

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**December 4, 2022**

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

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer *Mary Menzies*

\*Hymn "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent" *(bulletin insert)*

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 11: 1-10*

Mary: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD - and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

Alice: He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips, he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

**All: The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat; the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.**

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Anthem "Mary Did You Know?" *Lowry/Greene*

We Lift Up Our Joys and Concerns: *Mary Menzies*  
Pastoral prayer  
Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

We Dedicate our Gifts  
Offering prayer  
\*Doxology (#815)  
\*Dedication

\*Hymn #597 "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated" *(verses 1, 5, 6)*

Prayer of Confession *Mary Menzies*

***Congregational Response:***

**Patient God, you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, "Do not be afraid" on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to recenter us in love. With hope we pray, Amen.**

Words of Affirmation *Mary Menzies*

***Affirmation of Faith (in unison)***

**We believe in a God who knows our fears.  
We believe in a God who says, "Be not afraid."  
We believe in a God who kicks off her shoes and wades into the muck of our lives with us.  
We believe in a God who hemmed stars into the night sky so that we can find our way home, and who sends us friends with open doors, so we can find our way to love.  
We believe in a God who finds us in our fear and does not leave us alone.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

Scripture: *Luke 1: 26-38* *Mary Menzies*

Message: "Mary Looks Back"

Alice Muh

Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Communion Prayer (unison):**

**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 your Holy Spirit and send us out to touch the world with your healing Presence; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Friend. Amen.**

\*Hymn #244 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

\*Benediction

Postlude (please remain seated through the postlude)

Acknowledgement: Prayers and confessions were written by the Rev. Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org | FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION | The Second Sunday of Advent - God Meets Us in Our Fear

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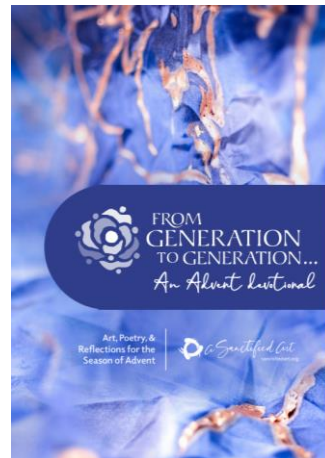
*Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

*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.*

**Advent devotionals are available at the back of the sanctuary.**

**Donations to cover copying costs are appreciated, but not required.**

**Enjoy!**



*First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Littleton, New Hampshire  
December 4, 2022*

**Second Sunday of Advent  
Peace Sunday**



<b>Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz</b> Interim Pastor	189 Main Street Littleton, NH 03561
206-484-9814 (cell) peter@1stconglittleton.org	603-444-3376, Fax: 603-444-6589 E-mail: fstcong189@gmail.com
<b>Music Director &amp; Organist</b> Dorothy Morton	www.1stconglittleton.org
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.	FCC Shining Lights Learning Center 444-7379

*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.*

## Calendar

### Hanging of the Greens – Today!

Help decorate the Christmas tree and the sanctuary as we prepare our hearts and make room for the Messiah.

Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 PM White Mtn. Voices rehearsal – Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>: 8:00 AM Property Mtng.-CR; Eastern Star 6PM - FH

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>: Choir Rehearsal 6PM

Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>: Council Mtng. 6:30 PM – Zoom

Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>: 5:30 PM SLLC Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary

### **December Prayer Requests**

Dorothy Usher	Karen & Vic Carbonneau	Barbara Holland
Linda and Bob Warden	Virginia Hyatt	Anna Searles
Roberta Lavoie	Kim Antonucci	Heather Walker
Karin Brown	Alison & Ron Bolt	Dick Monroe
Judy Warden	Ruby Hagan	Jennifer LaFlam
Bruce & Chris Scott	Parker Towle	Carol and Gordon Jobe
Madison Ferland	Deb Chase	Jon Blodgett
Walter Wyeman	Family of Shelley Gullett	

*After 4 weeks names will be removed unless requested to continue.*

### **Poinsettia Order Form – LAST DAY TO ORDER!!**

Poinsettia orders are now being taken. The cost is \$18.50.

All orders must be given to

**Eric Trafford** (860-655-7667 cell) or [erictrafford@icloud.com](mailto:erictrafford@icloud.com)

by **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO “CHERRY BLOSSOMS”.

The poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary at Christmas.

*Forms located at the back of the sanctuary at the Greeter’s Table.*