

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

January 1, 2012

*Holy Communion*

GATHERING MUSIC

“How Beautiful, the Shining Morning Star” Pachelbel  
“Morning Star, O Cheering Sight!” (Moravian Carol) J. Pethel  
“Chant du roi René” (Provencal Carol) Guilmant

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Cynthia Carr  
(Please sign the Friendship Register before passing it down the pew.)

ACOLYTES

PRELUDE “In dulci jubilo” Dupré

WORDS of REFLECTION

*Christmas isn't a holiday. Christmas is a way of being alive. "Christmas is not a time nor a season," Calvin Coolidge said. "It is a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy is to have the real spirit of Christmas."*  
*Merry Christmas to you all—every day of the year. - Joan Chittister*

\*CALL to WORSHIP

Jim Wilson

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

**People: God was there.**

Leader: When Jesus is presented at the temple,

**People: God was there.**

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

**People: God was there.**

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

**People: God was there.**

Leader: This very morning,

**People: God is here.**

Leader: In the future we cannot see,

**People: God will be there.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\*OPENING HYMN #518 “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

CALL to CONFESSION

CONFESSION of SIN (*unison*)

Even as we celebrate the new year, holy God, it is with fear and trepidation that we face the uncertainty that lies ahead. Even as we dream of a better future for the world, our doubts cloud that vision and hold us back. Even as we commit ourselves to more faithful discipleship, memories of the past haunt us. Forgive us the many times and ways we have failed to be faithful. Bless and strengthen us by your grace, that we may look to the future boldly and with hope. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE of PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER and the LORD'S PRAYER (*unison... “debts”*)

PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERTORY “In the Bleak Midwinter” Holst  
Gretchen Fisher-Orr, soloist

\*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring him a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him; Give my heart.

\*PRAYER of DEDICATION (*unison*)

Holy God, you have called us through Christ to enter into covenant with you. As Christ gave himself for us, we now offer what we have and who we are to you and your creation. Accept these gifts and our lives as a pledge of our faith and love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2: 21-40

SERMON

The Rev. David Minnick

SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Pastor: Creator and Sustainer, we give you thanks that you call us by name, and that we are yours.

**People: We give you thanks for opening our eyes to the variety of gifts that you shower upon us.**

Pastor: We are grateful for the gift of the Holy Spirit, nudging, encouraging and giving us strength to live out our call to be your people.

**People: We are thankful for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ, whose people we are and whom we celebrate in this bread and cup.**

\*COMMUNION HYMN #393 “One Bread, One Body”

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

BREAKING of the BREAD

(Gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon serving communion. Please wait until all are served before eating the bread and drinking the cup.)

SHARING of the CUP

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING (*unison*)

We feast today, O God, at the table that transcends time and place. You feed and nourish us with this sacred meal in which we remember sacrifice and selfless giving, and are bolstered by hope and love. Bless our commitments and strengthen our resolve to live out the days to come as your faithful children. Encourage our life and faith. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN #164 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “How Bright Shineth the Day-star!” Dupré

*\*All who are able are invited to stand.*

**Please Note:** There is no Sunday School today. The Toddler Room is open and staffed.

**Greeters:** Deacons Michelle Bower and Pam Lyons

**Coffee Hour:** Board of Missions and Outreach

**Deacons assisting with Communion:** Don Peacock (Deacon-in-charge), Mary Wheeler, Michelle Bower, Pam Lyons, Phyllis Chase, Jim Wilson

### WELCOME TO FCCV!

If you are a first time visitor, please take a moment after the worship service and sign our Guest Book located in the Narthex on the Welcome Table.

There you will also find a special Welcome Bag just for you.

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

The **Church Office is Closed** on Monday, January 2

**Crafts Group:** Monday, January 2, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Search Committee:** Monday, January 2, 7 PM, Library

**Men's Club:** Tuesday, January 3, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

**Prayer Squares:** Tuesday, January 3, 1 PM, Fellowship Hall

**Board of Music:** Tuesday, January 3, 6:30 PM, Library

**Council:** Wednesday, January 4, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall. Agenda items should be turned in to Moderator Tony Muro no later than today.

