

Worship of God with our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory Music: "Bouree" (Flute Sonata #3)
Handel
*Doxology (#815) and Offertory Prayer

Scripture Mark 13:24-37

*Hymn #255 "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Sermon "What Child Is This?"

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Prayer: **You have given yourself to us, loving God, in the simple food and drink we have shared. Jesus has been here. Even now, his presence is strengthening us to be his Body. God, give us courage; make us whole and give us peace. Fill us with Holy Spirit and send us out to touch the world with your healing Presence; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Friend. Amen.**

*Hymn #291 "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

*Benediction

*Response #244 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" vs. 2

*Postlude

*Special thanks to Jo Beth Dudley
for bringing our special flute
selections this morning.*

Lectionary Readings for Next Sunday: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.

*First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Littleton, New Hampshire*

December 3, 2017

*Thank you for joining us for worship today!
It is our sincere hope that all who gather in
this place will know and experience the love,
forgiveness, hope, and new life available
through Jesus Christ.*

Pastor: Rev. W. David Weddington E-mail: pastordavid@myfairpoint.net	189 Main Street Littleton, NH 03561 603-444-3376, Fax: 603-444-6589 E-mail: fstcong@myfairpoint.net www.1stconglittleton.org
Music Director & Organist Dorothy Morton Sun. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Church office hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Worship Service and Sunday School 10:00 a.m.	FCC Shining Lights Learning Center 444-7379
Coffee Fellowship 11:15 a.m.	E-mail: fccshininglights@myfairpoint.net

Our Mission Statement:

As followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are called to provide a loving invitation and welcome to all, to inspire and uplift through the worship of God, to reach out to heal and enrich lives through the Holy Spirit, and to nurture people at various stages of their spiritual growth.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent

Those who are able may stand where marked (*).

Gathering #244 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” *vs. 1*

Welcome and Announcements *Mary Menzies*

Opening Prayer

Prelude “Panis Angelicus” *Franck*

Lighting the First Advent Candle *Doug and Mary Menzies*

One: Today, with a single candle, it begins, the journey from darkness to light. With Christians all over the world, we embark upon a time of held-breath expectation. “Jesus is coming,” we say in our hearts, and we light a single candle to mark the day.

All: Today, by the light of a single candle, we gather as a people of Hope.

One: Today, with Christians all over the world, we wait in breathless awe for the miracle to come. And every year, as sure as the first buds of April, He comes; Light returns and our trembling hearts fill with childlike wonder and joy.

**All: This is how the prophet Isaiah said it:
“Out of the stump of a once mighty tree,
a new branch has leapt into life.”**

One: *(light the candle)*

Out of the dry stump of dreams that were dead, new life is budding, is starting to sprout! So here, in this dark, broken

world, we are lighting this candle, a beacon of Hope.

**All: He is coming, Emmanuel! God with us! Soon!
We declare it; we claim it; we open our hearts
to make room for His coming, before He arrives,
for we are a people of Hope.**

*Hymn #245 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Confession: When the world was really dark, O God, as dark as dark could be, you sent your Light, a ray of Hope, a beam of Love and Joy. He came to us, a tiny Child, but we were so busy, so angry, so puffed up with pride, so focused on selfish things, we sent Him away. And time and again since then, we have turned from the Light, turned from loving you and our neighbors to serving only ourselves. Forgive us, O God. Forgive us, tiny Child. Forgive us, hovering, empowering Spirit, by whose great mercy, we still have a chance to turn around and welcome You at last. Here, tiny Child, at Your manger bed we lay our broken and sorry hearts, the gift You have promised never to refuse. Restore us, dear Child! Come and be with us! Make our hearts beautiful again, we pray in Your name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri #813

A Christmas Creed *(insert)*

Choir Anthem “Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

Farrell/Raney

Children’s Time

Moments of Concern and Celebration (please fill out a blue card)
Pastoral Prayer and Our Savior’s Prayer (“trespasses”)



Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettia orders are now being taken. The cost is \$15.00. All orders must be given to Glenda Iles (444-5336 or cell 398-7353) by December 10th.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "CHERRY BLOSSOMS".

