



Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

267 Falmouth Road

Falmouth, Maine 04105

207.781.3413



Serving Christ and Community since

1754 Third Parish Church;

1833 The Brick Church

The Reverend Amelia Edson



THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“The spirituality of wonder knows the world is charged with grace, that while sin and war, disease and death are terribly real, God’s loving presence and power in our midst are even more real.”

- Brennan Manning

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

***WELCOME AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

PRELUDE

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

W. Walker/
David Cherwien

***CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE¹**

One: Violence stalks the world. Families flee in fear. From where will their hope come?

All: From One who was born to save, and to do so became a refugee.

One: The earth warms, storms worsen, the poor pay the price. From where will their hope come?

All: From One who taught Noah to survive the floor, One who walked across its surface, One who promised we would not be overwhelmed.

One: One among us is waiting for the doctor’s call. Another staggers with depression. From where will their hope come?

All: From One who has wept and despaired and then emptied tombs.

One: Desire of Nations, Glory of Heaven, Light of the World:

All: You are our hope. Let us prepare our hearts and worlds for your advent.

The first advent candle is lit, symbolizing Hope.

One: Like calls to like. Deep calls to deep. After shadows, light.

All: Deep calls to deep. Like calls to like. After shadow, light.

¹ Call to worship adapted from The Christmas Fund resources, written by Rev. Quinn Caldwell

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: When Mary was with the child the world viewed her with suspicion.

All: We admit that we, too, struggle to believe other’s truths, and even silence the knowledge of our own hearts.

One: When Joseph and Mary searched for a place to stay the world closed its doors.

All: We confess that we, too, close ourselves off from the suffering of this world, choosing apathy over empathy and ignorance over engagement.

One: When Jesus was born the powerful attacked his family, trying to stamp out the hope he promised.

All: We realize that we, too, participate in systems that oppress the vulnerable. We, too, are often afraid to fully embrace the hope that God offers us.

One: Emmanuel, God with us, forgive us our trespasses and open our hearts.

All: So that on Christmas Day we will be ready to receive you in our midst and our lives may be testaments of the Christmas story. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Let us remember: Christ came to earth so that we might be redeemed.

All: There is nothing we can do, think, or say, that can separate us from our God who loves us.

One: Hallelujah!

All: Hallelujah!

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-5

(NRSV p. 591; RSV p.600†)

Romans 13:11-14

(NRSV p. 142; RSV p.153†)

THE SERMON

“Hope”

Rev. Amelia Edson

PASTORAL PRAYER

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts.

All: Christ is our peace, our light, and our hope.

One: Let us pray.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

“The Lord’s Prayer”

No. 307

THE FEAST OF COMMUNION

PREFACE

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to offer thanks and praise.

RETELLING THE STORY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Gluten free bread and cup available in front of the Chancel.

If you would like communion brought to you, please notify an usher.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup”

No. 414

THE OFFERTORY

“The Jesus Gift”

Gilbert M. Martin

*DOXOLOGY

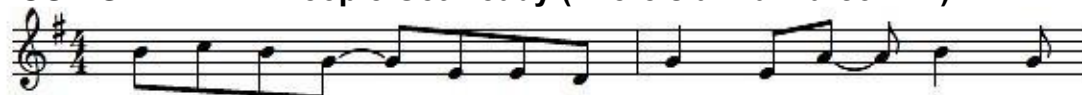
Praise God from whom all blessing flow:

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

CLOSING HYMN “People Get Ready (There’s a Train a-comin’)”



Pe - ople get read - y, there's a train a com - ing, you
 Pe - ople get read - y for the train to Jor - dan.
 There ain't no room for the hope - less sin - ner,

G Em C G



don't need no bag - gage you just get on board. All you
 Pick - ing up pas - sen - gers from coast to coast. Faith is
 who would hurt all man - kind just to save his own. Have pi -

G Em C G



need is faith to hear the die - sels hum - ming.
 the the key, op - en the doors and board them.
 ty on them, whose chan - ces grow thin ner. 'Cos

Em Am C/D G



Don't need no tic - ket you just thank the lord.
 There's room for all a - mong the loved the most.
 there's no hid - ing place from the king-dom's throne.

G Em C G G Em C G



*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Go in Peace”

No.445

POSTLUDE “Trumpet Tune on ‘Wachet Auf’” Martha Sobaje

* During the postlude, you may be seated to listen, or you may leave.

Throughout the order of worship, if print is in bold, words may be spoken in unison.

(*)Please rise in body or spirit.

