to us by a child born to us.

We come seeking to clear our lives of hatred and despair.

We come seeking seeds of peace.

***HOSPITALITY MOMENT**

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

(Please greet one another with a sign of God's peace.)

***OPENING HYMN** "COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS" No. 153

GATHERING PRAYER *(unison)*

Pastor Dan Hollis

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE The Cummings Family

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Estelle Margarones

ANTHEM "A VOICE CRIES OUT: 'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD'" Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain made low.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

All people shall see it together. The mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

Comfort, my people; proclaim the promise of the Lord.

His name shall be called Emmanuel. -Isaiah 40:1, 3-5; 7:14

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE Matthew 3:1-6 N.T. page 2 Jerri LeConte
Psalm 72:1-7 O.T. page 496

SERMON Pastor Dan Hollis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS "I WONDER AS I WANDER/WHAT CHILD IS THIS"

Arr., Terrie Ilaria

Meredyth Goss, flute; Camden Oberg, clarinet

Terrie Ilaria, piano; Karen Lynge, soprano

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT** No. 34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

***CLOSING HYMN** "O DAY OF PEACE" No. 539

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, December 8th

9:15am Christmas Carol Sing
9:30am Worship/Advent II
11am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal
1pm Youth Group-grades 9-12
5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm Lessons and Carols Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 9th

8am Zumba
6pm Fellowship in Action-Pot Luck-Wierzba Residence

Tuesday, December 10th

8:30am Yoga
5-7pm Table of Plenty
6:30pm Assessors Meeting

Wednesday, December 11th

8:30am Zumba
9:30am Women's Bible Study
5pm Conversations on the Bible

Thursday, December 12th

8:30am Aerobics
5pm Sweet Spirit Rehearsal
6pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
8pm Lessons and Carols Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 13th

Sunday, December 15th

9:30am Worship/Advent III
10:30am Coffee Hour-Celebration



Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation

Leading Worship Today:

Rev. Estelle Margarones

Pastor Dan Hollis

Staff

Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries

Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate

Janet Cassidy, Church School Coordinator

First Parish Church Lay Leaders

Jan Jonas, Moderator

Thom Kearns, Vice Moderator

Ray Hamlin, Treasurer

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk



First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ
FAITH FEATURES

A Special Celebration: Please come celebrate a special 10 year anniversary in the life of our church as we thank Ray Hamlin for his unwavering dedication as our Treasurer for the past ten years, and hopefully many more! Ray's countless hours of managing our church finances with humble expertise deserve a heartfelt expression of our gratitude! Come join in the celebration of his faith-filled service at a special coffee hour after worship on Sunday, December 15, in Fellowship Hall!

Creche Sunday: on December 29, your pastors and deacons invite you to enjoy brunch in Fellowship Hall! We'll serve a lovely brunch, sing all of our favorite Christmas Carols, and share hopes and prayers for the new year...all the while surrounded by treasured family creche displays. This may well become a new holiday tradition! Family members and guests are all welcome. RSVP by December 22 to 207363-3758 or office@firstparishyork.net

Christmas Caroling: Please join us as we go Christmas Caroling to Durgin Pines on Monday, December 16th and Sentry Hill on Wednesday, December 18th. Both nights we will meet at 5:15 in the front lobby of each place and begin caroling to the residents at around 5:30 pm. Santa hats, caroling books and cards to hand out will be provided. No need to rsvp but if you have any questions contact Nate Cox at 207-216-7005

Book Stipend: 1st year, 2nd Semester College Students who are members of First Parish Church are eligible for a "one time" book stipend from the Diaconate. Applications available in the Parish Office and Opportunity Table or email the office at office@firstparishyork.net Deadline December 13, 2019

Fellowship in Action: Merry Tuba Christmas at Nonantum Resort ballroom in Kennebunkport. 30-40 Tubas and Euphoniums serenade us with Christmas Carols. Today, December 8 at 3PM-4PM. Carpooling from First Parish at 1:45PM. FREE admission. Interested? Contact Linda Drew 207/351/8141 or p.l.drew79@me.com

Dine with Nine: A program aimed at sharing a meal with 9, 7 or 5 folks you may not know from our congregation! Hosts are needed to offer their home or plan a get together at a local restaurant for a certain date in the month of January. After the date and location are declared, sign up will be in December. Info and signup sheets on the Opportunity Table or in church office. Contact Linda Drew at p.l.drew79@me.com or 207-351-8141.