

*First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Littleton, New Hampshire
December 5, 2021*



We welcome Rev. Jay Sprout to the pulpit this week.

*Lectionary readings for Sunday, December 12, 2021:
Zephaniah 3:14-20- Isaiah 12:2-6 - Philippians 4:4-7 - Luke 3:7-18*

Please note: Our guest leader, Victoria Cole, may or may not use these texts.

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*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.*

|                                      |                                        |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Welcome:</b>                      | <b>189 Main Street</b>                 |
| <b>Rev. Jay Sprout</b>               | <b>Littleton, NH 03561</b>             |
|                                      | <b>603-444-3376, Fax: 603-444-6589</b> |
| <b>Music Director &amp; Organist</b> | <b>E-mail: fstcong189@gmail.com</b>    |
| <b>Dorothy Morton</b>                | <b>www.1stconglittleton.org</b>        |

*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.*

Online Giving <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YR4H/home>

The North Country Chorus presents its 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday Concert today, Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM at the Union Baptist Church on Route 5 in Waterford, VT. Admission is by donation. Masks and proof of vaccination OR a PCR test within 72 hours are required.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**December 5, 2021**

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

**Ministry of the Acolyte**

**Gathering Music** #241 “Arise, Shine”

**Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer** *Mary Menzies*

**Prelude**

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle** *Kim and Brayden Smith*

**One:** Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus, and through acts of hope, peace, joy, and love.

**All: Advent is a season of lighting candles; lighting candles for the hope, peace, joy, and love for which we wait. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace.**

**One:** We wait not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because God is not already and always here. We wait because to wait is to expect something more. To wait is to expect that the story might enter our hearts and our world in new ways, to bring the change for which we long. We can trust that God is with us, as we wait for hope to be born, anew, in us.

**All: As we light the candle of peace we remember the stories of times God has been our comfort, when God has heard our cries for justice, for peace, and God has led us home. We know we can trust that God is leading us forward, as we wait for peace to be born, anew, in us.**

**\*Advent Hymn**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

With every passing day, it seems, the sunlight disappears.  
The dusk descends, and prayers ascend  
for strength to calm our fears.  
Uncertain is this time, we know,  
when rancor holds such sway,  
And illness leaves within its wake such sadness, grief and pain.

Yet soon a star will shine; Look up! Keep careful watch and wait.  
Then hear within a newborn's cry the love that conquers hate.  
That love, whose light becomes the dawn  
of God's new promised day  
when peace and justice will prevail and sorrows flee away.

**We Lift Up Our Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer**

*Away in a Manger*

Our Father in heaven, holy be your name.  
Your kingdom come to us, your will done the same  
on earth as in heaven, that justice shall reign.  
The bread that we yearn for, provide us each day.

Forgive our trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass against us, as your mercy shows.  
In time of temptation, to lead us, be near;  
from evil deliver your children most dear.

For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.  
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.  
To you be the glory, resounding again  
from all of creation, forever! Amen.

## **We Dedicate Our Gifts**

### **\*Advent Doxology**

All praise, eternal Christ, to thee,  
whose Advent sets thy people free;  
Once more upon thy people shine  
and fill the world with love divine. Amen.

### **\*Offering Prayer**

## **Scriptures**

Malachi 3:1-4  
Matthew 3:1-12

*Mary Menzies*

## **Special Music**

### **Sermon**

“Time for a Change”

*Rev. Jay Sprout*

## **Invitation to the Lord’s Supper**

### **Sung Call to Prayer**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

One: May God be with you!

**All: And with you also!**

One: Lift all your hearts and voices gladly to God.

**All: With hearts uplifted, thanks to God we render.**

**With joy we come before God,**

**in humbleness implore God,**

**with thankful hearts adore God, evermore.**

## **Communion Prayer**

### **Song of Adoration**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Hosts, by all adored!

Heaven and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high,  
blest the one who now draws nigh.

In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing!

Hail, hosanna! Praise we sing, to our holy God and King!

## **Words of Institution** On the Night

*Silent Night*

## **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

### **\*Hymn of Thanksgiving**

*The First Nowell*

Oh, thank the Lord whose goodness sure  
and steadfast love forever endure!

Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard,  
and we have tasted of God's word.

Sing praise! Sing praise! Sing praise! Sing praise!  
to God who blesses all our days.

As God's own servants we depart,  
with God's salvation in our heart.

God's saving power has been made known;

God's love through all the earth is shown.

Sing praise! Sing praise! Sing praise! Sing praise!  
to God who blesses all our days.

### **\*Benediction**

### **\*Response**

*The First Nowell (refrain)*

Amen! Amen! Amen! Amen!

God be with you ‘til we meet again.

## **Postlude**