

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 7, 2014

Second Sunday of Advent ~ Holy Communion

PRELUDE "Shepherd's Carols" Smith
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Smith
"Rhapsody on Noels" Gigout

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL to WORSHIP** (*responsive*) Tony Muro

Leader: Peace comes on the wings of angels.

People: Peace on earth, good will to all.

Leader: Sweet shalom rains down from heaven.

People: Soft as starlight on the ground.

Leader: It's coming soon. It's almost here.

People: Emmanuel, God with us!

***OPENING HYMN** #530 "I've Got Peace Like a River"

ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Peace (*from Isaiah 9:6*)

Reader 1: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Reader 2: We gather today knowing that the world is not perfect, that none of us are perfect. There is much that seems like chaos going on around us and many fears would trouble our thoughts. Yet, we have been given the promise of peace in Christ, the Prince of Peace. As we light this candle, we proclaim peace here in our midst. Let us work for peace in our homes, in our nation and in our world.

Lighting the Candle of Peace (in silence)

Prayer (*unison*)

Holy God, we thank you for your perfect peace. When life seems hectic and time seems short it is good to rest in the knowledge that you are in control.

Teach us the ways of peace and help us always to strive for justice, that all of your people might live together in peace. Amen.

Hymn #132 "When God Is a Child" (*vs. 2 only*)

SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

CALL to PRAYER

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION 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.

WORDS of INSTITUTION

BREAKING the BREAD and SHARING the CUP

(*Gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate your preference to a Deacon. Please hold the elements until all are served.*)

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

Loving God, we thank you for refreshing our souls with this remembrance of your love. By your Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us out into the world to do your will, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

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.

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***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**

A CANTATA of HOPE for CHRISTMAS

"Holy Night of Miracles"

by L. Larson

***CLOSING HYMN** #677 "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Fling Wide the Door" Balcombe

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

Join us for coffee and conversation after the service in Fellowship Hall.

Deacons assisting with Communion: Phyllis Chase (Deacon-in-charge), Mike Swan, Delythe Kracke, Haley Hasty, Jim Wilson, Michelle Bower, Cheryl Purnell

WELCOME to FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of VERNON!

We are glad you are here. It is our hope that you will encounter God here, experience the love God showed the world in Jesus, and be inspired to share that love with the world. If you are worshiping with us for the first time, please stop by our Welcome Table. There you will find a guestbook to sign and a welcome gift to take home with you. Let us know if we can be of service to you in any way, and come back again soon

Greeters: Deacons

Coffee Hour: Furnishings & Memorials, Library and Memorial Garden Committees

In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .

Nancy Hilton and family on the death of her mother, Alice Allen; **Jack Allen**, Nancy Hilton's father, dealing with health issues and the loss of his wife of 62 years; **Pat Lazeren and family** on the death of her brother, Will Livermore; **Bobby Dwire**, Leanne Connolly's brother; **Bruce and Sandy Blair**; **Warren Little**; **Frederick Burgess**, Donna Burgess' husband; **Tom Fitzgerald**, Paula Dascomb's brother-in-law; **Melinda Singh**, Barbara Evensen's niece; **Joyce Smith**; Becky Burr; Bess Howe; Lynn Toolan's Aunt Georgia; Paul Westerberg; Michelle Darby; people struggling with mental illness; State Trooper Christopher Melanson; Debbie Chase; Pat Lazeren; Sharon Lacey; Ed Rockland, Bettye Kramer's brother-in-law; Maggie and David Minnick; Mike Swan; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Heidi Howie; Steve Bright; Pat Melville; Philip Bogard; Wendy Parker; Rachel Andrews; Christa Hockenberry; Cindy Madden; Jan Peacock; Julie Wrona; Carol Shea; Bobby Kelley; Susan Shimer; Nancy Bailey; Lillian Burnett; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; E.G. and Donna Harvin; Adeline McGee; Chantelle Fuller; Kim Burnham; Betty Worden; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Jeanine Uthgenannt; Michael Turner; Candy Buswell; Lois Montlick; Donna Peacock; Deborah Costello; Richard Brooke; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski; Melissa Morse

New additions in bold print

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Anyone wishing to purchase **lights** for the **Memory Tree** in the Memorial Garden that is lit during the Christmas season may do so during Coffee Hour today.

Orders for **Poinsettias** that are displayed in the Sanctuary during Christmas will be taken **today** during Coffee Hour.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Ways & Means: Monday, December 8, 7 PM, Library

January CARILLON Deadline

Tuesday, December 9

Please Note: Tuesday morning **Bible Study** and Thursday evening **Theology on Tap** are taking a break. We will not meet again until the week of January 5.

