

Mission

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

Vision

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*.

Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation
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

Merry Christmas!

Contact Us

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A Service of Candlelight and Christmas



Christmas Eve 2019

8pm and 11pm

First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ

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Congregational
United Church of Christ**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER 24, 2019
CHRISTMAS EVE
8:00PM AND 11:00PM**

**All who are able please stand.*

PRELUDE Three Carol Preludes Settings: Gordon Young (1919-1998)

1. "AWAY IN A MANGER" ("Mueller")
2. "ALL MY HEART THIS NIGHT REJOICES" ("Ebeling")
3. "SILENT NIGHT" ("Stille Nacht")

THE INVITATION *(responsive)*

God's grace, mercy, and peace be with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsive)* Isaiah 9:2,6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in the land of deep darkness; a light has dawned.

For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given.

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

***OPENING HYMN** "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL" No. 182

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- After worship service tonight, if there is anyone willing to take poinsettias to folks who are homebased, please come to the front of the sanctuary. You will receive an address card to deliver to this week.
- Please join us for family worship each Sunday morning at 9:30am. If you do not have a church that you regularly attend, we hope that you will consider making First Parish your church.

Creche Sunday with Brunch Worship

December 29 at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall: Guests are welcome!

We'll have activities for children & nursery care available.

Please RSVP on facebook or Rev. Estelle at estelle@firstparishyork.net
by 12noon on 12/26.

Adult Bible Study

All are welcome to join Conversations on the Bible on Wednesdays at 5PM in the Fellowship Hall Parlor. No Bible and no previous experience with the Bible necessary. (Resumes January 8th)



What We Believe in the United Church of Christ

"God is still speaking" is our way of saying as a church of the United Church of Christ that no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here:

Where God is all-loving and inclusive.

Where the church of Jesus Christ welcomes and accepts everyone as they are.

Where your mind is nourished as much as your soul.

Thank you for worshiping with us this Christmas Eve!
We hope this service enables you to enter into the heart of Christmas, which is a joyous celebration of God's love and God's gift to us in Jesus Christ.

Deacons for Tonight's Worship

8PM Jan Jonas, Per Jonas, Jerri LeConte, Larry Cassidy
11PM Karen Cox, Sue Wierzba, Sandy Labonte, Joy Carl

Readers

Don Gough
Susan Gough
The Schrimper Family
Nancy Stevens
Scott Stevens

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *(responsive)*

Leader: Tonight Jesus has come to our world. The promise fulfilled!

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: Hope gives way to joy, and prayer to proclamation.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: Our candles illuminate our story. Dawn invades night. The Light of the world has come.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Leader: And this Light is Light for all, igniting a flame within each soul. The Light that shines in the darkness warms us from within, radiating perfect love. It lights our lives with the presence of God-With-Us in human flesh, within us and among us, now and always.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Our time of waiting is over. Christmas is here. Our days of preparation are completed. We hear the good news that Jesus the Christ is born, and we open our lives to this word of hope. We light the central candle, the Christ candle, to remind us that Christ is the light of the world.

CAROL "JOY TO THE WORLD!" No. 179

THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH

THE ANGEL AND MARY Gospel of Luke 1:26-38

CAROL "IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR" No. 191

JOSEPH'S DREAM

Gospel of Matthew 1:18-24

SPECIAL MUSIC

8PM "SING NOEL, SING HALLELUJAH!" Arr. Keith Christopher
First Parish Sanctuary Choir and Sweet Spirit

11PM **Gina Connolly, soloist**

CHRIST'S BIRTH IN BETHLEHEM Gospel of Luke 2:1-7

CAROL "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM" No. 180

ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS Gospel of Luke 2:8-14

SPECIAL MUSIC

8PM "WERE YOU THERE ON THAT CHRISTMAS NIGHT" Natalie Sleeth
Sweet Spirit

11PM "O HOLY NIGHT" Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)
Gina Connolly, soloist

AT THE MANGER Gospel of Luke 2:15-20

CAROL "AWAY IN A MANGER" No. 203

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

CAROL "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING" No. 185

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Please share generously to support the ministries of First Parish Church and the work we do in the wider world.

OFFERTORY

8PM "INNKEEPER" Roger Emerson
Gina Connolly and Terrie Ilaria

11PM Meditation on "QUEM PASTORES" Michael A. Joseph



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Please always tilt your unlit candle to receive the light.
Once everyone's candle is lit, we will stand and sing "Silent Night"

LITANY FOR THE CANDLES

The light of hope shines in darkness.
We light candles of hope against apathy.
The light of peace shines in darkness.
We light candles of peace where there are heavy burdens.
The light of joy shines in darkness.
We light candles of joy despite sadness.
The light of love shines in darkness.
We light candles of love for God, self, and neighbor.
The light of God shines in darkness.
We light candles so that we may shine Christ's light.

***CAROL** "SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!" No. 186
(please raise your candles on verse 3)

**Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child; holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from
heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus,
Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

***CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

POSTLUDE "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST" Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736)