



LIFT UP
YOUR
HEADS
YE
MIGHTY
GATES

HOPE

FALMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

10:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
COMMUNION

DECEMBER 3, 2017

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Advent begins with a wake-up call! The most surprising thing our texts proclaim is that the One who comes to dismantle the present order comes not as an enemy, but as God's own beloved.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

HONORING OUR CALL TO BE PEACEMAKERS

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(As a sign of our reconciliation with God and one another, we invite you to turn and greet those around you sharing the peace of Christ saying: "The Peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you.")

PRELUDE

"How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them"

G.F. Handel

BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: A child's eyes light up as she imagines a dancing, laughing time, far, far in the future.

All: An old person dreams of a day when infirmity and anxiety will cease.

Choir: A wise person reflects on the untapped potential within humanity – the potential to build a world where joy and sharing prevail.

All: And we, gathered in the name of Christ, catch a glimpse of Advent hope.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Insert

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Your presence is revealed in the light of hope, O God. The light of hope shines brightly.

All: Joyfully we worship, for Your graceful gift of Jesus is at hand.

One: The light of hope overcomes the darkness.

All: Joyfully we know that the powerful ones, and the terror-bringers, will not have their own way.

One: The light of hope reveals the needs of home and community.

All: Joyfully we will work to support the downhearted, and to show friendship to the lonely.

One: Your presence is revealed in the light of hope, O God.

All: The light of hope will go before us on our Advent journey.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Come, O Long-expected Jesus"

No. 125

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER (sung in unison)**

No. 307

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

(NRSV p. 654; RSV p. 658†)

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

New Testament Lesson

Mark 13:24-37

(NRSV p. 44; RSV p. 48†)

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying”

Pastor Michael

*HYMN

“There’s Something About That Name”

No. 115

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

“Amen”

Danish

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

The Invitation

The Offertory

“O Come, O Come Immanuel”

Plainsong/John Rutter

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

One: We offer these gifts for Your use, O God.

All: **We offer them for careful use among the suffering; we offer them for gentle use among the hurting; we offer them for encouraging use among the dispirited; we offer them for use worldwide, in faith communities; we offer them for worship, teaching, and service within this faith community; we offer ourselves, our time and our talent, for use with our gifts.**

One: God will bless your *hopeful* offering!

All: **Thanks be to our gracious God! Amen.**

KIDS’ CHURCH SINGERS

Christmas Carols

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

See Communion Insert

The Gifts of God for the People of God

(Communion is offered by intinction.)

*CLOSING HYMN

“People, Look East”

No. 142, vs. 1,3,4

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day. Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always. Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new Life! Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

POSTLUDE

“Toccata on ‘Veni Emmanuel’”

arr. Thomas Helmore

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

(*) **Please rise in body or spirit.**

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

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

Please silence or turn off your cell phone before you enter the sanctuary. Thank you!

Worship Participants

Greeter: Barry Hamilton
Liturgist: Eunice Wilcox
Acolyte: Ethan Hendry
Advent Readers: Stephen, Kim, Aiden and Ethan Hendry
Ushers: Sue Perry, Larry Perry, Judy Carrier
Communion: Larry Perry, Virginia Eddy, Jo Blinick



*The flowers that grace the Chancel this morning
are given in memory of
our daughter Liz
From Mom, Dad and Family*



*The single rose this morning is in honor and celebration of the birth
of Ken and Cathy Bowden's first grandchild
Genevieve Elizabeth Bowden.*

Born to Tom and Charlotte Bowden on November 14, 2017.

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. We encourage you to sign the guest book.

Children will go directly to Beinema Hall for Kids' Church today. **Visiting children are always welcome!** Kids' Church takes place in the downstairs classrooms, and runs until 11:15 AM. Children in preschool through grade 2 will not be dismissed after class until picked up by a parent.

The **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund** is a United Church of Christ annual offering that supports ministries to lower-income retired clergy and lay employees as well as to active clergy facing unforeseen financial crises. Retired pastors, church office assistants, or ministers of music continue to touch the lives of all of us. Thank you for your generosity in honoring their ministries in a way that will help them. Offerings may be placed in the purple envelopes that will be in the church pews now through **Sunday, December 24.**

Our **Angel Tree** gifting is underway for the Christmas Holiday Season! The "Angels" are available **today**. Gifts should be wrapped and returned to the church office no later than next **Sunday, December 10**. Each angel will include one gift. Feel free to take one or several! There is also an additional possibility for giving. Some families served by the Falmouth Food Pantry could use additional help by way of items for a Christmas meal, or badly needed clothing for the adults in the family, or even warm blankets, for example. If you would like to provide some additional help for the holidays, please contact Nancy Lightbody. Thank you!



