

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 16, 2012

Third Sunday in Advent ~ Joy

GATHERING MUSIC “He Shall Feed His Flock” Handel
“Prelude on ‘Greensleeves’” Wright
“Prelude on Two French Noels” Guilmant
“Joyful Tidings” Moffatt

CHIMING of the HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACOLYTES

PRELUDE “Joyous Christmas Bells” Broughton

WORDS of REFLECTION

The Greek word for "repent" is metaneo. Meta means "change," and noeo means "mind." It is closely related to metamorpho, and change of form from which we get the word "metamorphosis" like what happens to a butterfly. So the kind of change John is calling for is a radical change, a transformation. He was saying change your souls in the same way that a caterpillar changes its form to become a butterfly.

INTROIT Cherub Singers

***RESPONSIVE CALL to WORSHIP**

Leader: God is our salvation, our strength and our power,

People: the one in whom we trust and to whom we give thanks.

Leader: As the sun-dried land rejoices when refreshed by rain, so we rejoice

People: when we draw refreshment from deep wells of living water.

Leader: We shall make the deeds of God known among all nations

People: And proclaim to all that God's name is to be glorified and praised.

***OPENING HYMN #129 “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”**

UNISON PRAYER of INVOCATION

Wondrous God our Creator, as the days grow shorter the yearnings of our hearts increase. Deep within us, we crave the comfort, hope and reassurance that light brings to our world and to our hearts. And so as we move ahead into times of increasing darkness and deepening vulnerability, we turn to you for the reassurance your presence brings and the guidance your Word offers. Speak to us in our worship and in our daily lives. Bless us to nurture our inner manger as the end of our Advent journey is soon to come. Help us to be ready for your mystery and hope. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: O God, the sounds of Advent stir a longing in your people.

People: Come again to set us free from the dullness of routine and the poverty of our imaginations.

Leader: Break the patterns which bind us to small commitments and to the stale answers we have often given to questions of little importance.

People: Let the Advent trumpet blow, let the walls of our defenses crumble,

All: And make a place in our lives for the freshness of your love, well-lived in Jesus Christ, and still given to all who know their need and dare receive it. Amen.

(adapted from the writings of Diane Forte Jones)

***GLORIA PATRI (#35 in hymnal)**

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE Christa and Cherish Hockenberry

A TIME with the CHILDREN Ms. Linda Shivers

The LORD'S PRAYER (unison...“debts”)

ANTHEM “Every Knee Shall Bow”

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS Rev. Joanne Myer

Maddy Slicer (friend of Ann Harford and sister-in-law of Herb Slicer) and her husband Art. Maddy is in Yale Hospital recovering from open heart surgery

MORNING PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE Luke 3: 7-18

***SERMON HYMN #125 “Come, O Long-expected Jesus”**

SERMON The Rev. David Minnick

CALL to OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Come to My Heart Lord Jesus”

***DOXOLOGY (#46 in hymnal)**

***UNISON PRAYER of DEDICATION**

All around us, a spirit of anticipation builds as we await the coming anew of Jesus. Your gift of abiding and enduring love which comes to us through a Savior born in the manger is a gift that towers over anything we can give or dream of giving to you. And yet, we give, confident that we are blessing others in the same wonderful way in which we have been blessed. Receive these gifts that the good news of your love can be proclaimed here and far, now and forever. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #132 “When God Is a Child”**

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Christmas Joy” Ritter

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

WELCOME TO FCCV!

If you are a guest, please take a moment to sign our Guest Book (on the table in the Narthex) and help yourself to a Welcome Bag made especially for you.

Guests are encouraged to use the Pew Cards to request information about our church, to provide addresses/emails for communication purposes or to ask for a pastoral visit. The Pew Cards can be placed in the plates with the offering.

Greeters: Russ and Chris Kunz

Coffee Hour: Furnishings & Memorials Committee

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Cookie Sale: Fill a box with homemade Christmas cookies for only \$5.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

The Christmas Giving Tree: Place your new, **unwrapped** toy(s) under the Christmas Giving Tree by **today**.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Deacons: Monday, December 17, 6 PM at Jim Wilson's home, 36 Echo Drive, Vernon

Men's Club: Tuesday, December 18, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

Furnishings & Memorials: Tuesday, December 18, 7 PM, Chapel

Library Committee: Wednesday, December 19, 1 PM, Library

Sanctuary Choir rehearsal: Thursday, December 20, 7:30 PM, Choir Room

Support Group: Friday, December 21, 10:30 AM, Library

The Board of Christian Education welcomes our new Co-Sunday School Superintendents, Christa and Cherish Hockenberry.

Reminder - Pledges Were Due November 11! If you have not turned in your pledge, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Your pledge is vital to the planning of our 2013 budget. If you need a pledge packet or have any questions, contact the Church Office (860-875-7580 or fccv@snet.net).

People are needed to serve on the Stewardship & Evangelism Committee. If interested, contact Tony Muro.

In Our Ongoing Prayers... Ruth Woodcock and her daughter Sarah (friends of Becky Burr); Will Livermore, Pat Lazeren's brother, who suffered an eye injury and may need surgery; Shirley Bryant; Dick Saich; Mike Kermode deployed in Afghanistan; Mike Swan; Claudette and Art Weingart; Pat Lazeren; Meredith Ross, 3 year old daughter of Megan and Eli (friends of Emily Westerberg), diagnosed with T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL); Deborah Costello, friend of Angel Hockenberry, (breast cancer); Richard Brooke, Betsy Gerakaris' brother; Stephen Volovski; Ann Garrison; Ray Turner, father-in-law of Cheryl Turner (stroke); Martha Fowler (cancer); Michael Bebrin; Joyce Smith; Thelma Gifford; 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; Donald Chase