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Welcome to a church where everyone matters
and everyone belongs.

Prelude

Welcome

“Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.”

Advent Candle

Women: Hope is a light given by God at the beginning of
creation.

Men: Hope is the gift of God.

Women: Hope is a light given by God in the teaching of the
prophets.

Men: Hope is the gift of God revealed in the life of Christ.

Women: Hope is a light given by God, the Son of God, the Son
of Mary.

(candle is lit)

Men: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world
with your renewing hope.

Hymn #128 “One Candle Is Lit” #128 (vs. 1 only)

Light of Christ

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Call to Worship/Prayer

Bill Boutwell

Leader: We give thanks for the season of Advent to remind us
that God’s love stopped at nothing to save us and claim
us as your own.

People: We will stay alert during this season so that we may
be able to receive all that the Holy Spirit wants to
offer us.

Leader: Let us pray...Speak to us now, God. Fill us with your power and your grace. Let us leave
here a changed people willing and ready to share your hope and be your light in the world.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn #125 “Come, O Long-expected Jesus”

Anthem “This Is Amazing Grace” P. Wickham

Duet – Leanne Connolly and Joanne Myer

(Kate Fowler purchased this duet at the FCCV Golf Tournament Silent Auction.)

Leanne Connolly, Minister of Music

Scripture Daniel 6:6-16

Sermon

Rev. Robin Bird

*Hymn #537 “My Hope Is Built”

Sharing of Joys and Concerns/Morning Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

Offertory "One Faith, One Hope, One Lord" C. Courtney

*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

*Closing Hymn #631 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

*Benediction

Postlude "From Heaven Above" Leupold

*All who are able are invited to stand.

Please join us downstairs after the service for coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

Today's Preludes

James Burr, Organist

"Chorale Prelude on 'Picardy'"	arr. Powell
"A Maiden Most Gentle"	Gant
"Away in a Manger"	arr. Held
"Preludes on 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'"	Phillips/Leavitt
"Sing We Now of Christmas"	Hudson

Debi Hockenberry, Director of Christian Education

Reminder...Sunday School ends at 11:15 AM.

In Our Ongoing Prayers

Janina Majkowski, Cheryl Turner's grandmother; James Purnell, Cheryl Purnell's son; Linda Dayton; Bob Mooers, Gerry Dyar's half-brother, recently diagnosed with lung cancer; Sara Levy, Ron Burr's daughter, dealing with medical issues; Julie, friend of the Turner family, dealing with difficulties; Geraldine Strong; Tim Madigan; Lorraine Grork, Pam Lyons' friend; Pat Lazeren; Shirley McElroy; Helen Dyar; Dean Hockenberry; Helen Dahling; Dave Hollister; Ryan Meneses; Joyce Smith; John Arthur; Brian, 11 years old, fighting cancer; Meg, Bill and Holly Boutwell's sister/sister-in-law; Daniel Burnett-Pollack; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer; Margaret Klukas; Paul

Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness, and their families; the people of Syria; Heidi Howie; Mason Bower; Michael Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Cooper Doyle
New additions in bold print

Today's Activities

Junior Choir Rehearsal: 11:30 AM, Kellogg Hall

Children's Pageant Rehearsal: 12-2 PM, Sanctuary

This Week's Activities

Bible Study: Monday, November 28, 11 AM, Kellogg Hall

Children's Pageant Tech Meeting: Monday, November 28, 6-8 PM, Sanctuary

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, November 29, 6:30 AM at Vernon Diner

Ladies Luncheon: Tuesday, November 29, noon, Mitchell's Restaurant

Children's Pageant Line Practice: Wednesday, November 30, 6-8 PM, Sanctuary

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, December 1, 7:30 PM, Kellogg Hall

Grief Support Group: Friday, December 2, 10:30 AM, Kellogg Hall

Kids Club: Friday, December 2, 5-9 PM

Harvesting of Gifts: Thank you to all who participated in Harvesting of Gifts last Sunday. Your Giving Commitment, whether large or small, is greatly appreciated. In the coming weeks, we will share updates on where we are in terms of meeting our 2017 goal of \$258,000.

J*Walkrz Jr Christmas Carol Trip: If you signed up, we will be going to see the Hartford Stage's production of the Christmas Carol on December 4. We will leave church at 1:15 PM and return around 5:30 PM. Please contact Kate or Taunya if you have questions.

Please Note: During the month of November, our Sunday School kids are collecting "Pennies for Peace" to help this wonderful organization build and fill schools in the mountains and hard to reach places of the Middle East. Please ask a child if you can help. Thank you!

If you have outdoor lights you are willing to lend the Grounds Committee over the holiday season, please contact Gaile Dembeck ([HYPERLINK "mailto:kurtgaile@sbcglobal.net" \t "_blank" kurtgaile@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kurtgaile@sbcglobal.net)).

Child Care is available for church activities/events when notice is given 3 days prior to the event. Contact Child Care Coordinator, Jen Jensen, 860-836-5824.

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, contact Cheryl Purnell, 860-712-8124 or Sue Pilkons, 860-875-4122.

To request a visit with the pastor, please call the Church Office, 860- 875-7580.

Church Office 860-875-7580

Email [HYPERLINK](#)

"mailto:church.secretary@firstchurchofvernon.org" church.secretary@firstchurchofvernon.org

Website www.firstchurchofvernon.org

Haven and Support Group

(for unburdening life's cares-worries-fears)

A Christian journey toward joy!

"You can't start the next chapter of your life if you keep re-reading the last one." (I like to quote.com)

This support group (formerly known as the Mind and Spirit Support Group) is designed for those in our faith community who are challenged at times by life situations (sudden shocking events, overwhelming care-giving, extended family grief, etc.). It's helpful to have a safe place to talk about these issues – a place where wisdom about life situations may be shared.

We are NOT counselors. This group will NOT be a therapeutic session and is NOT intended to replace a person's medical or behavioral health provider and/or therapist. It IS designed to be a sharing, caring and revolving group. You may attend once or as many times as you need - the choice is yours. We meet the LAST Monday of each month.

Our First Congregational Church of Vernon, United Church of Christ building and grounds are a sacred space, blessed by prayer, faith and the love of God. Devotions will be a part of every meeting. A covenant and guidelines will be reviewed at every meeting to assure safety and confidentiality in order for there to be trust among those attending.

And [our] God, with all His abundant wealth in Christ Jesus, will supply all [our] needs. (Phil. 4:19)

A Teddy Bear Ministry: Beginning in December, Teddy Bears will be sitting in the pews with tags stating that "This bear comes to offer you comfort and peace with all the blessings of worship and love. It is shared with you by a faith community member or friend." The idea is for you to take a bear and give it or send it to someone in need of a bit of caring love. Teddy Bears in churches that provide this ministry have been sent all around the world. Parents, please explain to your children that the bears are for people who are sad, hurt or sick. Certainly children may take a bear for a friend in need. Your very young toddlers may have a bear, but we ask that you remember to bring their "special" bear with them each Sunday so they "know" they already have one. In order to keep this ministry going, we are asking for monetary donations to the Women's Fellowship Teddy Bear Ministry Fund or you may buy a NEW 10"-12" bear and leave it in the Church Office. Questions? Contact Joanne Myer at 860-872-9222 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:jmyer0146@yahoo.com"](mailto:jmyer0146@yahoo.com).