

Order of Worship

Gathering Music

Nun komm, der heiden Heiland (BWV 659)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome

Rev. Judy Arnold

A Moment of Silence

Prelude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, vs. 3

James Woodman (b. 1957)

Advent Candle Lighting Candle of Peace

Choir: O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

The Sansom family

Congregation and Choir:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

*Processional Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

PH #116

*Prayer of Confession

Kathleen Zagata

One: Eternal God, in the long ago days when the earth was flat, and heaven was above the clouds, and disease was caused by demons, your son was born to lighten all our darkneses. We now, after the enlightenment, are in bondage to different limitations. We doubt what we cannot prove; we ignore what we cannot see, and finding little room for faith, we must confess

All: We suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

One: We admit ourselves to be both infected and affected by the spirit of our times. Behind talk of world peace, we hear the machinery of war; beneath talk of global equality we detect the posturing of the powerful; beside talk of your church being renewed, we recognize the bondage to failed patterns of the past. Rather than embrace the light, we become fascinated by darkness, and must confess

ALL: We suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

One: Ah, God, who will save us? Our cynicism is the fruit of our experience, not the key to the future. Our suspiciousness helps us to smell the rat, never to recognize the dove. Our perfect analysis may describe the mountain but is helpless to move it. It is with little pride we must confess

ALL: We suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

One: As Christmas approaches, give us a share of that divine naivete enjoyed by Elizabeth and Zechariah, Mary and Joseph who encountered angels and believed the Good News and recognized Christ among them.

ALL: AMEN

One: God has heard our confession and delights in our desire for reunion. As soon as we turn toward God, God's arms open wide to welcome us. So, as forgiven people let us say together the prayer Jesus taught us:

ALL: 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

*An Act of Praise

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

PH #116

Time for the Young

Ben Pulaski

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Judy Arnold

Offertory

Jules Massenet (1842-1912)
"Méditation" from *Thaïs* (1894), an instrumental entr'acte originally written for solo violin & orchestra.
Robert Skinner, flute

*Doxology

NCH #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above you heavenly host, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Scripture

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Liturgist: Tony McPherson



Sung Refrain: Give the ruler your justice, O God.

Isaiah 11:1-10

OT p. 640, LP OT p. 600

Sermon

Rev. Judy Arnold

Anthem Advent Alleluia [2003]

Music by Jonathan Willcocks (b. 1953)

Quoting CROSS OF JESUS by John Stainer (1887) and HELMSLEY by Thomas Olivers (1763)

Text by Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Alleluia.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
(Lo, he comes with clouds descending, o come quickly, Alleluia.)
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
(Yea, amen, let all adore him, o come quickly, Alleluia.)
Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train.
God appears on earth to reign.
Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne,
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Judy Arnold & Rev. Lucy Sanders

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(The Deacons will distribute the bread and cup in the pews this morning. Everyone is welcome to partake but if you choose not to please pass the plate to the person beside you. All the bread is gluten free and the cups are filled with grape juice.)

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence and we have received all of Christ's gifts, strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and help us to proclaim our love for you in the way we live our lives. AMEN

*Closing Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PH #107

Benediction

Rev. Judy Arnold

Passing the Peace of Christ

(Please offer "peace" or "The peace of Christ" to your neighbor as you depart)

Postlude

Nun komm, der heiden Heiland (BWV 599)

Bach

Meet Our Church

First Congregational Church in Winchester, UCC, An Open and Affirming Congregation

21 Church Street, Winchester, MA 01890 781-729-9180

www.fcc-winchester.org

We are a Christ-centered, nurturing community: growing in faith, serving in love, welcoming all with joy.

The Congregation, Ministers To The World

Rev. William Burhans, Lead Pastor

Rev. Ms. Judith B. Arnold, Associate Pastor

Ms. Kathleen Zagata, RN, MS, CS, Minister of Congregational Health & Wellness

Ms. Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Mr. Ben Pulaski, Minister of Faith Formation: Children & Youth

Mr. Jeffrey Mead, Organist

Mr. Bradley Ross, Sexton

Mr. Tyler Campbell, Assistant Sexton

Ms. Sarah Marino, Office Manager

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Orth, Pastoral Counselor (Affiliate)

Welcome!

We are happy you have joined us today for worship. We hope that in the coming hour of quiet, song, prayer, sacred scripture, and communal gathering, you will awaken more fully to God's presence in your life and the world around us.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located down the stairs as you first enter the front doors of the church.

Accessibility

Listening devices are available in the back of the sanctuary for the hearing impaired. An after-worship coffee hour is held in Chidley Hall on the bottom floor of the church building. An elevator is located out the doors to the right of the front chancel area and down the hall. Please ask a greeter if you need assistance.

Childcare

Children are always welcome in the sanctuary! We appreciate the sounds of little ones among us. If you'd prefer, there is a professionally staffed nursery on the floor beneath the sanctuary. Ask a greeter if you need help finding it.

Family Room

There is also a comfortable room with sofas, chairs, carpet and an audio link to the service for when you need more room to attend to your family. It is located just outside the doors to the right of the front chancel area.

Children (Stepping Stones) and Youth Church School

Classes for children and youth in pre-k through 12th grade are taught during worship. Families begin the worship service together in the sanctuary. Children are then invited to join us at the front (if they are comfortable) for the Time for the Young. Afterwards, the children and youth are led to their classrooms by their teachers.

Get connected!

