FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
December 8, 2013—Second Sunday of Advent

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

*Gathering #245   O Come, O Come Emmanuel   *vs. 1 & 4*

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer   *Ann Craxton*

Prelude   "Air in D" by J. S. Bach   *Jo Beth Dudley—flute*

Ministry of the Acolyte

Lighting the Advent Candles   *based on Matthew 1:18-25*
     Jo Beth Dudley, Tina Peabody and Elaine Stroop

One: This is the way it happened. Young Mary, unmarried, unknown to her husband-to-be, was with child.

All: And Joseph was righteous. He knew the Law. He decided to send her away.

One: That night, in a dream, an angel, a messenger from God, appeared to Joseph and said:

All: "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid. The child Mary bears is a gift from God. Call him Jesus. His name means, 'God saves!'"

One: And the angel showed Joseph how this unexpected child fit into God's story of salvation:

All: "Look, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they will call him Emmanuel—'God with us!'"

One: So Joseph found peace in the words of the angel and Mary and Joseph were wed after all.

All: And they called their son Jesus—"God saves!"

One: *(light)* For Joseph, who listened to a Voice beyond the Law and made room for peace, we light this candle—

All: For all who dream of peace, for all who make room for the birth of a new creation.

Hymn *(insert)*   "When God is a Child"   *vs. 1 & 2*

Anthem   "Prepare"   *Nygard*

Children's Time

Moments of Concern and Celebration
     (Please fill out a blue card in the pew)
     Pastoral Prayer
     Savior's Prayer (trespasses)

Worship of God with our Tithes and Offerings
     Offertory Music
     *Doxology #815 and Offertory Prayer

*Hymn *(insert)*   "Walk in the Reign"

Scripture   Isaiah 11:1-10

Sermon   "O Look, He Comes!"

*Hymn *(insert)*   "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

*Benediction

*Choral Response   *Sevenfold Amen*

*Postlude

*Ministry of the Acolyte

*Three of our hymns this morning are printed on inserts in your bulletin.
They'll also be projected on the screen if you'd prefer a "hands-free" singing experience.*