The poinsettias will be used at the service on December 17th and 24th.

QUANTITY	COST EACH	TOTAL
_____	\$15.00	\$ _____

Your name: _____

In Memory/honor of (circle one):

All dedications must be given to Glenda in writing. Thank you very much.



If you would like to dedicate a wreath (3 total for the doors) please call Glenda!

Notices for the week of December 3, 2017 – December 9, 2017

- TODAY... 9:00 amAdult Bible Class – Classroom
- 10:00 amWorship Service, Communion & Sunday School
- 11:15 amCoffee Fellowship – Ladies Parlor
- Mon..... Pastor’s Sabbath
- Tues..... 6:00 pmAlAnon – Ladies Parlor
- Wed..... 5:00 pmAA – Ladies Parlor
- 6:30 pmChoir Rehearsal – Ladies Parlor
- 7:00 pmWeds. Night AA – Fellowship Hall
- Thurs..... 5:00 pmProperty Committee – Classroom
- Fri..... 5:30 pmSLLC Winter Pageant – Sanctuary
- Sat..... 8:00 amMen’s Breakfast – Muh Residence
- 7:00 pmAA – Fellowship Hall

AA meetings: Monday – Friday 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Usher/Greeter: Judy & Bob Oleary

Coffee Fellowship: Ed O’Brien w/help of the Oleary’s

Flowers: to the glory of God

Filled with Gratitude for Response to Emergency and International Relief Funds

With profound gratitude to the churches of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ, we want to share that offerings of \$18,879.68 have been received to date, and sent on to the United Church of Christ USA Emergency and International Relief Funds for hurricane, wildfire, and other natural disaster relief.

December Prayer Request Concerns & Celebrations

CONTINUING & NEW

Keeping those in need of our prayers: The President, World Leaders, the Youth of our Community, the future of our World, and Rev. David and Wilma Weddington as they participate and lead us into the future.

Jim Raylman – stomach cancer. (Brother of Beverly Frenkiewich) (Linda Warden)

Cancer

Barry Jacobson (David Weddington)	Curtis Sears (Emily LaFlam)
Joni Prell (Linda Warden)	Travis Gay (Judy Warden)
Judy Dean (Alice Muh)	Joyce Willoughby (Glenda Iles)
Peter Campbell (Glenda Iles)	Mark Morgan (Lars Nielson)
Cynthia Farquharson (Linda Warden)	Betsy Harman (Judy Warden)
Rebecca Martel (Glenda Iles)	Doreen Degenerica (June Davis)
Joyce Watrous (Glenad Iles)	Mary Ellen Gilbert (Tina Peabody)
Harry Hatch (Ross Fairweather)	

Loss/Grieving

Family of Mary Hodgdon (Her Father) (Elaine Stroop)
Family of Dan Nute (Emily LaFlam)
Family of Don Bliss (Judy Oleary)

Illness/Recovery

Dianne & Jeff White (Donna Matz)	Bill Hardy, Sr. (Tina Peabody)
Madison Ferland (Karen Byron)	Betsy Bergen (Alice Muh)
Johnny Suglia (Amy Sharpe)	

Military

The names of people in the military are on the name board by office.

To add a name to our prayer list, please fill out a blue card located in the pew racks and place them in the offering plate or hand them to a Deacon. The name will remain in the bulletin for approximately 4 weeks. We understand that some situations are very serious and a longer period of time would be helpful. You may call the office with any names that need to be added or to update the status.

If you or someone you care about would like a visit or call, please contact Pastor David at 603-991-0535 or Pam Nute at 603-444-3376. If you have an emergency during the week and Pastor David is away, please call the church office at 444-3376 and Pam Nute will contact someone for you.

***Names listed without original contact person will be removed from the list if we are not notified. In order to keep this list up-to-date, it is important that we be notified when someone should come off the list. Thank you.*

