

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
December 15, 2013—Third Sunday of Advent

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

Gathering *Congregational Choice*

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer *Ann Craxton*

Prelude “He Shall Feed His Flock” by Handel
Jo Beth Dudley—flute

Ministry of the Acolyte

Lighting the Advent Candles *based on Luke 1:39-45*
Tim Gould and Phil Krill

One: Mary set out on a journey to Judah
to visit her cousin, Elizabeth,
a woman past child-bearing age,
who was, like Mary, impossibly with child.

**All: At Mary’s voice, Elizabeth’s child leapt for joy;
she was filled with the Spirit of God and she said:
“Blessed are you among women, Mary,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”**

One: And Elizabeth called her “Mother of my Lord!”
“For as soon as I heard the sound of your voice,
the child in my womb leapt for joy!

**All: “And blessed is she who believed there would be
a fulfillment of what God has promised.”**

One: *(light)* For Mary and Elizabeth, women full of joy,
travelling together in Spirit-filled awe—

**All: For all who risk uncertain journeys of faith
for the Joy they’ll find along God’s Holy Way.**

Hymn *(insert)* “When God is a Child” *vs. 1, 2 & 3*

Anthem “Awaken and Prepare” *Hayes*

Children’s Time

Baptism and Joining *(see inserts)*
*We welcome Kim Santora into the body of Christ
through the sacrament of baptism.
We welcome Tim Gould and Kim Santora
as members of our church.*

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 #269 “How Great Our Joy”

Scripture Isaiah 35 *(selected verses)*

Sermon “Where the Spirit of our God Is”

*Hymn #270 “Joy to the World”

*Benediction

*Choral Response *Sevenfold Amen*

*Postlude

*Ministry of the Acolyte

*All of our hymns this morning will be projected on the screen
if you’d prefer a “hands-free” singing experience.*