Men's Group: Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Prayer Shawl: Wednesday, December 10, 1 PM, Library

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, December 11, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Grief Support Group: Friday, December 12, 10:30 AM, Library

Giving Campaign: To date, we are at \$167,994 towards our \$270,000 giving goal! Check out the Sparky thermometer to see the most up-to-date giving totals each week! If you are in need of a Giving Packet, stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour or email Kate Fowler (kfowler64@yahoo.com) to have a packet sent to you electronically.

The **Scrip-Your-All** goal of \$6,000 has been met. We have now earned \$6,470! Although we've exceeded our goal, **let's not stop!** Now is the time to order gift cards for the holidays or special occasions. A list of all our card offerings is available during Coffee Hour at the Scrip-Your-All table. After today, there is just one Sunday left to order your gift cards in time for Christmas giving! We will be placing orders today and on December 14. If you purchase gift cards for Christmas gifts, please take a paper holiday gift card holder or you may purchase a more elaborate holder for \$1 each. **Thanks again for your support!**

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. Anyone with concerns about the Crib Room should contact Sally Sullivan, 871-1473. A staffed **Toddler Room**, located downstairs in the Kellogg wing, is open for **children 12 months to 3 years old.**

The loose offering collected today is placed in the Deacons' Fund for aid, in time of emergency, to people within the congregation.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

It's time, once again, for our **Christmas Giving Tree** sponsored by the Board of Missions! We are collecting toys for the Vernon Social Services "Toy Workshop" where a family in need can go to choose the toys that best fit their children's wants and needs for Christmas. There is a specific need for games, multicultural dolls, arts and crafts, science kits and other educational toys.

Please choose an ornament tag from the Christmas Giving Tree, set up in the back of the Sanctuary until **December 14**. Each ornament tag bears the age and gender of a child in need. Please place your new and

unwrapped toy(s) under the Christmas Giving Tree by Sunday, December 14. Any questions? Contact Kathleen Gallo, 860-930-5958 or Valerie Ellis, 860-205-0108.

Note: If (only if) inclement weather cancels our church service on December 14, unwrapped gifts will be collected in the church Breezeway between 8-10 AM on Monday, December 15.

Christmas Caroling, Sunday December 14

We will leave the church parking lot at noon and return at 3 PM for hot chocolate and fellowship. Anyone interested is invited to join us.
Contact Steve Westerberg if you have questions.

Reminder: FCCV records its Sunday worship services. These services are available for viewing on a one-week delay on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5, Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. **Please Note:** FCCV's November 30 worship service normally scheduled for December 8 at 6 PM will be shown that day at 4:30 PM due to special programming. FCCV events airing this week... Rev. Robin Bird's Installation - December 9, 9:30 PM and December 12, 12:30 PM; Les Childs Scholarship Variety Show - December 10, 9 PM and December 13, 10 AM. Full length DVDs of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library.

Please Note: Anyone wishing to serve on the Planning Committee for the next Women's Fellowship Retreat should contact Millie Oliphant, 860-872-7106.

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 Jan Muro at jmoze@hotmail.com or 872-1757 or Sue Pilkons at 860-875-4122.

Name Tags: If you ordered a name tag it is available for pick-up at the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour. If you need a name tag you can order it any Sunday during Coffee Hour or contact Jim Montlick (jamontlik@aol.com). You can choose a pin, magnet or clip. A donation of \$3-\$5 is suggested.

Cancellation of Church Services or Activities Due to Inclement Weather:
Please watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to wfsb.com.

Acolytes Needed! To all parents of Sunday School children...if your child would like to be an acolyte, please contact Delythe Kracke at DelytheK@yahoo.com or (860) 872-3004.

Have you walked through FCCV's **Memorial Garden**? No matter the time of year, it makes for a very spiritual walk. The Memorial Garden Committee is always looking for new members to help care for the Garden. We need volunteers to help with planting and weeding; to help families choose a site and then prepare interment sites; to handle the paperwork and finances and manual labor for care of the garden. Any questions or to volunteer, please contact Chairman Jane Morse.

"Holy Night of Miracles" by L. Larson

O Come to Us, Emmanuel
Hannah Ramsdell, soloist

Narrator
Cathy Foote

Come to Us, O God of Hope

Narrators
Carol Mento, Stacy Melanson

Do Not Be Afraid
Paul Shimer, Joanne Myer, Stan Possell, trio

Narrator
Dick Wurst

A Miracle This Holy

Narrator
Claudette Weingart

Christ is Born, Sing Glory to God!

Narrator
Kurt Dembeck

I Was Touched and I Believe

Narrator
Nan Dreselly

Child of Hope

Narrator
Candy Buswell

Worship Christ, the Newborn King!

**Today's Cantata is performed by members of our
Sanctuary, Contemporary and Youth Choirs.**

A CANTATA of HOPE for CHRISTMAS