Once again we will be decorating our sanctuary with **poinsettias** for Christmas. You may purchase a plant in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one to celebrate this Holy Season. Listings will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Forms have been sent out in the November and December *Congregator* and are available on the table in Fellowship Hall. The deadline for a listing to be included in the bulletin is **tomorrow, December 4.**

Pastor Michael continues his regular **Bible Study** the **first** and **third Sundays** of the month following worship in the Parlor. Exploring the book of Acts, visitors, members, and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend.

FCC's Women's Spiritual Book Group will meet at **1:30 PM** on **Tuesday, December 5** at Jane Stegemann's home. The reading is, "Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of Spiritual Life," by James Martin. Do plan to join the conversation with this lively and welcoming group as we explore our faith and grow in Christian fellowship, together. Contact Mollie Mason at Cathy Bowden with questions.

Alert! Our kitchen has a new upright freezer and the Ministry of Community Life is initiating a "**Bake for the Freezer**" campaign. During this season of giving; kindly remember the freezer. Judy Currier or Carol Kauffman would be happy to receive and place your baked goods in the freezer for future fellowship events. (P.S. Hard cheese is welcomed as well.)

The next coffee house event will be **this Friday, December 8 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM**. Bob Stakel will provide an opportunity for you to sing along to many of your favorite folk songs with a few new ones sprinkled in. Katie Daggett, "The Voice of Maine," brings her unique style of adult contemporary music which reflects the influences of other musical styles including country, blues and reggae. Come enjoy a beverage and listen to great music. Invite your friends and neighbors to this family-friendly event!

We are pleased to welcome back the **St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble** this year. Their musical talents and blends of harmony are delightful to listen to. Tickets are now available for the concert on **Friday, December 15 at 7 PM**. Tickets are \$15 and available to purchase in advance after worship, in the office or the night of the performance.

Save the date! Sunday, December 17 @ 12:30 PM "the church goes caroling." Join us as we travel to area assisted living homes to delight the residents with Christmas carols. We'll gather at the church at 12:30 PM, and motor our way to the waiting audiences.

The **Falmouth Food Pantry** will be open on the following days in December: Monday, December 4 and 18 from 9 AM until 11 AM; and Tuesdays, December 12, 19 and 26 from 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM; and Thursdays December 14, 21 and 28 from 4:30 PM until 6:30 PM.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Robbie Coleman
Charlie Grubb
Maureen Grubb
Joyce Harmon
Bee O'Brien
Phoebe Horne



Maytha Southard
Barry Hamilton
Jane Barton
Kerry Golding
Susan Southard Fortier
George Sanborn

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of June Winslow. June passed into her eternal rest last week.

"In life and in death we hold fast to the promises of the Gospel."

Please let the church office know if we have missed someone. We will keep people on the prayer list for one month. If you would like them to continue on the prayer list, please update us so that we may better pray for them. Thank you.



Christmas Services

Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 PM
Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 PM
Sunday, December 24 at 8:00 PM

Longest Night Service (Communion)
Intergenerational Family Service
Carols, Lessons & Candles



Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Closed on Friday
Church Phone: 207.781.3413
Visit our Web site: www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org
Church Office e-mail: fccdesk@maine.rr.com

This Week's Schedule

Sunday December 3 ~ First Sunday of Advent ~ Communion
 10:00 AM Worship and Kids' Church
 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
 11:30 AM Bible Study - Parlor
 Giving Tree – Angels Available

Monday December 4
 7:00 PM Ministry of Worship & Covenant (Grant Room)
 Poinsettia order forms due

Tuesday December 5
 10:00 AM Bible Study - OceanView
 1:30 PM Women's Spiritual Book Group (Jane Stegemann's home)
 6:30 PM Ministry of Education (CE Office)

Wednesday December 6
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday December 7
 6:30 PM Ministry of Missions (Grant Room)
 7:00 PM Ministry of Facilities

Friday December 8
 6:30 PM Coffee House – *Bob Stakel and Katie Daggett*

Sunday December 10 ~ Second Sunday of Advent
 9:00 AM Choir Practice
 10:00 AM Worship
 10:10 AM Kids' Church
 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
 11:30 AM Council of Ministries (Grant Room)
 Angel Gifts Due
 Deadline for January *Congregator* submissions

*The 2017 Annual Reports are due on Monday, December 18, 2017.
Thank you for adhering to this important deadline.*



Next Sunday's Lectionary
Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8