† NRSV Bibles are on the pulpit side and the RSV Bibles are on the lectern side of the sanctuary.

Visiting Falmouth Congregational this morning? Please fill out a blue visitor card and put it in the offering plate so that we can send you a (personal, non-spam) welcome email!

The chancel flowers are given by Marion and Donald Olen in loving memory of their daughter, Elizabeth Olen Cook.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Greeters: Sarah & Paul Davis
Liturgist: Jim Parr
Ushers: Jim Parry, Pam Carroll
Judy Nilsen & Sue Perry
Advent Lighters: The Henderson Family
Communion Servers: Alan Doughty, Marilee Beinema
Virginia Eddy & Jim Parr
Bus Driver: Paul Davis

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE
IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**

Leon Kauffman
Jo Blinick
Maureen Grubb
Ginny Hamilton
James Klenk
Rev. Beinema
Don Worthen



Joan Bamel
Bee O'Brien
Myron Krueger
Maytha Southard
Helen Tupper-Southard
Kathy Whitmore & Her Family
Heidi, Jane Stegemann's Grand Niece
Owen Fess, Barbara Graustein's Grandson

Please let the church office know if we have missed someone and please update us so that we may better pray for them. Thank you.



Next Sunday's Lectionary

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We **welcome** you to worship and invite you to join us after the service in Fellowship Hall for refreshments. If you are visiting us today, please pick up a **Welcome Bag** in Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex and fill out a **blue Welcome card**.

Christmas Caroling: Sunday December 15th meet at the church at 12:30 and the bus will leave at 12:45 and be back at about 3:30pm. For info contact Sarah Davis, 781-5959.

Have a good joke, theological question, or just low on caffeine? Drop by for **Coffee with the Pastor**, every **second and fourth Tuesday from 12:30-2:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall. **Next Coffee with the Pastor will be December 10th**

FCC BUS DRIVERS Please call if you need to cancel your ride. 1st Sunday: Jack Davis, 233-1707 |2nd Sunday: Paul Davis, 332-7268 |3rd Sunday: Phil Pierce, 781-3769 |4th Sunday: Ann Sanborn, 318-6906 |5th Sunday: Mark Horton, 838-1544

The Falmouth Food Pantry is open the following days in December:

Mondays,	December 2, 16:	9:00 - 11:00 AM
Tuesdays,	December 10, 17:	9:30 - 11:30 AM
Thursdays,	December 12, 19, 26:	4:30 - 6:30 PM

Nursery News: The Children's ministry and Elena Parr are still in need of volunteers to become "on-call" nursery helpers. Please sign up on the volunteer sheet on the CE bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Chancel Flowers: The cost of altar flowers from Skillins has increased from \$38 to \$45.

Advent Group: Christian Meditation. Monday Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 5:30- 6:00 PM:

In the busy Advent Season, take a moment to pause and reconnect through the Christian Meditative practice of Centering Prayer. Centering prayer is a gentle practice of silent, spacious communion with God. Grounded in Western Christian monastic practices, Centering Prayer encourages us to spend quiet time with our ever-present God.

This year's Holly Days Fair was filled with holiday cheer as friends and families gathered to enjoy the fun. Credit and thanks go to the over 100 volunteers who worked on fair day and the countless others who contributed behind the scenes. Through your combined gifts of time and talent, a festive event greeted visitors with a wide variety of gift and food offerings. And, if happy smiles weren't reward enough, we also raised over \$15,000! Congrats and thanks to all for a successful day.

Offerings for the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross may be placed in the purple envelopes that will be in the church pews throughout Advent, through Dec. 22.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, December 1st Communion

Poinsettia Orders Due

9:00 AM Choir Practice
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship

Monday, December 2nd

9:00 AM Food Pantry Open
5:30 PM Christian Meditation Group
7:00 PM Worship & Covenant
7:00 PM Fiddle-icious Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 3rd

10:00 AM Bible Study at Ocean View
11:30 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 4th

10:00 AM Communion Service at
Falmouth House
12:00 PM Women's Spiritual Book
Club

Thursday, December 5th

8:30 AM Ecumenical Clergy Meeting
6:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting
6:30 PM Ministry of Missions Potluck
7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting

Friday, December 6th

7:00 PM Boy Scouts Battleship setup

Saturday, December 7th

8:00 AM Boy Scouts Battleship
Tournament

Sunday, December 8th

9:00 AM Choir Practice
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship
11:30 AM Council of Ministries
12:00 PM Eagle Scout Ceremony



Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Closed on Friday

Church Phone: 207.781.3413

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