Please tell us about yourself and/or request a prayer by filling out a Welcome/Prayer Request Card found in each pew and place it in the offering plate when it passes. We look forward to getting to know you at Coffee Hour, held downstairs immediately following the service. You can also learn more about our community through our website and Facebook page:

www.fcc-winchester.org

[facebook.com/fccwucc](https://www.facebook.com/fccwucc)

Text FCCW to 22828 to join our email list

December 4, 2016

The Second Sunday in Advent

10:00 Worship Service

People We Are Praying for...

<u>Names</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Magie Keeler's family	For the death of her aunt, Veronica Nicholas
Family of Jack Pemberton, Nanci Church's father	In their grief
Mary Lynn Bukey, Michelle Stewart's mother	Healing
Bob Shirley	In his last days
Eddie Burke's dog	Healing of her tendon and her spirits
Family of Harry Huff, Minister of Music, Old South Church	In time of grieving
Dory Cole Ogden, niece of Stephen W. Cole	For healing
Martha George	For healing and courage
Sherman Bull, Laura Bailey's father	Healing from a bike accident
Lucy Sanders	In her job search
Jessica Brand	For healing
Bruce Lauterwasser	For healing

Please let the Deacons or Ministry Team know if you have someone to add or remove from this list.

Today's Worship Service

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Monica Sullivan Mahon and James J. Mahon, by the Mahon-Hayden family.

P&D Fund

On Communion Sundays you will find envelopes for the Pastors' and Deacons' Fund. This fund offers monetary aid to congregation members who are experiencing an urgent need for financial crisis assistance. Please consider a donation as part of your worship today.

Upcoming Events

Advent Visitation Sunday Today,

Church members participating in the visitation teams please meet in the Health Ministry Office at 11:30.

The Giving Tree

Please help us make the holidays a little brighter for our neighbors at Germaine Lawrence, Lowell Transitional Living Center, Outdoor Church and the preschool at Woburn Council of Social Concerns. Please visit our website and find the giving tree under the Outreach and Service tab. ***Please note the December 11 due date***

Please contact Cindy Mahoney cindy33733@aol.com with any questions.

FCC Monthly Men's Group, Tonight, 7:30-9 PM, Palmer Room.

All FCC men and their guests are welcome. We discuss matters that are personal and spiritual. Pot-luck beverages or snacks are welcome but not expected. Questions to chris.noble@yahoo.com.

Women's Advent Gathering Monday Dec. 5 7 PM

What Do You Thirst for This Advent? A question to be explored in scripture and song at the Advent Women's Gathering on Monday, December 5th at 7 pm. Teenage daughters, mothers, sisters and friends are invited to join you for this tradition of fellowship. Details are available on the church website or by calling Christine Tresselt, 617 605-6618 or Wendy Procops, 617-835-9953.



Join us for Jazz Vespers on Saturday, December 10, 4:00 p.m. in our sanctuary for a creative and informal Christmas-themed service of prayer, poetry, scripture, song, and live jazz! This sunset evening service, including a short reflection from Reverend Will, is intimate yet lively, contemplative yet participatory — perfect for modern day seekers. Hear jazz arrangements of traditional Christmas carols and songs from our resident jazz band and singers. *There will be moments to sing, moments to listen, moments to read, and moments to pray.*

Cookie Walk December 11, 11:30 AM, Chidley Hall

The Middle School Class will be hosting our annual Cookie Walk. Here's how it works:

1. Families and individuals sign up beforehand to bring in a plate of nut-free cookies.
2. Those cookie plates come in before church and the Rite 13 class sets up a display of the different cookie trays.
3. After church everyone comes down, grabs an empty plate, and selects a variety of different cookies.
4. The class beautifully wraps up your plate and you provide a small donation which goes to a local charity.

To sign up to bring in cookies email ben.pulaski@gmail.com

God's Grace at Work!

We celebrated stewardship on Pledge Sunday, November 13th, and watched a wonderful musical slideshow on Christian Education produced by Ben Pulaski and team. We are very excited to report that we are off to a great start!. To date 95 pledges have been received totaling over \$421,000. That's 82% of our goal of \$525,000.

If you have already pledged, thank you for your generous and joyful giving. If you haven't yet, then please take a moment to fill out a pledge card and mail it to the Church care of Bruce Lauterwasser, Treasurer, or place it in the offering at worship today. Pledge cards and envelopes can be found at the back of the sanctuary when you walk in to church next Sunday. You can also send a confidential email with your pledge amount to first.congregational@verizon.net. Thank you . The Financial Resources Ministry

Service of Light

Join us for a time of prayer, candle lighting & music on Thursday, December 22 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Designed to move from darkness to hope, the service opens us to God's quiet presence. Come in the face of life's challenges, anxieties, and fears. Come when grief or loss disrupts life. Come to remember those whom we hold dear. Come during the rush of the holidays. Invite a friend or loved one facing difficulties. For a ride call by Dec 20: Health Ministry Office at 781-729-9180 ext:106.

Purchase a Holiday Poinsettia

You are invited to donate a chancel Christmas plant as a memorial or as a gift. Families will distribute plants to our shut-ins following the worship service on Sunday, December 18th

This year plants will cost \$20.00. All orders are due by Next Sunday, 12/11/16

I wish to purchase ____ plant(s), which will be

In __memory / __ honor (please check one) of

Donor _____

Please return this form with a check payable to First Congregational Church, to the church office, or place it in an offering plate in an envelope marked "Christmas plants".

We would appreciate your help in delivery of the plants to homebound members of our parish by coming forward and picking up a plant and a card immediately after the service on December 18th