

THE BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE Recessional on "JOY TO THE WORLD" Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Flowers are given in loving memory of John Sheperd Purrington by his family.

Flowers given in memory of my loving husband Charles Furlong by all of his family.

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.

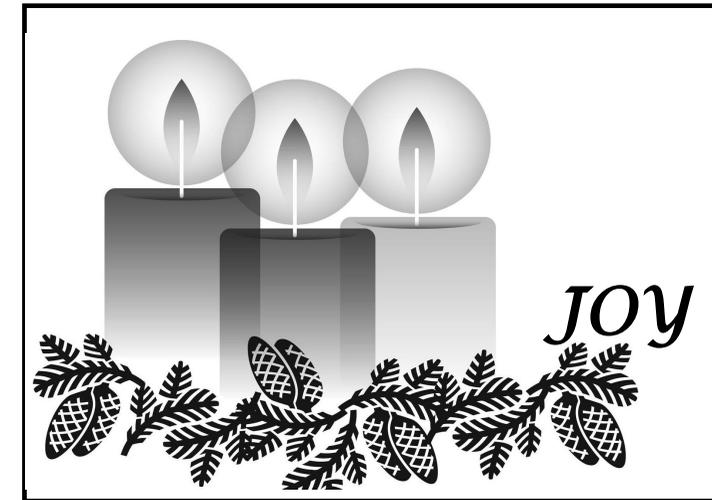
Photos and Video: We regularly take photos and video for use in media. If you would prefer your/your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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 15, 2019 ~ 9:30AM WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CANDLE OF JOY)

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

PRELUDE “COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE” Paul Manz (1919-2009)
“IN DULCI JUBILO” (“IN SWEET JOY”) J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

THE INVITATION God’s grace, mercy, and peace be with you. Rev. Estelle Margarones
And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsive)* Pastor Dan Hollis

People of God, get ready to receive the gift of Christmas!

We will let go of what doesn't serve us to make room for Christ!

Release any anger, frustration, hurt, or bitterness.

We fill ourselves with God's love and let it expand within us.

***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** “JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES” *(two times)* No. 177

GATHERING PRAYER *(unison)* Rev. Estelle Margarones

Holy God of justice and mercy, we are grateful for your care in our lives. Thank you for being within our reach and available to our grasp. Hold our hands and help us to feel your transformational love. Help us to deliver good news and good works to an expectant and hopeful world. We ask this in the name of the One who shared this prayer when He walked on this earth...

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 JOY

Meredith, Matt, Charlie and George Schmid

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Dan Hollis

ANTHEM

“MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD” John Purifoy

Peace be unto you, do not be afraid for you have found favor with your God.

You shall bear a son, the Son of the Most High.

His name will be great, and His kingdom will never end.

My soul magnifies the Lord my God. My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

for Holy is His name forevermore. — Luke 1:30-55 (adapted)

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE Gospel of Luke 1:46-55 N.T. page 49 Wilbert Gough

SERMON

Rev. Estelle Margarones

HYMN

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS”

No. 184

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “BREATH OF HEAVEN” (“MARY’S SONG”)

Chris Eaton and Amy Grant

Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness,

pour over me your holiness, for you are holy.

Breath of heaven, hold me together, be forever near me.

Kathy Mason and Terrie Ilaria, sopranos

***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 LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM” *(verses 1, 2 and 4)* No. 180

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, December 15th

9:30am Worship/Advent III
10:30am Coffee Hour-Celebration for Ray Hamlin
11am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal
4pm Christmas in the Village Concert
6:30pm Lessons and Carols Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 16th

8am Zumba
5:15pm Christmas Caroling-Durgin Pines

Tuesday, December 17th

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

Wednesday, December 18th

8:30am Zumba
9:30am Women's Bible Study
3:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting
5pm Conversations on the Bible
5:15pm Christmas Caroling-Sentry Hill

Thursday, December 19th

7pm Search Committee Meeting
8:30am Aerobics
4pm Nominating Committee Meeting
5pm Sweet Spirit Rehearsal
6pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 20th

Sunday, December 22nd

8:30am Aerobics
9:30am Worship/Advent IV
4pm Service of Lessons and Carols-Trinity Church

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, today after worship, 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! Come join in the celebration at a special coffee hour in Fellowship Hall!

“Christmas in the Village” Concert: Join us today at 4pm to sing Christmas Carols and hear your favorite First Parish Church ensembles and soloists fill the sanctuary with Christmas music.

Creche Sunday: on December 29, your pastors and deacons invite you to enjoy brunch in Fellowship Hall! We'll serve a free brunch, sing Carols, and share hopes and prayers for the new year, all the while surrounded by treasured family creche displays. Family members and guests are all welcome. **RSVP** by December 22 to 207-363-3758 or office@firstparishyork.net or sign up at the Opportunity Table.

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund: The Christmas Fund, administered by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to lower-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy or lay church employees in need, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to hundreds of annuitants. We invite you to use the enclosed envelope to give cash or a check, made out to First Parish Church, with “Christmas Fund” entered on the memo line of your check.

Helping Through Loose Change: York Community Services Association will be the recipient of your loose change collected during the month of December. The collection boxes are located in the narthex.

Dine with Nine: Get to know each other better. Sign up to be a host of 9, 7 or 5 guests at your home or restaurant on a date of your choosing. We already have SEVEN volunteers to host!! Those wishing to be a “DINER” should fill out a Diner form according to a date that suits you after December 26. Dinners will run January thru March 2020. Sign up at the Opportunity table or in the church office Monday-Friday 9am-2pm.

Creation Care Tip: Hearty thanks to the Buildings and Grounds Team!! All of the fluorescent lights in the kitchen have been changed to LED units! The old tubes used 40W, the new LED's draw only 15W of electricity....a 62.5% energy reduction. YOU can do the same....one bulb at a time! (The Lightbulb Revolution [energystar.gov])

From the Financial Secretary: For those that requested church envelopes for 2020, they are available for pick up in Moody Hall.