**Bell Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, January 5, 6:30 PM, PF Room

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal:** Thursday, January 5, 7:30 PM, Choir Room

**Caring and Sharing Support Group:** Friday, January 6, 10:30 AM, Library

There is **no Confirmation Class** on January 8. Classes will be held on January 22 and 29.

Non-competitive **basketball** for youth in 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade, January 7 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Drop off and pick up at Wapping Congregational Church in South Windsor.

**Giv2:** Sunday, January 8, 12:30-4 PM. Meet at FCCV. Space is limited to 15. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hall down from the Library.

**Super Bowl Grinders:** It's time for the Super Bowl and time to order your grinders for the game. The Ways & Means Committee will be taking orders during Coffee Hour on Sundays, January 15, 22 and 29. Grinders will be available for pick up on Sunday, February 5 – Super Bowl Sunday. Questions? Contact Michelle Bower, 860-872-7274 or any committee member.

A **Crib Room** is available upstairs near the balcony for **parents with infants up to 12 months of age** where the worship service can be heard via intercom. A staffed **Toddler Room for children 12-36 months** old is located downstairs with the classrooms. Donations are gratefully accepted in the free-will offering box.

### **Cancellation of Church Services or Activities Due to Inclement Weather:**

Please listen to any of the following radio stations: WTIC AM (1080), WTIC FM (96.5), WRCH FM (100.5), watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to wfsb.com.

The **Care Network** is offered by the Deacons as a helping hand during difficult times. If you are in need of a ride to church, the doctor, hospital, grocery store, etc., in need of meals or a visit, please contact Margaret Klukas (643-0710) or Jan Muro (872-1757 or jmoze@hotmail.com).

**Want to Meet New People? Volunteer to Serve!** Whether it's welcoming others at the door before the Worship Service or providing a baked good or snack, making coffee or setting up and cleaning up after Coffee Hour, volunteers are needed. A sign up sheet is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen. All help is welcome.

**Please Wear Your Name Tag!** Reach out in fellowship by wearing your name tag. If you need one, please contact the Church Office, fccv@snet.net or (860)875-7580.

**Reminder:** Our Sunday morning worship services (on a one week delay) are available for viewing on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5 Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. Uncut DVD's (DVD's submitted for viewing on Comcast are edited to fit a 60 minute format) of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library. Check your local listings or go to CVCCCT.org for the dates and times of showings of other FCCV concerts and events.

**In Our Ongoing Prayers...** FCCV Search Committee; **Alexandra Fisher**, granddaughter of Pat Aldrich; **Florence Sheldon**; **Mike Swan** undergoing chemo for a reoccurrence of cancer; **Kathy Fuller**, Barbara Evensen's sister; **Caleb**, infant son of Jessica Gwara (friend of Annie Longo); **Richard Waddell**, nephew by marriage of Mary Wheeler, recovering from cancer surgery; **Debbie Morris**, Jan Peacock's niece; **Donna Peacock**; **Carol Whitney**; **Kyle**, son of Rob Czaplicki (friend of Rob Horton); **Joyce Smith**; **Dolores Tomolonis**, friend of Mary and Jim White, (cancer); baby **Ava**; **Thelma Gifford**; **Kaylin Gifford**; **Rick Gagnon**, brother-in-law of Michelle Bower (cancer); **Warren Clay**; **Gary Edwards**, friend of Serena Volovski; **Cooper Doyle**, Al and Marilyn Newton's grandson; **Paul** and **Susan Shimer**; **Candy Buswell** (heart); **Mary Jo Simonds-Huneger**; **Horst Pohlmann**, friend of the Gerakaris'; **John Mayhew**; **John Kaminski**, Susan Moreau's father; **Bess Howe**; **Jane Morse**; **Melissa Morse**; **Charlotte Driggs**; **Aaron Huneger**; **Stephen Volovski**; **Donald Chase**; **Audrey Clay** (breast cancer)